

**Online  
Master  
Class**

**8 – 9 December 2020**  
**”State Aid Uncovered” with  
Prof. Dr. Phedon Nicolaides**

*Comprehensive analysis of the recent Judgements and Commission decisions on State aid concept and exemptions, the related aspects in the Commission’s Notice on the Notion of Aid, and in-depth problem solving of participants’ cases.*

**Expert**

**Phedon Nicolaides**

Professor at Maastricht University; Visiting Professor at the College of Europe, and Academic Director at Lexxion Training

**Topics**

**Day 1**

- Concept of State Aid – Recent Judgements and Commission Decisions
- Exceptions for State Aid – Recent Court Rulings and Commission Decisions

**Day 2**

- Case Analysis & Advice on Possible Solutions for the Problems Raised by Participants



### OVERVIEW

#### Structure

##### 1. Review and Assessment

On the first day, you receive an expert review of the latest Court rulings and Commission decisions. Seminal judgments and decisions are analysed in depth. The analysis identifies how principles are applied in specific situations, delineates possible exceptions and draws the implications for State aid policies.

##### 2. Problem Solving

On the second day of the Master Class Phedon Nicolaides analyses the participants’ cases. Every participant has an exclusive opportunity to have a one-on-one meeting with Phedon Nicolaides to discuss your case and ask the questions directly from the speaker.

Participants are invited to submit their questions/cases in full confidentiality no later than a week before the online master class.

The lessons drawn from the review of the first day will be used to analyse the problematic aspects of submitted cases and identify possible solutions.

##### 3. Best Practices

The sessions have a twofold purpose: First, they provide a thorough review of the latest Court rulings, Commission decisions as well as related aspects in the Commission’s Notice on the Notion of Aid. Second, they draw lessons on how the case law and Commission evolving practice impact the design of “good” State aid measures.

#### Methodology

An online master class by Lexxion Publisher combines presentations, cases studies and discussions on practical problems. All speakers present live via video and audio. Participants are actively involved in the online master class. By offering our participants the possibility to use their microphones and cameras during the whole course, we aim to recreate the atmosphere of a face-to-face Lexxion course. We encourage our participants to ask questions in real time and to take part in live discussions with speakers and other participants. Additionally, we offer breakout sessions, as part of this format. Every participant has an exclusive opportunity to have a one-on-one meeting with Christopher Bovis to discuss your case and ask the questions directly from the speaker. During these exercises, participants have the technical possibility to see other group members and talk to them (using microphone and camera). There are ample opportunities for the participants to present their own problematic issues, discuss and solve them with the speakers and participants from other Member States.

#### Target Group

This high-level event is intended for officials and professionals who have good knowledge of State aid or are working on projects that may involve State aid in:

- State aid Monitoring Offices in the Member States
- Ministries and other public authorities involved in granting State aid on national, regional and local level
- National and regional development agencies
- ESI Funds managing bodies, in particular in managing authorities and intermediate bodies
- Law offices and consultancies
- Public and private banks
- Private and public enterprises being State aid beneficiary

### PROGRAMME DAY 1 & 2

Chair & Speaker of the Online Master Class:

**Phedon Nicolaides**

*Professor at Maastricht University; Visiting Professor at the College of Europe, and Academic Director at Lexxion Training*

What is new in State aid & what it means for State aid granting authorities

The sessions have a twofold purpose: First, they provide a thorough review of the latest Court rulings, Commission decisions as well as related aspects in the Commission's Notice on the Notion of Aid.. Second, they draw lessons on how the case law and Commission evolving practice impact the design of "good" State aid measures.

#### Day 1

10:00 Start of the Online Master Class & Introduction Round

#### 10:15 Concept of State Aid – Recent Judgements and Commission Decisions (incl. 10 min Coffee Break)

- The concept of economic activity and undertaking
- How economic activities may be separated from non-economic activities
- Concept of control of resources by the State
- Nature of the advantage that undertakings may obtain from State intervention
- The conditions under which public measure becomes selective, with special attention to tax measures
- The extent to which cross-border trade and competition may be distorted.

12:30 Virtual Lunch Break

#### 13:00 Exceptions for State Aid – Recent Court Rulings and Commission Decisions (incl. 10 min break)

The Master Class will analyse measures approved by the Commission, in the sectors such as:

- Aid to combat covid-19 [Article 107(2)(b) & Article 107(3)(b)]
- Important projects of common European interest [IPCEI]
- R&D&I
- Infrastructure
- Regional investment
- Risk finance

and measures where aid was prohibited, e.g.;

- Taxes
- SGEI

15:00 End of Day 1

#### Day 2

#### 10:00 Case Analysis & Advice on Possible Solutions for the Problems Raised by Participants

On the second day of the Master Class Phedon Nicolaides analyses the participants' cases. Every participant has an exclusive opportunity to have a one-on-one meeting with Phedon Nicolaides to discuss your case and ask the questions directly from the speaker.

