

Publication of the Simplification Package for State aid in the Official Journal

On 29 April, the European Commission adopted a Simplification Package for state aid with a Best Practice Code and a Simplified Procedure Notice. Both aim at improving the effectiveness, transparency and predictability of State aid procedures at each step of an investigation, thereby fostering voluntary co-operation between the Commission and Member States.

In particular, both texts propose that Member States increase their contacts prior to notification of aid measures, so as to eliminate potential difficulties early in the process, and include a set of improved planning tools to tackle both difficult and straightforward cases. Adoption of the Simplification Package constitutes an important step of the reform programme announced by the Commission in its 2005 State Aid Action Plan.

Both texts, the Best Practice Code and the Simplified Procedure Notice, have been just published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

[Notice from the Commission on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain types of State Aid](#) - OJ C 136/16.06.2009, p. 3

[Code of Best Practice for the conduct of State aid control procedures](#) - OJ C 136/16.06.2009, p. 13