The Commission launches a major Recovery Plan for growth and jobs, to boost demand and restore confidence in the European economy

The European Commission has presented a comprehensive plan to drive Europe's recovery from the current economic crisis. The Recovery Plan is based on two mutually reinforcing main elements. Firstly, short-term measures to boost demand, save jobs and help restore confidence. Secondly, "smart investment" to yield higher growth and sustainable prosperity in the longer-term. The Plan calls for a timely, targeted and temporary fiscal stimulus of around €200 billion or 1.5% of EU GDP, within both national budgets (around €170 billion, 1.2% of GDP) and EU and European Investment Bank budgets (around €30 billion, 0.3% of GDP). Every Member State is called upon to take major measures good for its own citizens and good for the rest of Europe. The Recovery Plan will reinforce and accelerate reforms already underway under the Lisbon Growth and Jobs Strategy. It includes extensive action at national and EU level to help households and industry and concentrate support on the most vulnerable. It puts forward concrete steps to promote entrepreneurship, research and innovation, including in the car and construction industries. The Recovery Plan aims to boost efforts to tackle climate change while creating much-needed jobs at the same time, through for example strategic investment in energy efficient buildings and technologies.

State Aid: Commission approves Latvian state support for JSC Parex Banka

The European Commission has approved, under EC Treaty state aid rules, the emergency support intended to facilitate the financing of JSC Parex Banka. The Commission found the aid to be in line with its guidance Communication on state aid to overcome the current financial crisis (see IP/08/1495). The aid is necessary to avoid a serious disturbance in the Latvian economy. The measures are limited in time and scope to the minimum necessary to restore the financing, require an adequate fee level and provide safeguards to minimise distortions of competition. They are therefore compatible with Article 87.3.b. of the EC Treaty.

State Aid: Commission approves German hard coal state aid for 2008

The Commission approved German State aid in favour of hard coal production in the year 2008. The measure essentially covers State aid to accessing coal reserves and to cover exceptional costs for German hard coal mining. The total State aid for 2008 is 2 378 million €. As in past years the German authorities notified this yearly measure to implement the coal production plan as previously approved by the Commission. Since the budget of the year 2008 is lower than the one foreseen in the plan and since the measures at stake are consistent with those previously foreseen, the Commission considers the aid for 2008 to be compatible with EU rules on State aid to the coal industry.

State aid: Commission authorises €116 million Finnish film support scheme

The European Commission has approved under EC Treaty state aid rules a €116 million Finnish film support scheme until 31 December 2013. The scheme covers all of Finland’s film support measures.
including film development, production, distribution and exhibition, particularly in rural Finland. The Commission found that the scheme is compatible with the cultural and sectoral derogations of the EC Treaty, in line with the Cinema Communication rules concerning aid to film production. In particular, the aid to cinemas has been approved on economic and social grounds, particularly in small, remote communities.

New Supplementary Information sheet on State aid for environmental protection published in the Official Journal OJ L 313 of 22.11.2008 p. 1

The new approach to State aids – recent reforms under the State Aid Action Plan and next steps (21 November 2008)

State aid conference material (including a video of the entire event) now available online

Three new open consultations in the State aid area:

- Guidance for an in-depth assessment of regional aid to large investment projects
- Criteria for the compatibility analysis of training State aid cases subject to individual notification
- Criteria for the compatibility analysis of State aid to disadvantaged and disabled workers subject to individual notification

For details, visit the 'State aid reform' web page of DG Competition

New issue of EC Competition Policy Newsletter (No 3/2008) is now available on line

CPN No 3/2008

Change to the base rates for Lithuania and Romania as from 1.12.2008

Base rates for 27 Member States

---

I. Draft legislation and public consultations

**Public consultation on "Guidance for an in-depth assessment of regional aid to large investment projects"
**

For details, visit the 'State aid reform' web page of DG Competition

**Deadline for comments: 23 January 2009**

Interested parties may submit their comments to the following address:
European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Consultation (Broadcasting)
State aid Registry
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 296 12 42
E-mail: stateaidgreffe@ec.europa.eu

**Public consultation on "Criteria for the compatibility analysis of training State aid cases subject to individual notification"
**

