



AFTERNOON SEMINAR

“STAATSSTEUN: DE RECHTSPOSITIE VAN STEUNVERLENENDE OVERHEDEN”

ORGANIZATION : Consumer Competition Market (CCM - KU Leuven - W. Devroe) and Liège Competition and Innovation Institute (LCII - ULg - P. Van Cleynenbreugel), with support of the Flemish Government (Department LNE)

TIME : Friday 31 March 2017 from 1:15 pm to 5:30 pm

LOCATION : Grote Vergaderzaal, KU Leuven Faculty of Law (Tiensestraat 41, 3000 Leuven)

TOPIC : Conferences on State Aid usually focus on the legal position of the beneficiary of these aid and less on the other side, i.e. the authority that provides the aid. For governments that want to grant aid, the modernization of the State aid regime and related developments, such as the Second Altmark -package, have changed the framework in which they have to operate. On the one hand, less aid must be notified - which is not always an advantage since this diminishes the legal certainty on the compatibility of aid. On the other hand, the obligations relating to due diligence before awarding aid and to monitoring aid as well as to the assessment and reporting after granting aid are significantly increased. Consequently, we think it is time to place the legal position of the aid granting public authority in the spotlight.

In the relationship between the European Commission, the authority that provides the aid and the beneficiary of the aid, the interests of the authority that provides the aid may be identical to those of the Commission and the beneficiary, but certainly not completely. Therefore, several questions arise :

- How much research should a government effectuate before granting *de minimis* aid? Is a sworn declaration by the recipient sufficient, or is more needed and if so how much more?
- If regions distribute funds to municipalities which provide aid with these funds, what are the obligations of these regions to verify the final purpose and recipient of the funds?
- How to optimize the dialogue between governments and the Commission if the General Block Exemption does not provide clarity?
- What are the rights and obligations of governments when the Commission orders recovery?

In this context, a panel of practitioners, academics and EU officials will highlight, in a round table format, several best practices for authorities that provide aids.

REGISTRATION : The standard fee is € 100 (€ 50 for academics and officials/civil servants). An invoice will be send. The registration is definite once payment is received. The number of participants is limited to 50. Registrations are made online via https://www.law.kuleuven.be/apps/activiteiten/nl/portaal/index/view_activiteit/3448.

PROGRAM

13.15	<i>Registration and Coffee</i>	
13.30	Modernisering, Altmark en steunverlenende overheden: nieuwe verantwoordelijkheden, nieuwe vragen	W. Devroe KU Leuven; Maastricht U; Allen & Overy; Belgian Competition Authority
13.45	Modernisering van het staatssteunrecht: stand van zaken en eerste ervaringen met de Mededeling van de Commissie over het begrip 'staatsteun'	H. Nyssens European Commission, DG COMP, Infrastructure and Regional Aid Department
14.10	De Algemene Groepsvrijstellingsverordening: <i>self assessment</i> en rechtszekerheid te verzoenen in de praktijk?	L. Parret Houthoff Buruma; Professor 'Staatssteun in de Europese rechtsorde', U. Utrecht
14.30	The passage from <i>ex ante</i> to <i>ex post</i> control: state of play, block exemption regulations and <i>de minimis</i>	J. Derenne Sheppard Mullin; ULg; College of Europe; Brussels School of Competition
14.50	<i>Roundtable Discussion – Q&A session</i>	
15.15	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
15.40	Steunverlening aan diensten van algemeen economisch belang	Y. Van Gerven General Court of Justice
16.00	Steunverlening door en aan regionale en lokale overheden	M. Aalbers Universiteit Leiden
16.20	Terugvordering van staatssteun: Europees en nationaal recht	H. Gilliams Eubelius
16.40	Steunverlening aan groene energie	P. Van Cleynenbreugel ULg; Paris-Dauphine
17.00	<i>Roundtable Discussion – Q&A session</i>	
17.25	<i>Closing remarks</i>	
17.30	<i>Close of the Conference</i>	