



State Aid Master Class and Case Analysis

Maastricht (NL), 10 – 11 July 2008

Organised by the

European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)

O.L. Vrouweplein 22

NL-6211 HE Maastricht

www.eipa.nl

State Aid Master Class and Case Analysis

Maastricht (NL), 10 – 11 July 2008

Following the successful launch of a Master Class in the field of state aid, the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) would like to announce a new Master Class on the design and assessment of state aid measures. This two-day event will take place in Maastricht (NL) on 10-11 July 2008.

The Master Class is intended for public officials who already have a good understanding of state aid issues but want to improve their knowledge and skills on how to determine whether a public measure contains state aid and how to design state aid schemes that are compatible with EU rules. The Master Class is based on analysis of recent important Commission decisions and Court rulings.

An innovative feature of this event is that participants will be expected to introduce, for discussion, cases on which they are currently working. **Participants will therefore be required first to send, in advance, a summary of the case they wish to present** and, second, to treat all material and information obtained during the Master Class confidentially (cases submitted by participants will not be circulated outside EIPA).

The number of participants will be limited to a maximum of 15 so as to facilitate discussion and maximise learning effects. Priority will be given to former participants of the State Aid Seminars.

The Master Class will be run by EIPA's experts on state aid, who have broad experience in working with public administrations. The working language will be English. Extensive documentation will be prepared by EIPA for use by participants.

Advantages

- **Expert analysis:** cases will be critically and extensively examined.
- **Practical skills:** the aim of the Master Class is to impart knowledge that is directly useful in the every-day work of state aid officials.
- **Small size:** the number of participants will be limited, enabling extensive interaction.
- **Personal attention:** the small number of participants will guarantee that they will have ample opportunity to discuss issues of concern to them.
- **Best practices:** participants will learn from each other about problems encountered as well as solutions adopted by public authorities dealing with state aid in various EU Member States.

Important notice: In view of the strong demand for state aid seminars, EIPA operates a system of first-come-first-serve. The seminars tend to be fully booked well in advance of the registration deadline. Please send your registration and question form as soon as possible.

For further information and registration, please consult:

EIPA web site: <http://www.eipa.eu>

or contact:

Ms Winny Curfs, Programme Organiser, EIPA Maastricht (NL)

Tel: +31-43-3 296 320; Fax: +31-43-3 296 296; e-mail: w.curfs@eipa-nl.com

State Aid Master Class and Case Analysis

European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)

Maastricht (NL), 10 – 11 July 2008

Workshop venue:

European Institute of Public Administration

Blue conference room (0.18)

Onze Lieve Vrouweplein 22

Maastricht (NL)

PROGRAMME

Thursday 10 July 2008

- 9.00 **Welcome and introduction to the aim and method of the Master Class**
- 9.15 **Review of recent cases on the concept of state aid**
This session will present important Commission decisions and Court rulings that add new interpretations and further clarify the various aspects of the concept of state aid.
- 10.15 *Coffee break*
- 10.30 **Working groups: case assessment (concept of state aid)**
Participants will be divided into smaller groups and each group will be given one or more cases to be analysed and assessed as to whether it falls within the scope of Article 87(1).
- 11.30 **Plenary session: presentation by working groups**
The various groups will present their findings, answer questions and respond to comments from other participants.
- 12.45 *Lunch*
- 14.00 **Review of recent cases of state aid exempted under Article 87(2)&(3)**
This session will draw lessons from the recent practice of the Commission on such things as eligible costs, necessity and proportionality of aid, the status of an SME, etc. in the fields of training, regional development, R&D and environmental protection.
- 15.30 *Coffee break*

15.45 **Working groups: design of state aid measures (schemes and ad-hoc measures)**

Participants will be asked to decide how to grant aid for particular policy objectives and to design measures that are compatible with the relevant rules so that they can be approved by the Commission. Some groups will be given assignments that fall within existing regulations and guidelines, while others will have to deal with measures that may need to be based directly on Article 87(2 or3).

17.30 End of the first day

20.00 *Dinner*

Friday 11 July 2008

9.00 **Plenary session: presentation by working groups**

Working groups will present the measures they designed, answer questions and respond to comments from other participants.

10.30 *Coffee break*

10.45 **Presentation and discussion of participants' cases**

Participants will introduce their own cases and explain how they would in principle deal with them in the light of the experiences gained at the Master Class. Other participants will contribute their ideas and suggestions.

12.30 *Lunch*

14.00 **Continuation of presentation and discussion of participants' cases**

16.00 Evaluation and end of the Master Class

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Lecturers:

The Master Class will be run by Prof. Phedon Nicolaides and Dr Mihalis Kekelekis. They have extensive experience in state aid analysis and design of EU-compatible schemes. They have just published a book on state aid intended for use by policy makers.

