

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the revision of the Framework on State aid to Shipbuilding

The Framework on State aid to Shipbuilding ("Shipbuilding Framework") provides the rules for the Commission to assess whether State support for shipbuilding is compatible with the Internal Market. The Shipbuilding Framework came into effect on 1 January 2004, was prolonged in 2006 and 2008 and is currently applicable until 31 December 2011.

The general principle of the Shipbuilding Framework is that State support for shipbuilding may be granted under the common EU horizontal State aid rules except where the specific provisions of the Shipbuilding Framework apply. These specific provisions were so far explained by historical reasons and by certain features of the shipbuilding market, in particular that of a global market generally described as suffering from cyclical overcapacity. The Shipbuilding Framework contains specific provisions on innovation aid, regional aid, closure aid, export credits, development aid and employment aid.

In view of the expiry of the Shipbuilding Framework end of 2011, the Commission services have started assessing the results of the application of this Framework. The purpose of this consultation is, thus, to invite local and regional public authorities, shipyards and their associations, ship owners and their associations, maritime suppliers, social partners and any other stakeholders or interested parties to provide feedback on the application of the Shipbuilding Framework.

The European Commission has published an questionnaire addressed to all interested parties.

The period for this consultation is: 04.10.2010 – 06.12.2010.

The questionnaire is available in:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2010_shipbuilding_framework/questionnaire.pdf