



Essentials of State Aid Law and Procedures

Practical, Intensive Training for Beginners

5-6 February 2018 | Brussels

Academic Director & Chair



Phedon Nicolaidis
Professor at the
College of Europe in
Bruges and the
Maastricht University,
and Academic Director
at lexzion training

Speakers

Péter Staviczky

State Aid Attaché, Permanent
Representation of Hungary to the EU,
Brussels

Maria Kleis-Walravens

Project Lead, EU Group Climate and
Energy, ClientEarth, Brussels

Yoana Karainova

Case Handler DG Competition Unit H2
State Aid

Katarzyna Piechucka

Case Handler DG Competition Unit H2
State Aid

DAY 1

- Structure of the System of State aid Control
- Concept of State Aid and the Criteria of Art. 107 TFEU
- State Aid Assessment: Principles of Compatibility
- State Aid Exemption: De minimis
- The General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) in Practice:
Common & Specific Provisions:
 - Employment aid
 - Training aid
 - Aid for broadband infrastructures
 - Aid for local infrastructure

DAY 2

- State Aid Exemption: Main Horizontal Guidelines
 - State Aid for Environmental Protection and Energy
 - Aid for R&D&I
 - Regional State aid
 - Procedures of State Aid and Notification
- CASE STUDIES:
 - Employment aid
 - Training aid
 - Green energy

For further information please contact:
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General information

Current Challenges for Responsible Authorities

The training covers all topics that you need for the start in the State aid field. Our experts will give you an overview on:

- Structure of the system of State aid control and obligations of all parties involved
- Concept of State aid and its application in the practice
- *De minimis* aid and State aid exemptions
- Practical application of the GBER (incl. case studies on training and employment aid and aid for broadband infrastructures)
- Notification of State aid cases to the European Commission
- Assessment of compatibility of aid by the European Commission
- Recovery of incompatible aid

Methodology

The participants will be actively involved in the training. The sessions will combine presentations, case studies and discussion on practical problems. You will have ample opportunities to present your own problematic issues and discuss them with the speakers and participants from other Member States.

Just send to us your cases and questions in advance! We will forward them to our speakers, who will include your issues in the programme and answer them during the training. All information concerning such problems and cases will be treated confidentially.

Participants will receive extensive materials:

- ✓ All presentations shown during the training (inclusive online access to all presentations after the training)
- ✓ Confirmations of Participation



Who should participate?

- Public officials from
 - Ministries and other national authorities
 - Regional governments
 - Communal and City councils involved in granting State aid in sectors such as:
 - Transport and infrastructure
 - Finance
 - Environment and Energy
 - Telecommunication and Broadband
 - Social services and health
 - Agriculture
- EU funds experts from:
 - Institutions coordinating the national strategies for Structural Funds
 - Managing, Certifying and Audit Authorities
 - Intermediate bodies
 - Bodies implementing EU funded projects
- Employees of National and Regional Development Agencies
- New employees in the State Aid Monitoring Offices
- Lawyers and consultants specialised in public affair

Your benefits

- ✓ Learn more about the **concept of State aid** and its general prohibition under EU treaty rules.
- ✓ Find out how to assess its existence in your **funding measures**.
- ✓ Get a detailed overview of **the most important State aid exemptions** and learn how to implement them in the practice.
- ✓ Make sure that your projects and funding schemes are designed in compliance with State aid rules.
- ✓ Become an insight into the **methods of assessment** and handling the State aid cases by the DG Competition.
- ✓ Get acquainted with all the procedures relevant for State aid notification.
- ✓ Learn **how to recover incompatible State aid** from third parties and what the consequences of a recovery failure are.
- ✓ Stay up-to-date with the **State Aid Modernisation Initiative**
- ✓ Analyse your problems and discuss your questions with acknowledged experts.

