European Competition Law Review

The Commission's recent decisional practice on tonnage taxation schemes in

The Commission's recent decisional practice has specified further the conditions under which State aid to maritime transport through tonnage taxation schemes can be considered compatible with the internal market. The present article analyses those developments with particular respect to the vessels that are

favour of maritime transport and the application of EU State Aid Rules

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eligible, as well as the treatment of charter-in and charter-out operations.

In EasyPay and Finance Engineering (C-185/14), the CJEU has revisited the concept of undertaking for the purposes of the application of EU competition law. It has clarified the test applicable to economic agents engaging in "mixed" economic and non-economic activities. The EasyPay test determines that, in order not to be qualified as "economic" because of its links with another activity that fulfils an exclusively social and entirely non-profit making function based on the principle of solidarity, an activity must be inseparably connected to it by its nature, its aims and the rules to which it is subject. In the article, we discuss how the CJEU has arguably given a stricter interpretation and adopted a less lenient approach to the severability or separation of activities than in previous cases like FENIN, Selex or Compass-Datenbank. Beyond that general discussion, the article focuses on the potential implications of the EasyPay test in the area of public procurement and, in particular, for the activities of central purchasing bodies. We submit that EasyPay facilitates a highly desirable revision of the current position regarding the direct applicability of EU competition law to entities carrying out public procurement activities and, in particular, central purchasing bodies.

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The purpose of this article is to demonstrate the practical challenges arising from the integration of the free rider argument into the enforcement logic of art.101 TFEU, particularly within the context of the e-marketplace. Following a critical assessment of the relevant analytical framework, it will be argued that the availability of the free rider argument as a potential efficiency defence for resale price maintenance is unlikely to be of any practical significance.

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