Programme organiser:

Ms Winny Curfs

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State Aid Master Class and Case Analysis

Maastricht (NL), 10 – 11 July 2008

GENERAL INFORMATION

Programme

The programme will commence on Thursday 10 July 2008 at 9.00 hrs and finish on Friday 11 July 2008 at 16.00 hrs.

Seminar venue

The workshop will take place in the Blue Conference Room (0.18) at the European Institute of Public Administration, O.L. Vrouweplein 22, NL-6211 HE Maastricht, tel.: +31.43.3296222, fax: +31.43.3296296.

Working language

The workshop will be conducted in English.

Fee

The participation fee is €875 and includes documentation, 2 lunches, 1 dinner and refreshments. Accommodation and travel costs are at the expense of the participants or their administration.

Hotel reservations

The European Institute of Public Administration will be pleased to make reservations for you at a hotel in Maastricht. We have made a block booking at Hotel Derlon**** (www.derlon.com), at a rate of **€ 122,50 p.p.p.n.** (incl. breakfast and tourist). Should you wish to make use of this possibility, please indicate the name of the hotel and the dates of arrival and departure on the registration form. Payment is to be made directly and personally to the hotel on checking out. Please note that if you register after the closing date, hotel reservations cannot be guaranteed.

Meals

The lunches will be served at the Institute's restaurant. Should you require a special menu (e.g. vegetarian, diabetic), please inform the Programme Organiser so that this can be arranged. A dinner will be organised for the participants on Thursday evening 10 July..

Registration

Kindly complete the registration form and return it **before 16 June 2008** to Ms Winny Curfs, Programme Organiser, European Institute of Public Administration, P.O. Box 1229, NL-6201 BE Maastricht, tel.: +31.43.3296320, fax: +31.43.3296296, e-mail: w.curfs@eipa-nl.com. You can also submit the online registration form which can be found on EIPA's web site: <http://www.eipa.eu> (conferences). Since the number of participants is strictly limited to 15, **please submit your registration and the required question form, duly completed, as soon as possible**. EIPA operates a system of first-come-first-serve. **Registration forms without completed question form will not be taken into consideration.**

Confirmation

Confirmation of registration will be forwarded to participants on receipt of the completed registration form.

Payment

Prior payment is a condition for participation. Please indicate the method of payment on the registration form. For cancellations received after the date indicated on the registration form we will have to charge an administration fee of €150 unless a replacement participant is found.

REGISTRATION FORM

STATE AID MASTER CLASS AND CASE ANALYSIS

Maastricht (NL), 10 - 11 July 2008

Surname: Title:
First name: M / F
Current position:
Organisation:
Department:
Work address:
Postal code & town: Country:
Tel. no. (work) : Fax no.:
E-mail address:

PAYMENT – p:\08\0831207

The participation fee includes participation in the Master Class, documentation, 2 lunches, 1 dinner and beverages, € 875

Method of payment

Bank transfer

The participants or their administration will receive an invoice for the payment of the registration fee. *Invoice address (if different from the abovementioned address):*

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E-mail:

Credit card

Visa Card

Eurocard/Mastercard

American Express Card

Card no.: Expiry date: /

Name Card holder: (in case this differs from above)

Address Card holder: (in case this differs from above)

Postal code: Country: (in case this differs from above)

Card Validation Code: (this refers to the last three digits of the number on the BACK of your card)

(Exempt from VAT by virtue of Article 11, para. 1 (o), subpara. 2 of the Dutch Law on VAT of 1968)

Note: Pre-payment is a condition for participation. For administrative reasons, a fee of € 150 will be charged for cancellations received after 16 June 2008 unless another participant is designated.

HOTEL RESERVATION

Please reserve hotel accommodation for me at Hotel DERLON

Date of arrival: **Date of departure:** **No. of nights:**

No hotel reservation required

MEALS

Lunch Day 1 will attend will not attend Dinner Day 1 will attend will not attend

Lunch Day 2 will attend will not attend Vegetarian yes

Please return the completed registration form and question form (imperative) **before 16 June 2008** to:

Ms Winny Curfs

Tel.: +31.43.3296 320

European Institute of Public Administration

Fax: +31.43.3296 296

P.O. Box 1229, NL-6201 BE MAASTRICHT

E-mail: w.curfs@eipa-nl.com

Since the number of participants is strictly limited to 15, please submit your registration as soon as possible. EIPA operates a first-come-first-serve system. It is imperative to send in the attached question form, duly completed, together with your registration form.

To be completed by participants when registering for the Master Class

Please provide information on the case you would like to present and discuss at the Master Class. You do not have to disclose the real names of the granting authority and the recipient companies. You may use fictitious names.

Policy objective of the measure in question (what is the aim of the state aid)?

Who provides the state aid (central government, regional/local authority, public agency, public undertaking, other)?

Who are the actual or potential recipients of state aid?

What are the selection criteria?

Are any public obligations imposed on the recipients?

What is the amount of aid and level of aid intensity?

What are the eligible costs?

What regulation or guidelines may apply in this case?

Please describe briefly why this case is problematic: