

#### Centre for Competition Law and Policy

PART OF THE INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN AND COMPARATIVE LAW

# Financial crisis & State Aid

DAVID SZAFRAN\*

## Agenda

- Economic & Budgetary context
- ■EU Enforcement Policy on State aid
- Financial Sector
- Tax Ruling
- Conclusion

## 1. Introduction

ECONOMIC & BUDGETARY CONTEXT

### Financial Crisis & Budgetary Control

- Financial crisis 2007-2008
- Sovereign debt crisis
- EU Directive 2011/85/EU (implementation by 31/12/2013)
  - Financial statements of EU Member States
  - Accrual Accounting (IPAS; EPSAS)
  - ► Independent Audit
- Eurostat
  - **ESR 2010**
  - Scope (municipalities; police zones; etc.)
- US SEC protection of investors in municipalities bonds
  - > Individual investors
  - > Financial institutions

## 2. Policy

EU ENFORCEMENT POLICY ON STATE AID

### State Aid Policy

#### Definition

- Public support granted to companies by a EU Member State which provides a selective economic advantage over the others
- Not prohibited: subsidies granted to individuals or general measures open to all enterprises (examples include general taxation measures or employment legislation)

#### Main features:

- Intervention by the State or through State resources
- The intervention gives the recipient an advantage on a selective basis, for example to specific companies or industry sectors, or to companies located in specific regions
- **Competition** has been or may be distorted
- The intervention is likely to affect trade between Member States

#### **European Commission**

- DG Competition
- DG Fisheries
- DG Agriculture

#### Examples:

- Direct grants
- Tax exemptions
- Loans granted at low or no interest rates
- Government holdings of all or part of a company
- Providing goods and services on preferential terms
- Etc.

#### Recent cases:

- Financial Sector
- Tax rulings

## 3. Financial Sector

STATE AID

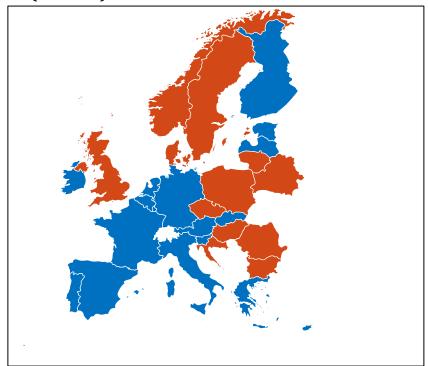
### EU Banking Union

#### EU

- Basel III Framework (CRDIV and CRR)
- 2. Single Resolution Mechanism (SRM)
  - Bank Resolution & Recovery Directive (BRRD)
  - Single Resolution Fund (SRF)
  - Deposit Guarantee Scheme (DGS)

#### **EURO-ZONE**

3. Single Supervisory Mechanism (SSM)



## Banking Structural Reform

	EU consultation 2013 // Liikanen Report and draft Regulation 29.01.2014	FRANCE Law 26.07.2013 (amending Code monétaire et financier)	GERMANY Law (2013)	UK Vickers Commission	USA Volcker Rule	BELGIUM (Law 25.04.2014)
Broad Approach	Subsidiarisation: proprietary and higher risk trading activity in separate legal entities	Subsidiarisation: proprietary activity in separate legal entity	Subsidiarisation: proprietary activity in separate legal entity	Ring-fencing: structural separation of activities via a ring fence for retail banks	Institutional separation of commercial banking and certain investment activities	Subsidiarisation: proprietary activity in separate legal entities (above certain threshold)
Proprietary trading	Separate legal entities (even within same group)	Separate legal entity of large banks	Separate legal entity	Retail ring fencing	Structural separation (not within same group)	Separate legal entity for proprietary trading (with capital surcharge) if above thresholds of own funds of deposit-taking banks
Market- making	Separate legal entities (even within same group)	Allowed under certain conditions	Allowed under certain conditions	Separate legal entity (even within same group)	Allowed (underwriting in response to client/counterpa rt demand)	Allowed under certain conditions
Retail Ring- fencing	Yes (under certain conditions)	Yes (under certain conditions)	Yes (under certain conditions)	Yes (under certain conditions)	Yes (US Fed's Regulation W; S.608 Dodd Frank Act)	Yes (under certain conditions)

## Economic Impact (Belgium)

Table 4: Macroeconomic impacts of regulations under Scenarios 1 and 2, 30-year averages