For details, visit the 'State aid reform' web page of DG Competition

**Deadline for comments: 23 January 2009**

Interested parties may submit their comments to the following address:
European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Public consultation on "Criteria for the compatibility analysis of State aid to disadvantaged and disabled workers subject to individual notification"
For details, visit the 'State aid reform' web page of DG Competition

**Deadline for comments: 23 January 2009**

Interested parties may submit their comments to the following address:
European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Consultation (Broadcasting)
State aid Registry
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 296 12 42
E-mail: stateaidgreffe@ec.europa.eu

**Draft Communication from the Commission on the application of State aid rules to public service broadcasting**

**Deadline for comments: 15 January 2009**

Interested parties may submit their comments to the following address:
European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Consultation (Broadcasting)
State aid Registry
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 296 12 42
E-mail: stateaidgreffe@ec.europa.eu

**Cinema Communication - Proposed Commission Communication on the extension of its rules for State aid to film and audiovisual production**

**Deadline for comments: 12 December 2008**

Interested parties may submit their comments to the following address:
European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Consultation (Cinema)
State aid Registry
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 296 12 42
E-mail: stateaidgreffe@ec.europa.eu
Closed public consultations:  
- **DG Competition**
- **DG Agriculture**
- **DG Transport** and **Energy**
- **DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries**

II. New legislation

OJ L 313 of 22.11.2008 p. 1

III. Decisions to open formal investigation

1. **Decisions taken by the Commission**

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2. **Decisions pending OJ publication**

Click here to see the full list

3. **Decisions published in the OJ from 27.10.2008 to 27.11.2008 – Formal comments period running**

*Where the last day of the public comments period falls on a public holiday in a Member State, the deadline for comments of parties residing in that Member State ends on the following working day.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title/Links to documents</th>
<th>Case number</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Decision date</th>
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<tr>
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IV. Final Commission decisions

1. Decisions taken by the Commission

1.1. No objection decisions

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<td>Cultural aid</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>public libraries and complementary higher education centres</td>
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</table>
### Latvia

**Public support measures to JSC Parex Banka**

*Press release*

**N** 68/2008

**Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy**

24.11.2008

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### Netherlands

**Investment in the capital of AEGON N.V.**

*Press release*

**N** 569/2008

**Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy**

27.11.2007

---

### Spain

**Aid for innovation projects (ALDATU) - Basque country**

**N** 378/2008

**R&D aid**

26.11.2008

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**Aid to experimental theatre, music and dance performances**

**N** 336/2008

26.11.2008

---

**Spanish R&D scheme for ICT: aid for process and organisational innovation in services**

**N** 416/2008

**R&D aid**

26.11.2008

---

### DG Agriculture cases

**Italy**

**Aides au secteur forestier – 10.000 hectares de forêts et systèmes verts multifonctionnels**

**N** 380/2008

**Forestry aid**

26.11.2008

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**Netherlands**

**Program Management**

**NN 47/2004**

**Natura 2000 payments linked to Directive 2000/60/EC**

26.11.2008

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**United Kingdom**

**Natural England Management Agreement Scheme**

**N** 14/2007

26.11.2008

---

### DG Transport and Energy cases

**Belgium**

**Régime d’aides en faveur des modes de transport alternatif à la route pour la période 2008-2013**

*Press release*

**N** 352/2008

**Sectoral aid**

26.11.2008

---

**Germany**

**Aides au charbon pour l’année 2008**

*Press release*

**N** 631/2007

26.11.2008

---

### 1.2. Decisions to close formal investigation

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2. Public versions of decisions made available

2.1. No objection decisions

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Country</th>
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</table>

2.2. Decisions to close formal investigation

- none-

3. Decisions published in the OJ

3.1. No objection decisions

* Decisions not to raise objections are frequently grouped together in one single document for publication in the Official Journal. Since the link can only be made to the top of the first page of the document, you may have to scroll down in the document to find a particular case.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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DG Competition cases

Germany Restructuring aid to Götzke Natursteinwerk


Netherlands Dutch credit guarantee scheme

N 524/2008 30.10.2008

Spain Aid to the Basque language - Basque Country (Spain)


Spain Gaitec Programme - R&D&I


Spain State aid to activities in the theatre and circus sector - Region of Valencia (Spain)


Sweden Sweden - Bank guarantee scheme

N 533/2008 Remedy for a serious disturbance in the economy 29.10.2008

DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries cases

France Notification PSR LRP AGRAP 28/08. Plan de sauvetage et de restructuration.

