

Experts Summer Meeting

Cephalonia, 29 June 2013

Regional Development Policy and the Role of State Aid

Venue: Villa on the Rock, Cephalonia, Greece*

Background:

The promotion of regional development in the European Union and especially in Greece is of utmost importance to promote social cohesion as well as economic growth. Therefore it is necessary to highlight the role of state aid for safeguarding regional cohesion goals and policies in the EU. Policy objectives and tools as well as the control function of the European Commission and the methodologies it adopts need to be analyzed and critically assessed during the workshop. The impact of state aid on regional disparities will be examined as well as the effect of state aid on regional cohesion goals.

Aims of the Summer Experts Meeting:

The meeting will concentrate academic and administrative expertise on state aid with special focus on aid used for regional development purposes. The debate has two aims: First, the direct contact between academics and practitioners in the field with the benefit of an immediate exchange of views and perspectives. Second, the information of a broader group of decision makers on the results of the debate through a policy paper, which will be concentrating the main findings of the workshop, and which will be disseminated in due course.

** The venue is kindly provided by courtesy of Mr. Gerassimos and Mrs. V. Filipatos*

Program

Friday, 28 June 2013

Arrival of the guests in the afternoon

Saturday, 29 June 2013

9.30 – 9.45h Welcome Remarks and Introduction

Christos Katsioulis, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Athens (GR)

Prof. Dr. Antonis Metaxas, Hellenic State Aid Institute, Athens (GR)

09.45 – 11.15h First Panel: Regional Aid - Guidelines and experiences

1. Input: Overview of the new regional aid guidelines of the EU Commission

Dr. Mihalis Kekelekis, EFTA Surveillance Authority, Brussels (B)

2. Input: Regional development in Greece – Experiences and lessons learned

Prof. George Petrakos, Director, South and East European Development Center
Department of Planning and Regional Development University of Thessaly

Comment by: **Prof. Dr. Phedon Nicolaides**, (B) and **Leonidas Athanasiou**,
Director Strategy and Planning, Intrasoftware, former Head of State Aid Unit, Information
Society S.A. (GR)

11.15h – 11.30h Coffee Break

11.30h – 13.00h Second Panel: Regional aid in the EU and EFTA

1. Input: Regional aid in the EU and relationship with Structural funds

Prof. Dr. Phedon Nicolaides, Jan Tinbergen Professor and Director of Studies at the College of Europe in Bruges, (B)

2. Input: A Comparative dimension: Regional Aid in the EFTA States – the Decision Practice of the EFTA Surveillance Authority

Dr. Mihalīs Kekelekis, EFTA Surveillance Authority, Brussels (B)

Comment by: **Leonidas Athanasiou**, Director Strategy and Planning, Intrisoft S.A.,
fmr. Head of State Aid Unit, Information Society S.A. (GR)

(GR)

13.00h Light Lunch

14.00 – 15.15h Third Panel: Infrastructure and Regional Development

1. Input: Convergence of Infrastructure Funding under EU-State Aid Law – Importance for Regional Development

Prof. Dr. Christian Koenig, ZEI, Bonn (D)

2. Input: State Aid Control – Recent experiences in the broadband sector:
State financing of broadband networks in metropolitan and rural areas in Greece

S. Kakounis, LL.M. Eur. München (GR)

3. Input: Environmental and Energy Aid Guidelines 2014 – 2020: Interlinks between Climate Change Measures, Effects of Aid on the Functioning of Internal Energy Market and Regional Development

I. Mersinia, LL.M. ZEI Bonn (GR)

Comment by: **Prof. Dr. Antonis Metaxas**, Hellenic State Aid Institute (GR)

15.15 – 15.30h Closing Remarks

Prof. Dr. Antonis Metaxas

Christos Katsioulis

21.00h Dinner

Participants:

1. Leonidas Athanasiou, Director Strategy and Business, Intrasoftware
2. Christos Katsioulis, Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Athens
3. Dr. Mihalis Kekelekis, EFTA Surveillance Authority
4. Prof. Dr. Christian Koenig, ZEI Bonn
5. Prof. Dr. Antonis Metaxas, University of Athens and Hellenic State Aid Institute
6. Prof. Dr. Phedon Nicolaides, Jan Tinbergen Professor and Director of Studies at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium
7. Prof. George Petrakos, Director, South and East European Development Center Department of Planning and Regional Development University of Thessaly
8. Stathis Kakounis, LL.M. Eur. München, Hellenic State Aid Institute and Metaxas & Associates Law Firm
9. Ioanna Mersinia, LL.M. Bonn, Hellenic State Aid Institute and Metaxas & Associates Law Firm