



## About **the submission referring to the law on competition**

- Introducing the Directorate-General for Competition of the European Commission: [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/competition/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/competition/index_en.htm)
- Collection of legislation on state aid: [http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state\\_aid/legislation/provisions.html](http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/provisions.html)
- State aid procedures: [http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state\\_aid/overview/state\\_aid\\_procedures\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/overview/state_aid_procedures_en.html)
- The EU's criteria for state aid are prescribed in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ([http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/qc320919oenc\\_002.pdf](http://europa.eu/pol/pdf/qc320919oenc_002.pdf)), in Article 107, Section 1. A summary of the criteria: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/261384/bis\\_13-1330\\_state\\_aid\\_the\\_basics.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/261384/bis_13-1330_state_aid_the_basics.pdf)
- If a Member State is planning to give a state aid, it has to notify the European Commission, in accordance with the Council Regulation (EC) No 659/1999: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:31999R0659>, Chapter II, Article 2, Section 1.
- Detailed procedure on unlawful aid: [http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/competition/state\\_aid/l26045\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/competition/state_aid/l26045_en.htm)

## About **Hinkley Point**

- A new reactor is planned to be built in United Kingdom's Hinkley Point nuclear plant.
- The 1600MW, EPR type reactor would be built by French energy company EDF, involving Chinese investors, for £8bn.
- The financing of the project is crucial: the British government's deal guarantees a minimum power price for 35 years.
- The guaranteed minimum price of £92.50 per MWh is almost twice the current wholesale cost of electricity.
- The British government has notified the European Commission on the financial plan, in accordance with the state aid rules.
- In December 2013, the Commission decided to perform a detailed inspection.
- The preliminary assessment in January 2014 found that the financial plan would severely distort the competition by favouring EDF; the aid might cost £17.6bn for the British electricity consumers (if the other reactor at Sizewell would also be constructed). The assessment also expressed further concerns.

## About **the Aarhus Convention**

The Aarhus Convention was signed in June 1998 in the Danish city of Aarhus. The Aarhus Convention grants the public rights regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice, in governmental decision-making processes on environmental matters. The Convention's three pillars are:

- access to information;
- public participation in decision making;
- access to justice.



The Convention entered into force on 30 October 2001. As of today, it has been ratified by 46 countries – Hungary adopted it on 3 July 2001.

The Compliance Committee, based in Geneva, was established in 2002 in order to review the realisation and fulfillment of the Convention's goals. The Committee is an individual, non-confrontational and consultative body. It has 8 members, who are nationals of the Parties and Signatories but serve in their personal capacities.

<http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/public-participation/aarhus-convention.html>

<http://www.unece.org/env/pp/cc.html>

### **More information:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-24604218>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/ac6a7924-8a68-11e3-9c29-00144feab7de.html#axzz34LNlr2OA>

[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-13-1277\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-13-1277_en.htm)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinkley\\_Point\\_C\\_nuclear\\_power\\_station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinkley_Point_C_nuclear_power_station)