State Aid in the Agricultural Sector

23 – 24 March 2015 | Brussels

Two-day intensive training on the new State aid rules applicable in the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sectors and in rural areas, with a special focus on the modernisation of Guidelines for State aid in the agricultural sector, the revised GBER, ABER and de minimis regulation.

CHAIR
Phedon Nicolaides
Professor the College of Europe in Bruges
and at the University of Maastricht

EXPERTS

Gereon Thiele
Head of the Competition Unit,
DG Agriculture & Rural Development,
European Commission

Ioana-Eleonora Rusu
Case Handler, Competition Unit,
DG Agriculture & Rural Development,
European Commission

Catriona Syme
State Aid Unit, Scottish Government

Johanna Schumacher
Unit for EU Coordination, Law, Strategy and Legal Affairs, German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)
Training on the New Rules on State Aid for Agriculture
Two-day Intensive Training | 23 – 24 March 2015 | Brussels

General information

Thematic scope
State aid rules in the agricultural sector present the double challenge of implementing the general principles of competition and State aid law and having to guarantee coherence with the EU’s common agricultural and rural development policies.

Our experts will give you a comprehensive overview on:
- Application of the Art. 107 TFEU to the Agricultural and Fisheries Sectors
- State Aid for Rural Development and Forestry
- Compatibility between Funding in the Agricultural Sector and State Aid Law
- New EU Guidelines for the Agricultural Sector
- The Modernised Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation (ABER)
- De Minimis Aid in Agriculture
- Public Support for Marketing of Agricultural Products
- Compensation for Natural Disasters
- Compatibility between Parafiscal Charges on Agricultural Products, State Aid and Internal Market Rules
- Procedures to Notify State 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.

Focus group
- Public officials from
  - Ministries for Agriculture
  - Ministries for Rural Development
  - Regional and local governments
  - National and Regional Agricultural Agencies
  - National Paying Agencies
- State aid experts from National State Aid Monitoring Offices
- Experts from farmers’ associations and other agricultural organizations
- Experts working with the European Agriculture and Rural Development Funds as well as with other EU Funds and programmes supporting agricultural sector
- Lawyers and consultants specialized in public affairs

Your benefit
- Learn what the concept of State aid is and how it applies to the agricultural sector.
- Get a detailed overview of the most important State aid regulations and their modernisation.
- Make sure that your projects and funding schemes are designed in compliance to State aid rules.
- Become an insight into the methods of assessment and handling the State aid cases by the DG Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Analyse your problems and discuss your questions with the acknowledged experts from the European Commission as well as public and private practice.

Training participants will receive a free copy of Phedon Nicolaides’ brand new book, a compilation of all State Aid Uncovered articles from 2014.
# Training on the New Rules on State Aid for Agriculture

## Two-day Intensive Training | 23 – 24 March 2015 | Brussels

### Programme

#### Day 1

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| 09:00 - 09:30 | Welcome note by lexxion and chair; Introduction of participants  
*Phedon Nicolaides, Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges and the University of Maastricht, Academic Director lexxion training* |
| 09:30 – 10:30 | What is State Aid and How It Applies to Agriculture and Fisheries  
*Phedon Nicolaides* |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00 – 13:00 | The New Framework of Rules for State Aid to Agriculture  
• *Agricultural de minimis aid*  
• *Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation (ABER)*  
• *revised GBER*  
• *Community Guidelines for State aid in the agriculture and forestry sector*  
*Ioana-Eleonora Rusu, Case Handler, Competition Unit DG Agriculture & Rural Development* |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | Application of the State Aid Rules for Agricultural Production: Best practices from Scotland and United Kingdom  
• Implementing the new rules in Scotland  
• The good points and bad!  
• State aid and the Scottish Rural Development Fund  
• Our unique set up within the UK  
*Catriona Syme, State Aid Unit, Scottish Government* |
| 15:00 – 15:15 | Coffee break |
| 15:15 – 16:15 | Application of the State Aid Rules for Agricultural Production: Best practices from Germany  
*Johanna Schumacher, Senior Legal Advisor, Unit for EU Coordination, Law, Strategy and Legal Affairs, German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture* |
| 16:15 –17:00 | Panel Discussion: National Experiences & Problems with Compliance with State Aid Rules  
*Chair: Phedon Nicolaides* |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | Q&A; End of the day 1 |

#### Day 2

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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| 09:00 – 10:30 | State Aid for Rural Development and Forestry  
• Public aid in line with common agricultural and rural development policies  
• Objectives of public aid in rural areas  
*Ioana-Eleonora Rusu, Case Handler, Competition Unit DG Agriculture & Rural Development* |
| 10:30 - 11:00 | Coffee Break |
| 11:00 - 12:30 | The Promotion of Agricultural Products  
*Johanna Schumacher, Senior Legal Advisor, Unit for EU Coordination, Law, Strategy and Legal Affairs, German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture* |
| 12:30 – 13:30 | Lunch break |
| 13:30 – 14:45 | Parafiscal Levies or Charges on Agricultural Products: Existence and Compatibility of State aid with the Internal Market Rules  
*Phedon Nicolaides* |
| 14:45 – 15:00 | Coffee break |
| 15:00 – 16:00 | Final Discussion and Future Outlook  
*Gereon Thiele, Head of the Competition Unit, DG Agriculture & Rural Development* |
| 16:00 | Q&A; End of the Training |

"An excellent course for experienced State aid practitioners."

