

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty**Cases where the Commission raises no objections**

(2004/C 13/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Date of adoption of the decision: 10.12.2003**Member State:** Sweden**Aid No:** N 202/03**Title:** Reimbursement of high sickleave payment for smaller employers**Objective:** To compensate solely small enterprises for the increased cost of sickleave payment**Legal basis:** Introduktionen av den föreslagna åtgärden – kommer att ske genom ändringar i Svensk lag nr 1991:1047 angående sjuklön**Budget:** The budget of the scheme is estimated at SEK 250 million (± EUR 25 million) per year**Duration:** 1 January 2004 to 1 January 2005

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids**Date of adoption of the decision:** 1.12.2003**Member State:** Italy**Aid No:** N 310/03**Title:** Aid for sources of renewable energy**Objective:** To promote investment in renewable energy**Legal basis:** Legge n. 598/94, articolo 11; D.L. n. 516/94; Legge n. 448/98, articolo 8, c. 10, lettera f); D.L. n. 500/99, articolo 2, c. 1.; D.M. n. 337/2000, articolo 5**Budget:** EUR 25 820 000**Aid intensity or amount:** Consistent with the intensities applicable under the Community guidelines on state aid for environmental protection**Duration:** Until 31 December 2007

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids**Date of adoption of the decision:** 1.12.2003**Member State:** Germany**Aid No:** N 341/03**Title:** SME Interest Subsidy Programme — prolongation (Saarland)**Objective:** Supporting investment activities by small and medium-sized enterprises in Saarland**Legal basis:** Richtlinien für das Zinszuschussprogramm zur Förderung von kleinen und mittleren Unternehmen sowie des Fremdenverkehrs im Saarland**Budget:** EUR 885 300 p.a.**Duration:** Limited until 31 December 2006**Other information:** Germany has to submit an annual report on the implementation of the scheme

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids**Date of adoption of the decision:** 1.12.2003**Member State:** United Kingdom**Aid No:** N 455/03**Title:** Cleaner Coal R & D Programme (alteration)**Objective:** Promoting the development of more environmentally efficient technologies for utilising coal for electricity generation**Legal basis:** Science and Technology Act 1965**Budget:** Originally anticipated GBP 4,7 million (approximately EUR 6,8 million), 2004 budget not yet finalised, level of refinancing will fall below 100 % refinancing eligibility**Aid intensity or amount:** Mostly 50 % gross; 75 % for feasibility studies in dioxide capture field at the R & D stage of industrial research**Duration:** Until 31 March 2005

Other information: The United Kingdom authorities have to submit an annual report on the implementation of the scheme

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids

Date of adoption of the decision: 26.11.2003

Member State: Italy (Basilicata)

Aid No: N 82/03

Title: Grants to risk funds of cooperatives and collective guarantee association for commerce and tourism

Objective: Promote SME investments, facilitating SME access to guarantees

Legal basis: Delibera della Giunta Regionale della Regione Basilicata n. 1451, 2 agosto 2002 — Approvazione preliminare del bando

Budget: EUR 600 000

Aid intensity or amount: Within the ceilings of Commission Regulation (EC) No 70/2001

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.3333 — Sony/BMG)

(2004/C 13/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 9 January 2004 the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ⁽²⁾, by which the undertakings Bertelsmann AG ('Bertelsmann', Germany) and Sony Corporation of America belonging to the Sony group ('Sony', Japan), acquire, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of the undertaking 'Sony BMG' by way of purchase of shares in a newly created company constituting a joint venture.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - Bertelsmann: Music recording and publishing, television, radio, publishing of books and magazines, book and music clubs,
 - Sony: Music recording and publishing, industrial and consumer electronics, entertainment services,
 - Sony BMG: Combination of the worldwide recorded music businesses of Sony and Bertelsmann (excluding Sony's activities in Japan).
3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified concentration could fall within the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.
4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference COMP/M.3333 — Sony/BMG, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Merger Registry,
J-70,
B-1049 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.