



expert conference

# Public Services & State Aid

24 September 2009

Prague City Hall

Mariánské náměstí 2, Prague 1

Partners:

**Deloitte**

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Auspices:

Ministerstvo životního prostředí České republiky

The National conference **Services of General Economic Interest 2009** will discuss issues of public services in the light of EU rules of State Aid, with a special focus on environmental and social services.

A public service provided as a service of general economic interest is a business activity executed in a public interest, necessary for the community. These services are: power supply, transportation, mail services, some social services, radio and television broadcasting, health care etc. They can be also services provided on a basis of concessions, granted by a public owner of related property, e.g. senior facilities, culture facilities, social housing, or other services.

State Aid is basically understood as any kind of support, distorting or enabling distortion of business competition and trade between member states by bringing advantage to certain business entities or certain industries. As such, State Aid is generally disallowed. This disallowance is however not ultimate – there are exceptions, e.g. for a specific category or services – services of general economic interest.

This Conference will answer highly sensitive issues concerning public services, for example: **What are services of public interest? What rules apply with regards to State Aid regulations? What are acceptable conditions for financial support by public budgets? Is compensation (compensatory payment) supporting public service always a State Aid? Is there anything such as A Reasonable Profit and is it possible to measure it? How to use rules for State Aid of services of general economic interest for subsidising and thus to lower prices of these services for people?**

The Conference will deal with general rules resulting from EU legislation, also in cases when EU grant financing is being used. It will point out consequences, connections and current legal and economic issues in a sector of public services in context of public purchasing, concessions and State Aid. Views on these issues will be presented by representatives of the public sector, such as European Commission, Czech Office for the Protection of Competition, as well as experts resolving issues in this sector. The Conference is intended for public sector officials, who are facing questions, related to above mentioned topics, and often hear various answers from various authorities.

**Well defined public service = lawful subsidy from public budget without threat of future fines.**

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**8:15 - Registration**

**9.00 – Conference opening**

**Foreword**

**Summary of the legislation of the European Communities, First report Czech Republic 2008, the state of implementation and challenges in Czech Republic**  
**Kamil Rudolecký, Vicechairman, Office for the Protection of Competition, Brno**

**The Commission View, first annual report of the Member States (the main problems and challenges), the Commission report preparation at the end of 2009**

**Pascal Schloessen, European Commission, DG Competition**

**Coffee Break (10.45 – 11.15)**

**Services of general economic interest and Operational Programme Environment, profit projects a calculation of financial support, water projects and the reflection of the principles of services of general economic interest.**

**Ing. Jan Kříž, Director of EU Funds, Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic**

**Practical experience with implementation of regulation on services of general economic interest in the CR - Operational programme in the European Funds 2007-2013**

**Mgr. Marta Sargánková, Director, Office of the Regional Southeast Cohesion Region**

**Coffee Break (12.15 – 12.35)**

**The practical application of the principles of accessibility and sustainability of services of general economic interest in the Operational Programme Environment.**

**Tim Young, Mott MacDonald Praha Ltd.**

**The compatibility of general economic interest services financing - social services with the rules of State Aid - Delegation act requirements.**

**Jarmila Škrvnová, Věra Fleischmannová, Barbora Bušíková, Grants and Incentives Section, Deloitte Advisory**

**Coffee Break (13.45 – 14.05)**

**Delegation acts specification of the credentials of the acts of general economic interest - examples**

**Daniel Weinhold, David Emr, Weinhold Legal**

**Different approaches to measuring reasonable profit for services of general economic interest – the utilities**

**Ian Alexander, director, Cambridge Economic Policy Associates**

**15.00 – 15.10 Discussion, Conference Closing**

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**REGISTRATION FORM**  
Send the completed form by post or fax

**Fast on-line registration form at:**  
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Registration Fees:

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**Organiser:** B.I.D. services s.r.o., Miličova 20, 130 00, Prague 3, Czech Republic

Phone: +420 222 781 017, +420 222 782 065, Fax: +420 222 780 147

**Michal Pop**, Mobile: +420 775 321 344, mpop@bids.cz

**Libuše Kameníčková**, Mobile: +420 776 729 865, libuse.kamenickova@bids.cz

**Conference Venue:** Prague City Hall, Mariánské nám. 2, Praha 1

**Terms & Conditions:**

Participant Registration Fee includes:

- Admission to the conference for 1 person
- Refreshments (Coffee Breaks)
- Proceedings

Submitted registration form is obligatory. The Event Organizer (B.I.D. services company) must be notified of any cancellation of registration (name changes are possible, no fee will be charged). The following cancellation policies will apply:

- before 10 September 2009 cancellation fee 60 EUR / person
- after 10 September 2009 full registration fee / person

After your registration is processed, you will receive Confirmation of your registration together with proforma invoice via email. The registration fee must be paid three day before the conference starts at the latest.

The payment must be received by B.I.D. services three days before conference starts at the latest. If not, the participant will be asked to show bank payment confirmation at the registration desk or pay the registration fee in cash. We accept no credit cards!

In case of any problems or questions about your registration or charged amount of proforma invoice, do not hesitate to contact us +420 222 781 017. Final invoice will be issued and sent 14 days after the conference.

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