Regulation	Requirement	Scenario 1 % deviation from baseline level of real GDP	Scenario 2 % deviation from baseline level of real GDP	
Capital Requirements Directive and Regulation	Minimum capital requirement (CET1 as % of RWAs)	(0.45)	(0.72)	
(CRD IV)	Short-term liquidity coverage ratio (LCR)	(0.17)	(0.28)	
	Long-term net stable funding ratio (NSFR)	N/A	(0.09)	
Bank resolution (RRD and SRM)	Ball-In liabilities (% of total liabilities)	(0.05)	(0.08)	
	Bank contribution to Resolution Fund	(0.01)	(0.02)	
Structural reform	Separation	N/A	(0.00)	
FTT	FIT	N/A	(0.17)	
Bank taxes	Deposit Guarantee Fund contribution	(0.01)	(0.01)	
	Financial stability contribution	(0.00)	(0.04)	
	Annual bank levy and loan-to- deposit tax	(0.05)	(0.03)	
Combined effects of regulation of real GDP)	ons (% deviation from baseline level	(0.74)	(1.51)	

Source: PwC analysis

### Capital Requirements - Liquidity

_								
	Requirements	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Capital C. C.	Minimum total capital	4%	4.5%	5.125%	5.75%	6.375%	7%	
	CET1	4%			4.5%			
	Additional Tier 1	1.5%						
	Tier 2	2.5%			2%			
	Capital conservation buffer			0.625%	1.25%	1.875%	2.5%	
	Countercyclical buffer			0-0.625%	0-1.25%	0-1.875%	0-2.5%	
	Systemic risk buffer		1%-3% of all exposures up to 5% for domestic and third party exposures					
	Leverage ratio	3% requirement Jan 2013- 1 Jan	2017. Disclosure start	3% (migration to pillar 1, decision on binding status)				
idity	LCR		60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	
Liquidity	NSFR				Introduce mi	nimum standard		

#### Deposit Guarantee Scheme

Directive 2014/49/EU (OJUE, 12.06.2014)

- 1. A universal guarantee of deposits up to € 100K
- 2. Priority right
- 3. Easier and faster access to repayment
- 4. A robust financing regime
- 5. Communication duty towards depositors
- 6. Borrowing between DGSs on a voluntary basis
- 7. DGSs will have to perform stress tests
- 8. DGSs may use their own risk-based methods for determining and calculating the risk-based contributions by their members.

Implementation deadline for MS: 1 year

### EC Crisis Communications (art. 107 TFEU)

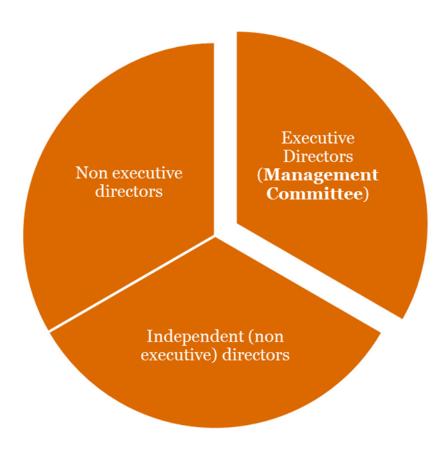
#### EC Banking Communication (2013):

- •Recapitalisation and Impaired Asset Measures, in relation with:
  - capital raising measures by the bank
  - strict executive remuneration policy
  - burden-sharing by the shareholders and the subordinated creditors
  - preventing the outflow of funds prior to a restructuring decision and
  - schemes for recapitalisation and restructuring of small institutions
- Guarantees and Liquidity support outside the provision of Central Bank liquidity
- Provision of liquidity by Central Banks and intervention of deposit guarantee schemes and resolution funds
- Specific considerations in relation to liquidation aid

#### Corporate Governance

- Board Composition (individuals)
- Board Missions
  - > Strategy and objectives of the institution and the risks policy
  - Governance Memorandum
  - Resolution and recovery plans
- Prior approval by Banking Regulator
  - Strategic decisions
  - Merger, splitting, disposal of segment business
  - Significant acquisition (non financial sector)
- Management committee
- Availability of directors and members of management
- Chairman of the Board ≠ Chairman of the management committee
- Independent control functions (compliance, risk management, internal audit)

