

WLGA Briefing

Commission extends three State Aids regulations

9th January 2007

Alexia Taylor

00 32 (0)2 5064484 – alexia.taylor@wlg-brussels.org.uk



The Commission has extended three State Aid Regulations – Employment, SME and Training until 30th June 2008.

The Commission Regulation from the 20th December 2006, (1976/2006) amends the existing State Aid Regulations:

- for employment (2204/2002);
- to SME's (70/2001) and
- for training aid (68/2001),

which were otherwise likely to expire on 31st December 2006.

As part of its State Aid reforms, the Commission intends to simplify and consolidate the existing block exemptions and integrate a broader range of exemptions within a general block exemption – covering the three above schemes.

Discussions are continuing on creating a 'super' block exemption at EU level, which would exempt a wide variety of state aids from the prior notification requirement. We are expecting to see a proposal for this in early 2007, following the multi-laterals which took place in November 2006.

In recognition of this, the Commission has formally announced that the current block exemptions relating to training, SME's and employment which were to expire at the end of December 2006 have therefore been extended to June 2008.

More information can be found on:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/l_368/l_36820061223en00850086.pdf