



State Aid & Fair Competition

- Can They Co-Exist?

04.12.2019

12:00 - 16:00h

Martins Hotel EU,
Boulevard Charlemagne 80,
1000 Brussels

Brought to you by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation Europe & The Lithuanian Free Market Institute

PROGRAMME

12.00	Registration & Light Lunch	14.00	Coffee Break
12.30	Keynote: The importance of state aid policy and the problem of its disablement	14.15	Panel 2: State Aid and SOEs
	Dr. Cento Veljanovski Case Associates & Institute for Economic Affairs, UK		Dr. Radomit Tylecot Epicenter/IEA
12.45	Panel 1: State Aid, Fair Competition and Procedural Challenges		Krassen Stanchev Institute for Market Economics, Bulgaria
	Koen van de Castele Head of Unit, State Aid Control, DG COMP		Tbc European Parliament
	Carlo Stagnaro Institute Bruno Leoni, Italy		Barbara Mičková ALLRAIL, Czechia
	Ilya Bruggeman Head Single Market, EuroCommerce		Moderator: Edita Maslauskaitė Lithuanian Free Market Institute
	Moderator: Rita Paukštė, Motieka & Audzevičius	15.45	Networking Coffee

REGISTER NOW

Kindly register for this event by 02. December at <https://forms.gle/JHwDfz3FQ3HudXFU9> *

ABOUT THE EVENT

State aid rules exert a significant impact on the functioning of the internal market and the use of public resources. In 2012 the EU carried out a State aid modernization reform, with the aim of simplifying State aid rules and making them more relevant for promoting sustainable, smart and inclusive growth in a competitive internal market. An evaluation process is now underway to determine whether the rules have actually worked in the intended way and are still fit for purpose.

Some pressing questions evolve around the design of State aid rules post 2020 if they are to deliver on these goals and the general principle that State aid is an exception rather than a standard. Should Member States be allowed to exploit EU policy objectives to justify state aid? What constitutes an appropriate degree of state aid control? How can State aid rules be construed to ensure a level playing field for all and prevent Member States from unwarranted financing of SOEs?

This conference seeks to shed light on these and more questions, while proposing ideas on the revision of the State aid modernization package. Join us in the discussion together with leading national and EU experts, stakeholders, and scholars on competition policy and state aid!

Panel 1: State Aid, Fair Competition and Procedural Challenges

1. Do State aid rules support an efficient functioning of the internal market and fair competition? Do State aid rules comply with the following general principles: the promotion of a market-based economy and private enterprise; prohibiting public institutions from establishing and pursuing commercial activities; efficient public spending; transparent ex-ante and ex-post assessment of the compatibility of State aid and strict enforcement of State aid rules?

2. Will the modernization of the EU State aid rules respond the following general concerns:

- 1) Late or no notification about State aid. Member States are found to be reluctant to notify the European Commission about the provision of State aid and to undergo an assessment to determine whether the provision of State aid is legitimate and compatible with the EU's internal market and competition rules.
- 2) Lack of transparency. Given that State aid gives a competitive advantage to state aid recipients over their competitors, other market participants should be able to easily access such information in a timely manner in order to at least be able to adjust their business decisions accordingly.
- 3) State aid thresholds. While it is understandable that the European Commission is eager to focus its scrutiny on cases that represent a significant impact on the internal market, state aid notification thresholds are of varying importance across Member States. The same State aid threshold may have a lower impact on market participants in Germany while bringing a much more significant effect in the markets of much smaller Member States.

Panel 2: State Aid and SOEs

In such sectors as railways, energy and airways, where state monopolies dominated for a long time, the majority of undertakings are still owned and/or controlled by the state. Allowing State aid in these sectors generally means that the state continues to support its owned/controlled undertakings. If State aid to SOEs create barriers to market entry to other companies and is contrary to the goal of full liberalization? Is the pursuit of EU policy objectives per se sufficient to justify providing State aid to SOE? How can State aid rules be construed to ensure a level playing field for all and prevent Member States from unwarranted financing of SOEs?

*Please note that you will be forwarded to a Google Drive sheet.

Should you wish to register with us directly, please send an email to register.brussels@fnst.org.

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