State Aid Weekly e-News
Nr. 28/08, 29.08.2008 08.08.2008 - 28.08.2008

Highlights

General block exemption Regulation (GBER) comes into force
On 29 August 2008, the newly adopted Regulation declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Article 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General block exemption Regulation) comes into force. It allows Member States to grant certain well-defined aid without notifying it to the Commission. The Regulation authorises aid in favour of SMEs, research, innovation, regional development, training, employment and risk capital. It reduces the administrative burden for public authorities, the beneficiaries and the Commission. For transparency requirements the Member States must, however, provide to the Commission a certain amount of information within 20 working days after an exempted measure entered into force. Member States shall send this information to the Commission in a summary form in accordance with the Annex III to the Regulation using an established IT application (SANI). The appropriate summary forms are now available on DG Competition's website.
Summary information forms in accordance with Annex III of GBER
For the official text of GBER, see section II. New legislation of this Newsletter.

New base rates for Denmark and Sweden calculated in accordance with the Reference Rate Communication – applicable as from 1 September 2008
Base rates for the 27 Member States
OJ C 216 of 23.08.2008, p. 16 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv

I. Draft legislation and public consultations

Closed public consultations:  
DG Competition
DG Agriculture
DG Transport and Energy
DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

II. New legislation

Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General block exemption Regulation)
OJ L 214 of 09.08.2008, p. 3 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv

III. Decisions to open formal investigation
1. Decisions taken by the Commission

- none-

2. Decisions pending OJ publication

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* 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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| Germany  | **NEW** LIP - DE - Deutsche Solar AG  
OJ C 217 of 26.08.2008, p. 19 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv  
Press release  
| France   | **NEW** Réforme du mode de financement des retraites des fonctionnaires de l’Etat rattachés à France Télécom  
OJ C 213 of 21.08.2008, p. 11 bg es cs da de et el en fr it lv hu mt nl pl pt ro sk sl fi sv  
Press release  
(ex NN 23/2008)  | 20.05.2008 |
| Italy    | **NEW** Shipyard de Poli - extension of three-year delivery limit (C 241)  

IV. Final Commission decisions

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- none-

2. Public versions of decisions made available

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Italy Conservation of plant and animal genetic resources N 643/2007 02.07.2008

Luxembourg Mise en place de services de gestion, de remplacement et de conseil N 9/2008 Investment in agricultural holdings 22.07.2008


United Kingdom QMS Meat Generic Advertising Scheme (Scotland) N 697/2007 Sectoral development aid 02.07.2008


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Austria Projet pilote Danube N 31/2008 Sectoral development aid 19.05.2008


DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries cases

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Netherlands Firma Gebr. Bakker (UK-48) NN 19/2008 23.06.2008

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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.
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3.2. Decisions to close formal investigation

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V. Other types of decisions

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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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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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2. EFTA Court

- none -

3. State Aid New Legislation

- none -

4. Other EEA points of interest

- none -
IX. Additional points of interest

Events

EU State Aid Conference 2008 - Conference and book presentation
Brussels, 17th September 2008,
For further information, click here

Seminar: State Aid for Environmental Protection
The seminar aims to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of the new environmental guidelines and related environmental policies. The seminar is designed for officials from central ministries and/or other authorities dealing with state aid and environmental protection issues and managers from public or private enterprises who may be involved in the formulation and implementation of environmental state aid schemes.
Maastricht, 25-26 September 2008
For further information, click here

Conference: The new approach to State aids – recent reforms under the State Aid Action Plan and next steps
This full-day event will be chaired by the Commissioner for competition, Ms. Neelie Kroes. The Commission will present the state of play regarding the implementation of the reform of State Aid policy and the next steps.
State aid policy will be analysed in a broader context with high level participants from the European institutions, the Member States, industry and academia. Is aid making its full contribution to the Lisbon objectives? What is the role of State aid control in a globalized context? How can it help in tackling the numerous challenges that climate change poses?
Brussels, 21st November 2008
For further information, click here

Studies and reports

July 2008: Euro area annual inflation stable at 4.0%, EU up to 4.4%
Euro area annual inflation was 4.0% in July 2008, unchanged compared with June. A year earlier the rate was 1.8%. Monthly inflation was -0.2% in July 2008. EU annual inflation was 4.4% in July 2008, up from 4.3% in June. A year earlier the rate was 2.0%. Monthly inflation was -0.1% in July 2008.
Read more

Flash estimates for the second quarter of 2008: Euro area GDP down by 0.2% and EU27 down by 0.1%; +1.5% and +1.7% respectively compared with the second quarter of 2007
GDP declined by 0.2% in the euro area (EA15) and by 0.1% in the EU27 during the second quarter of 2008, compared with the previous quarter, according to flash estimates published by Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Communities. In the first quarter of 2008, growth rates were +0.7% in both the euro area and the EU27.
Read more

Invitations to tender

Invitation to tender: Study on counterfactual scenarios to restructuring State aid: observed developments when no aid is granted to firms in difficulty - budget: € 400.000 (COMP/2008/A3/15)
Deadline for submitting tenders: 19th September 2008
For further information, click here
Next publication date: Friday 05.09.2008

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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/](http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/register/)

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