The lessons drawn from the review of the first day will be used to analyse the problematic aspects of submitted cases and identify possible solutions.

12:30 Virtual Lunch Break

#### 13:00 Case Analysis & Advice (part II)

14:30 Summary & closing discussion

15:00 End of the Online Master Class

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**Bigmarker is our online master class platform. In order to join our class, please check your device compatibility first.**

#### **What do you need in order to join the online course?**

- ✓ Speakers, Microphone; Camera is possible, if you would like to be seen during the online course.
- ✓ A wired connection is strongly recommended.
- ✓ If your internet connection doesn't work, you can join the online course by telephone, using a dial-in number. In this case there might be additional telephone costs.

#### **How to join the online master class?**

- ✓ Choose the computer from which you would like to follow the course.
- ✓ Please check your device compatibility.
- ✓ As soon as you get the invitation link: Please register for the online course by clicking the invitation link.
- ✓ 15 minutes before the course: Bring your headphones and camera, click the invitation link, enter and enjoy the interactive online course!

#### **Minimum system requirements are as follows:**

- ✓ Operating System: Windows 7 or later; Mac OS X 10.12 or later, Linux.
- ✓ Browser: The most recently-published versions of Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Safari, or Opera.
- ✓ High-speed internet: A consistent, high-speed connection is required. Mobile tethering, hotspots, slow or inconsistent public Wi-Fi networks may create latency when using video conferencing.

## FAQ

#### **Why do I need to register before the online master class starts?**

Thank you for registering! This not only helps us to communicate with you in regard to technical issues but it helps you to network with your fellow participants.

#### **Will the online master class be recorded?**

Please ask the responsible conference manager.

#### **Do I need a camera?**

It is recommended to have a camera for more comfortable communication with the speakers and other participants.

#### **Do I need a microphone?**

Since this is an online master class, yes.

#### **Do I need to install anything?**

No. We expect you to have a browser.

#### **Can I ask questions during the online master class?**

Yes, you can ask your questions live by using your microphone and camera. You can speak to all participants at the same time as you may have experienced in Skype.

#### **When can I enter the live course I'm attending?**

15 minutes before the start. You only can enter if you have passed the system check.

#### **May I leave the online course and come back later?**

Yes, just log in at a later time during the course.

#### **May I access via Phone?**

Yes, you can. Participating via phone means you can listen only. There may be telephone costs for dial-in.

#### **Can't find invitation?**

Please check your spam-folder. You should also ask your colleague from the IT department to 'whitelist' us. For more details please ask the corresponding conference manager, who will be happy to help you.

#### **I failed the Firewall System Check – what can I do?**

Please contact your IT department and have them open the necessary ports, which can be found here.

#### **What are the detailed System requirements?**

All requirements can be found here.

#### **I failed the Audio Output System Test – what can I do?**

If you are using headphones or external speakers, try unplugging them. Please unmute your device. Test your speakers here to find out if they work.

#### **I would like to participate but I'm waiting for an approval.**

#### **Can I order a ticket on the day of the online course?**

Sure. Please message [online@lexxion.eu](mailto:online@lexxion.eu). We need to have a separate testing before the start of the course.

#### **My email address has changed – can I still participate?**

Sure. Please provide us with your updated email address; you will then receive a new invitation.

#### **How do I contact the host of the online course?**

[online@lexxion.eu](mailto:online@lexxion.eu) is happy to help you.

### REGISTER

#### Participation fee

- YES, I would like to participate for the reduced fee for public authorities **EUR 1.810,00** (excl. VAT).
- YES, I would like to participate for the regular fee of **EUR 2.010,00** (excl. VAT).

*The German VAT of 16% will be added.*

#### Newsletter subscription

- Please send me information about European State aid law issues for free. I may unsubscribe from this service any time.

#### Cancellations

Cancellations should be made in writing per post or fax. Please note that the full fee will be charged in case of no show at the online event or for cancellations received after 1 December 2020. Nomination of a substitute remains possible without any additional costs. For more detailed information, scope and conduct of contract as well as cancellation policy, please check the Terms & Conditions on our website.



#### Please register with:

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Online: [www.lexxion.eu/events](http://www.lexxion.eu/events)

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Name

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Position, Department

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Company Name

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Address

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Phone, Fax

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E-Mail

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VAT Reg.-No.

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Date, Signature