#### Corporate Governance



### Corporate Governance (art. 107 TFUE)

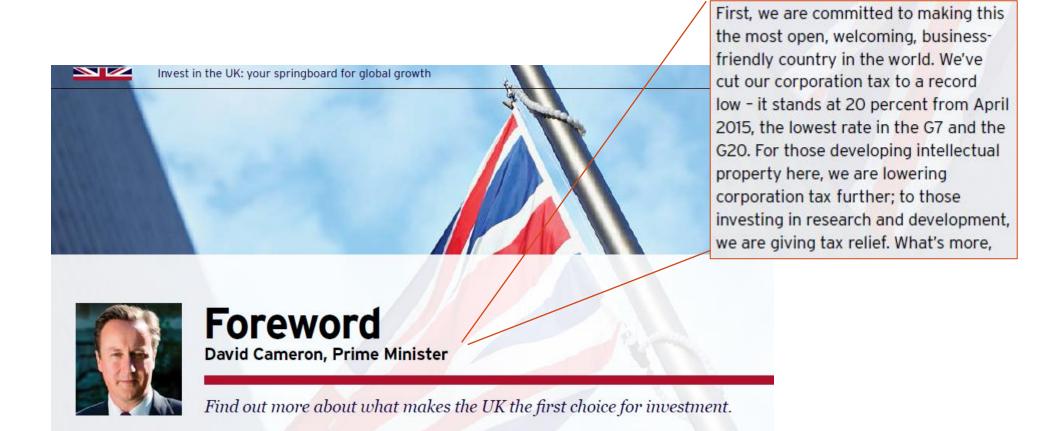
- Potential conflicts of interests
- Impact on governance
  - Financial Holding
    - Board of directors (majority proposed upon public shareholder)
    - Management Committee (proposed upon public shareholder)
    - & independent of the management of the financial institution
  - Financial Institution
    - Board of directors
    - Management committee



## 4. Tax Ruling

STATE AID INVESTIGATIONS

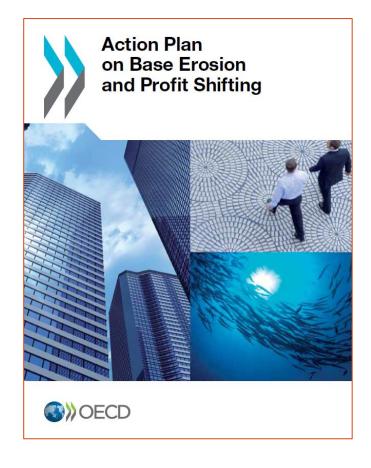
#### Tax Incentives – Foreign Investment

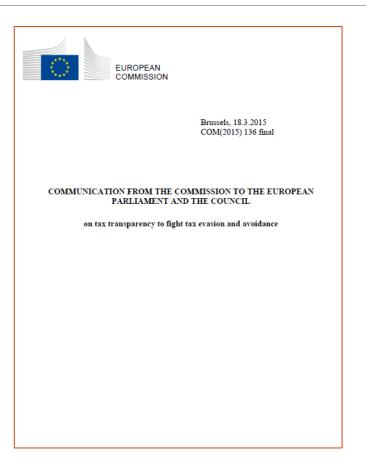


### Parliamentary Hearings on Tax



#### OECD EU UNCTAD







### Tax Ruling

EC Investigations (2014) – Corporate income tax

- Apple (Ireland)
- Starbucks (The Netherlands)
- Fiat Finance (Luxemburg)
- Amazon (Luxemburg)

#### Tax Ruling

- Tax ruling does not constitute as such a State Aid prohibited under the European legislation
- •However, tax rulings may involve State aid if they are used to provide selective advantages to a specific company or group of companies
- It should be analysed, on a *case by case* basis, if an advance ruling is obtained based on a profit made on **market terms**, reflecting normal conditions of competition
- •If, after review, the EC has concerns that ruling decisions underestimate the taxable profit and thereby grant an advantage to the respective companies by allowing them to pay less tax, this may lead to an in-depth investigation by the EC

## 5. Conclusion

IMPACT OF FINANCIAL CRISIS ON STATE AID POLICY

#### Conclusion

- •Financial Crisis and Sovereign Debt Crisis
- Budgetary control
- **EU** Enforcement Policy on State aid
- Financial Sector
  - Banking Union
  - EC Communications
  - State Aid Decisions
- Tax Ruling