Participant of State Aid for Agriculture in 2014 from the Department for Agriculture, Northern Ireland
Speakers

Chair:
Phedon Nicolaides, Professor at the College of Europe, Bruges, University of Maastricht, and Academic Director lexxion training

Dr. Nicolaides was educated in the United States, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. He has a PhD in Economics and a PhD in Law. He presently holds positions at the College of Europe and the University of Maastricht. He has published extensively on European integration, competition policy and State aid. He is also on the editorial boards of several journals. Dr. Nicolaides has organised seminars and workshops in many different Member States, and has acted as consultant to several public authorities.

Gereon Thiele, Head of the Competition Unit, DG Agriculture & Rural Development

Gereon Thiele graduated in law at the University of Passau (Germany) in 1987. He continued his professional training as a lawyer and was admitted to the profession in 1991. In 1997, he was awarded the degree of a Dr. iur. by the University of Passau on a thesis concerning the law of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). From 1991 to 1994 he held the lectureship of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) for German and European Law at the University of East Anglia in Norwich (UK). From 1994 until the end of 1998 he worked at the German Federal Ministry of Economics and the Ministry of Economics of the State of Saxony Anhalt as an agent representing the German government before the European Court of Justice and vis-à-vis the other European institutions. Since December 1998, Gereon has been working at DG AGRI of the European Commission where he has held different posts. After three years working as a lawyer within the audit units of DG AGRI, he moved on to the central legal unit of that same DG. In 2008, he became the Deputy Head of Unit, and in September 2009 the Head of Unit of the DG AGRI internal registry responsible for the procedures of adoption of legal acts. Since March 2012, he has been the head of the DG AGRI Unit responsible for competition issues, in particular State aids.

Ioana-Eleonora Rusu, Case Handler, Competition Unit, DG Agriculture & Rural Development

Ioana Eleonora Rusu graduated in law and modern languages at the University of Sibiu (Romania) and completed a PhD in law at the University of Marburg (Germany). She worked as an academic assistant at the European and International Law department of the University of Marburg. Before joining the European Commission she worked for three years in the State aid field in Maastricht (Netherlands).

Johanna Schumacher, Senior Legal Advisor, Unit for EU Coordination, Law, Strategy and Legal Affairs, German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)

Since 2010, Johanna Schumacher has been working as Senior Legal Advisor in the Unit for EU Coordination and Law, Strategy and Legal Affairs of the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). Previously, she worked for eight years in the Animal Products Unit and was dealing with the implementation of EU law in the areas of food law and market organisation law. Johanna Schumacher has also worked as Consultant for the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and other organisations in Rome.

Catriona Syme, State Aid Unit, Scottish Government

Ms. Syme is currently a senior state aid advisor within the Scottish Government State aid unit. She graduated from the University of Glasgow with an MA degree in History. She then worked within the Insurance Industry, Zurich Commercial, for 2 years, specialising in Employers liability and Public liability claims. In 2002 Ms. Syme joined the Scottish Government and initially worked in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. She then moved to the European Structural Funds Division where she dealt with the European Social Fund. In 2006 she joined the Scottish Government State aid unit. She has dealt with State aid in most sectors including social housing and transport. Since 2013 Ms. Syme has been responsible for advising on State aid in the Agricultural and Fisheries sectors. Their remit extends to all local authorities in Scotland and all public bodies/ agencies. Ms. Syme also has responsibility for advising on State aid issues relating to tax.
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**Registration form**

[Please fax to Lexxion Publisher · Fax: +49-30-81 45 06-22 or e-mail to training@lexxion.eu]

- **Organiser**: lexxion training on behalf of Lexxion Publisher
- **Venue**: exclusive venue in the heart of Brussels, Belgium
- **Participation fee**:
  - Fee for public sector: 990 €
  - with additional discount for EStAL-subscribers: 890 €
  - Fee for private sector: 1450 € (excl. VAT)
  - with additional discount for EStAL-subscribers: 1350 €

*Early bird rate until 6th February 2015: 10% of the respective fee*

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

The participation fee includes the seminar material, coffee breaks and lunch. Cancellations should be made in writing per post or fax. Please note that the full fee will be charged for cancellations received after 8th March 2015. 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.

**Registration**

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**Contact Person**

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