NN 9/2008 08.10.2008

Italy Investment in the fleet - Regione Molise

N 696/2006 24.01.2008
3.2. Decisions to close formal investigation

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V. Other types of decisions

- none-
## VI. Block exemptions

**Information sheets published in the OJ**

* Block exemption information sheets are frequently grouped together in one single document for publication in the Official Journal. Since the link can only be made to the top of the first page of the document, you may have to scroll down in the document to find a particular case.

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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<td>Estonia</td>
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<td>Aides aux investissements de diversification agricole sans transformation</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>XP 8/2008</td>
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Romania
Schema de ajutor de stat orizontal pentru dezvoltarea regională durabilă și reducerea emisiilor
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Spain
Universidad Politécnica de Valencia
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Spain
Subvenciones destinadas al fomento de las Agrupaciones de Defensa Sanitaria Ganaderas de Canarias
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OJ C 298 of 21.11.2008, p. 3 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv lt hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv

VII. European Court of Justice
* In order to consult the available languages of documents uploaded in the Curia website, please click on the earth symbol on the left side toolbar.

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### 2. Court of Justice

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<td>C-399/08 P</td>
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<td>T-266/02 Deutsche Post v Commission</td>
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<td>C 61/1999 (CR61/1999) Aid to business parcel activities of Deutsche Post AG</td>
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VIII. European Economic Area

Based on the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), the EFTA States participating in the EEA have entrusted the EFTA Surveillance Authority and the EFTA Court with similar decision making powers to that of the Commission and the European Court of Justice, respectively, in the field of state aid for the EFTA States.

1. Decisions of the EFTA Surveillance Authority

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<td>Norway</td>
<td>Decision to close a case concerning alleged state aid to H. Østervold AS</td>
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</table>

2. EFTA Court

- none-

3. State Aid New Legislation

- none-

4. Other EEA points of interest

- none-

IX. Additional points of interest

Events

Seminar: EU Competition Issues: State Aid and Financial Services
The European Commission has responded to the current financial crisis by issuing guidelines on state aid granted to financial institutions, primarily, in the form of capital injections and deposit guarantees. It has also clarified the conditions under which other forms of intervention in financial markets are not considered to be state aid, as would be the case, for example, with central bank lending facilities. The objective of this new seminar is to review the effects of the recent financial turmoil on the Commission’s competition policy, in particular in regard to state aid and the financial sector. Expert speakers from the Commission, academia and the financial services sector will comment on the progress made and will provide documentation of interest to policy makers, lawyers and the private sector (financial services institutions in general).
Maastricht, 4-5 December 2008
For further information, click here
Studies and reports

November 2008: Economic sentiment falls to historically low levels in both the EU and the euro area
In November, the Economic Sentiment Indicator (ESI) declined considerably in the EU and the euro area. This came after another sharp decline in sentiment observed in the October survey. It fell by 6.7 points in the EU and by 5.1 points in the euro area, to 70.5 and 74.9, respectively. The ESI for the EU stands at its lowest since January 1985, while that for the euro area is at the lowest since August 1993.

Read more

November 2008: Business Climate Indicator for the euro area decreases further in November
The Business Climate Indicator (BCI) for the euro area fell more markedly this month than last, and now stands close to values last observed in 1993. The continued steep decline of the indicator signals a deteriorating trend in year-on-year industrial production growth, which is likely to continue to be negative even in the fourth quarter. All five underlying components of the BCI deteriorated. Managers reported a sharp fall in the production trend observed in recent months while stocks of finished goods increased. Their assessment of the current overall order book and export order book is increasingly negative. Looking ahead, production expectations in the euro area worsened notably compared to last month.

Read more

Next publication date: Friday 05.12.2008

Previous issues

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About e-News:
This e-News is issued every week to present the latest developments in the area of State aid. It features information on new legislative texts and proposals, decisions of the European Commission and the Courts of the European Union and other state aid-related documents and events. A great deal of additional information on State aid matters is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server: http://ec.europa.eu/competition/index_en.html
Other documents related to the cases, can be found under the link to the State aid Register: http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/register/

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