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Programme DAY 1

09:00 Welcome note by Lexxion and chair;
Introduction of participants

*Phedon Nicolaides, College of Europe
Bruges, Maastricht University, and lexxion
training Academic Director*

09:30 **Structure of the System of State aid Control**

- Sources of law
- Powers of European Commission
- Obligations of the Member States
- State Aid Modernisation Initiative
- Judicial review

*Phedon Nicolaides in cooperation with
Péter Staviczky, Attaché for State Aid,
Hungarian Permanent Representation,
Brussels*

10:30 Coffee break & networking

11:00 **Concept of State Aid**

- The meaning of aid granted by a Member State or State Resources
- The concept of economic and non-economic activity
- How to determine advantage to certain undertakings or production of certain goods
- How to establish whether a measure is selectivity
- The meaning of distortion of competition and effect of trade between the Member States

Phedon Nicolaides

12:30 Lunch

13:30 **Group exercise on the Concept of State Aid:
Application of the Criteria of Art. 107 TFEU
to the Aid Measures**

Phedon Nicolaides

14:30 **State Aid Assessment: Principles of
Compatibility**

Phedon Nicolaides

15:15 **State Aid Exemption: *De minimis***

*Péter Staviczky, Attaché for State Aid,
Hungarian Permanent Representation,
Brussels*

15:45 Coffee break

The General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) in Practice: Common & Specific Provisions

16:15 **State Aid Exemption: General Block
Exemption Regulation (GBER) – Common
Provisions**

Péter Staviczky

17:00 **State Aid Exemption: The General Block
Exemption Regulation (GBER) – Specific
Provisions, e.g.**

- Training aid
- Employment aid
- Aid for broadband infrastructures
- Aid for local infrastructure

Péter Staviczky

18:00 Q&A and summary of day 1

**Just send us your cases and questions in
advance!**

We will forward them to our speakers, who will include your issues in the programme and answer them during the workshop. All information concerning your questions and cases will be treated confidentially. As the number of participants is limited, participants will benefit from a maximum of exchange and discussion of their individual questions.

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Programme DAY 2

Practical Application of GBER

09:00 **Case Study: How to Design Projects Compliant with GBER?**

Péter Staviczky

09:45 **Modification of the GBER**

Péter Staviczky

10:30 Coffee break

State Aid Exemption: Main Horizontal Guidelines

11:00 **State aid for Research, Development and Innovation**

Yoana Karainova & Katarzyna Piechucka,
Case Handler DG Competition Unit H2 State Aid

12:15 Lunch

13:15 **State Aid for Environmental Protection and Energy**

Maria Kleis-Walravens, Project Lead, EU Group Climate and Energy, ClientEarth, Brussels

13:45 **Case Study on Green Energy**

Maria Kleis-Walravens

14:30 Coffee break

14:45 **Regional State aid**

Phedon Nicolaides

15:15 **State Aid Notification & State Aid Recovery**

Péter Staviczky



16:15 **Problem Solving session:**
Round-table discussion on the important lessons to be drawn from the training and typical mistakes to avoid

17:00 End of the training
Distribution of your Certificates

*Programme may be subject to change

Participant of Essentials of State Aid Law and Procedures, October 2016

"Interesting topics, dedicated lecturers, eager to clear up any shade of doubt or not knowing, moreover, eager to elaborate a problem given during the event, and an excellent organization – all factors for an attendee's satisfaction and eventually success needed to be on a safe side of law."

Participants of Essentials of State Aid Law and Procedures, February 2014

"Never say 'I know State aid', because you never know how much you don't know about it!"

Participant from the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania

"The training was very interesting and useful, a great start for beginners in the topic. All the changes in the EU legislation were discussed and many examples for State aid were given."

Zoya Vasileva, Ministry of Finance, Bulgaria

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Experts

Chair

Phedon Nicolaidis

Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges and the Maastricht University, and Academic Director at lexXion training

Dr. Nicolaidis has been educated in the United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom and has a PhD in economics and a PhD in law. He has acted as consultant to a number of public authorities in various EU Member States and to international institutions and organisations such as the European Commission, the European Investment Fund, the European Economic and Social Committee, the OECD and the UN. He has published extensively on competition policy, State aid, and policy implementation. During the past 15 years, he has carried out training activities on State aid in most EU Member States.

