

Brussels, 21 May 2010
Case No: 68188
Event No: 555527

Subject: Simplified Procedure : Summary of Notification

Norwegian State aid scheme for railway sidings and freight terminals

The EFTA Surveillance Authority has received a notification dated 21 April 2010 of an aid measure pursuant to 1(3) in Part I of Protocol 3 to the Agreement between the EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice. On preliminary examination, the Authority finds that the notified measure could fall within the scope of the Authority's Guidelines on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain types of state aid¹.

The Authority invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed measure.

The main features of the aid measure are the following:

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| Title of the aid measure: State aid scheme for railway sidings and freight terminals |
| EFTA State: Norway |
| Granting authority: Norwegian Rail Administration (<i>Jernbaneverket</i>) - "JBV" |
| National legal basis: Norwegian State Budget, Prop. 1 S(2009-2010) |
| Description: The objective of the scheme is to encourage freight transport by rail (as opposed to by road). The scheme will subsidise the cost of developing additional infrastructure necessary to use rail services, subject to a ceiling based on the overall environmental benefit (estimated externality cost savings) of using the rail service and to a maximum of 50% of eligible costs. |
| Proposed EEA basis for assessment: Article 49 of the EEA Agreement, Article 9.2(a) Regulation (EC) No 1370/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on public passenger transport services by rail and by road and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) Nos 1191/69 and 1107/70 (OJ L 315 p.1, 3.12.2007) and established European Commission precedent e.g. UK - Freight Facilities Grant - N 649/2001 (originally adopted in the 1970s); Austria - Programme for the development of railway sidings – N726/1995 & N643/2001; Germany – Guidelines on funding for the construction, extension and reactivation of private railway sidings – N170/2004 & N 184/2009. |
| Type of measure: Aid scheme |
| Duration: 1 June 2010 to 31 December 2015 (subject to annual budget resolution approval) |
| Economic sector(s) concerned: Transport |
| Type of beneficiary (SMEs/large enterprises): All eligible |
| Budget: NOK 5 million for 2010, thereafter subject to annual budget resolutions |
| Aid instrument: Reimbursable grant or services provided by the railway infrastructure operator (JBV) at no (or subsidised) cost |

¹ Available at: <http://www.eftasurv.int/media/state-aid-guidelines/Part-II---Guidelines-on-a-simplified-procedure-for-treatment-of-certain-types-of-state-aid.pdf>

Observations raising competition issues relating to the notified measure must reach the Authority no later than 10 working days following the date of this publication and include a non-confidential version (if applicable) of these observations which can be provided to the Norwegian authorities and/or other interested parties. Observations can be sent to the Authority by fax, post or email under case reference number 68188 to the following address:

**EFTA Surveillance Authority
Rue Belliard, 35
1040 Brussels
BELGIUM**

Fax (+32)(0)2 286 18 00

Email: registry@eftasurv.int