

**The new approach to State aids -  
Recent reforms under the State Aid Action Plan and next steps**

Location: Charlemagne building, room Alcide de Gasperi

Date: Friday, 21 November 2008

8.30-9.30 Registration and coffee

9.30 Welcome and introduction (Philip Lowe, Director General)

9.45 Key note speech: the Commission's new approach to State aid control - principles and perspectives (Commissioner Neelie Kroes)

10.15 The reformed policy framework (Commission Competition Team)

11.00 Coffee

11.30 The policy framework put into practice (Commission Competition Team)

- Simplification Package
- New challenges: The Financial crisis
- Outlook

12.15 Discussion

12.45 Lunch\*

14.15 Coffee

14.30 Globalisation, financial crisis, innovation and climate change - challenges for a modernised State aid policy

Round Table (moderated by Philip Lowe, Director General)

Key note by French Presidency: Luc Rousseau, *Vice-Minister for Industry, Director General of the Directorate General for Enterprise, Ministry of Economy, Industry and Employment*

Panellists: Martin Pecina, *President of Czech competition Authority*, Emma Marcegaglia, *President of Confindustria*; Ian Rodgers, *Chairman working group on State aid, BUSINESSEUROPE*; Tine Roed, *Deputy Director General, Confederation of Danish Industries*; André Sapir, *Professor Free University Brussels, Senior Fellow Bruegel*; Claus-Dieter Ehlermann, *Wilmerhale*; Massimo Merola, *Bonelli Errede Pappalardo*

16.30 Concluding remarks

\* We kindly ask participants to make their own arrangements.