Speakers

Péter Staviczky

State Aid Attaché, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU, Brussels, Belgium

Studied law at the Pázmány Péter Catholic University Faculty of Law (1996-2001) and Comparative Law at the International Faculty of the University Robert Schuman Strasbourg (1999-2002). He did a banking-lawyer postgraduate training (2000-2002) and took part in the common European specialist course of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French École National d'Administration in spring 2002. He has been working at the State Aid Monitoring Office in Budapest since 2001. In 2007, he was appointed as head of the unit. He is a regular speaker at the seminars on State aid. Since January 2011 he is the attaché responsible for State aid at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU in Brussels.

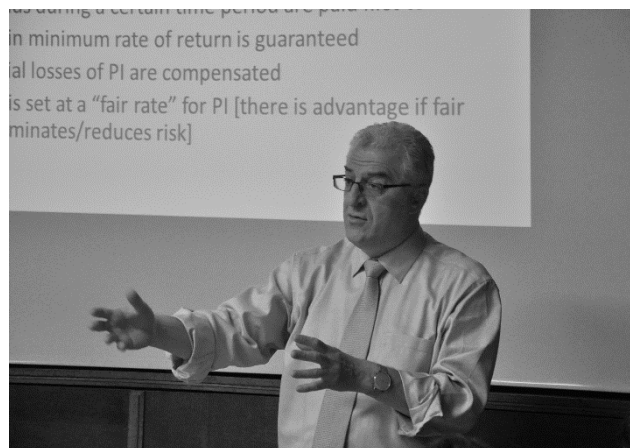
Maria Kleis-Walravens

Project Lead, EU Group Climate and Energy, ClientEarth, Brussels

Before joining ClientEarth she worked as the EU Liaison for the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP). She also gained expertise giving State aid lectures to public authorities for many years. Earlier work experience includes a position as a legal advisor on European competition law at the German law firm Beiten Burkhardt in Brussels, consultancy work for the International Labour Organisation, and an internship with the United Nations. Maria holds a DEA in public international law from the Institute de Hautes Etudes Internationales in Geneva (CH), and a LL.Min EU Law, Dutch law, and comparative Law from the University of Maastricht.

Yoana Karainova & Katarzyna Piechucka

Case Handler DG Competition Unit H2 State Aid



Participants of Essentials of State Aid Law and Procedures, October 2016

"The seminar was one of the most interesting I've been to. Speakers one of the most qualified. The operation was flawless. I learned a lot about the General Block Exemption regulation (GBER) and State aid for environmental protection and energy."

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Registration

Venue

Management Centre Europe
Rue de l'Aqueduc 118
1050 Brussels
Belgium
<https://mceconferencecentre.eu/contact-us/>

Participation fee

- YES, I would like to participate for the reduced fee for public authorities **EUR 1190,00** (excl. VAT).
- YES, I would like to participate for the regular fee of **EUR 1590,00** (excl. VAT).
- YES, I am European State Aid Law Quarterly - EStAL-subscriber (10% discount if applicable).

The Belgian VAT of 21% will be added where applicable.

The participation fees include the workshop material, drinks and snacks during the breaks and lunch.

Newsletter subscription

- Please send me information about State Aid issues for free. I may unsubscribe from this service any time.

Cancellations

Cancellations should be made in writing per post or fax. Please note that the full fee will be charged for cancellations received after 22 January 2018 (included illness or impediment which prevents her or him from fulfilling her or his duties). Nomination of a substitute remains possible. A cancellation arising by reason of too small a number of participants is effected no later than two weeks prior to the seminar. In this case the participation fee will be refunded. A requirement for reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses as well as loss of working hours is not possible, unless such costs result from wantonly negligent or deliberate behaviour on the part of the organiser. For more detailed information, scope and conduct of contract as well as cancellation policy, please check the Terms & Conditions on our website.

Please register with:



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Position, Department

Company Name

Address

Address

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E-Mail

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Date, Signature

Upcoming events

The Rights and Duties of State Aid Beneficiaries | 8-9 March 2018 | Lisbon, Portugal

Within the State Aid Modernisation (SAM) package, new guidelines, a new General Block Exemption Regulation and a new procedural regulation have been introduced. The question of third parties' rights and duties, though, remains to be a procedural aspect of European State aid law that has not yet been clarified sufficiently. State aid experts from EU and Member States' authorities will elaborate on the practical problems from a comparative perspective - complemented by expert insights from private legal practice and academia. Use this great networking opportunity to receive a maximum of exchange and best practices.