



“Regions grow-up: more power, more opportunities, more responsibilities.
The new exemption regulation”

Veneto Region Brussels Office
25 September 2008, 17:00 – 19:30
Avenue de Tervueren 67, 1040 Brussels – Belgium



AGENDA

17.00	Registration of participants
17.30	Introduction: Gianlorenzo Martini, Head of Veneto Region Brussels Office
17.45	Speaker: Almorò Rubin de Cervin, European Commission, DG Competition “THE NEW GENERAL BLOCK EXEMPTION REGULATION”
18.45	Planned speeches: 🇪🇺 Vincenzo Celeste, State Aid Contentious Coordination, Permanent Representation of Italy to the EU 🇪🇺 Rodrigo Peduzzi, Confindustria, Delegation to the EU
19.15	Debate
19.30	Conclusion of the works

A cocktail will be offered after the event

Please confirm your attendance at the following person contact: Erika Gabrielli, mail: info@osservatorioaiutidistato.eu; T. 0032 (0)2 743 70 10; F. 0032 (0)2 743 70 19

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As we know, State aid can be a real benefit to society, for example by improving the environment, encouraging research and development or allowing an increased training of the employees.

However, State support can also have harmful effects: it can help inefficient firms stay on the market, which in the long run will lead to higher prices for consumers. Companies can also play off one government against another, threatening to move its investments to whichever country providing the largest subsidies.

State aids has to be notified to the Commission to ensure that it contributes to commonly agreed objectives. The Commission receives many hundreds of such notifications each year, many of which clearly aim at praiseworthy objectives.

This new law, the exemption regulation, represents the Commission's effort to solve, at least in part, this problem.

In fact, the Commission wants to ensure that clearly compatible aid gets approved as quickly as possible. The new exemption regulation will automatically approve whole categories of aid, without the need for notifications. In practice, this implies that national and regional authorities of the Member State can grant aid more quickly.

This reduces red tape for national and regional authorities, the beneficiaries and for the Commission: but the Member States and all the European Regions must be ready to play this role.

The new law both simplifies the existing arrangements for automatic approvals, consolidating them into a single law, and also exempts new types of aid.

In fact, among the different measures included in the regulation intending to ensure growth and jobs for European businesses and consumers, we can find:

- ✚ Small and medium Enterprises (SME) aid: small businesses are one of the main driving forces;
- ✚ Social aid: beyond aid allowing subsidizing employees working on new investments in SMEs or in assisted regions, the law approves aid that helps disabled or otherwise disadvantaged workers to find mainstream job. The regulation also favours aid for training workers, to the benefit of both employers and employees;
- ✚ Regional aid: the regulation approves regional investments aid essentially when it allows the creation of new establishments in the most disadvantaged regions. In assisted regions, aid for newly created start-ups is also allowed in order to stimulate further entrepreneurial initiatives;
- ✚ Environmental aid: the regulation facilitates authorities granting an important number of aid measures favouring environmental protection or tackling change; aid promoting investments in energy savings or investments in renewable energy sources and aid in the form of environmental tax reduction, among others;
- ✚ Aid for women entrepreneurship: the average rates of business start-ups by women are lower as compared to men. This is getting in the way of the economic development of the Community. The regulation includes, therefore, for the first time, measures in favour of child care and parent care costs and allows supporting small enterprises owned and run by women;
- ✚ Aid for research & Development & Innovation (R&D&I): the regulation includes authorizations for a range of measures including amongst others aid for R&D projects and aid measures supporting young innovative companies.