



# **Introducing better evaluations in State aid**

Bruegel Workshop  
Modernising State Aid through better evaluations  
Brussels, 6 December 2012

Gert-Jan Koopman  
Deputy Director-General State Aids, DG Competition



## Context & policy initiatives

- The crisis increases the need for better quality of public spending
- Evaluation has been stepped up in other policy areas, and is advocated by the Court of Auditors
- State aid modernisation initiative:
  - Objectives of reinforcing 'good aid', preventing 'bad aid' and focussing on most distortive cases
  - At the same time, need for an overall balance between treatment under block-exemption, simplification of rules, and better control & scrutiny



# Evaluation in State aid – main purposes

- 88% of aid amounts are provided through block-exempted schemes or notified schemes approved *ex ante*
  - very limited *ex post* assessment
- Possible objectives:
  - Verify *ex ante* assumptions which led to approval
  - Assess effectiveness of schemes
  - Cater for unforeseeable negative effects
  - Improve the design of schemes
  - Eventually, serve for policy-making



# Evaluation: state of play

- *Review of the existing experiences*
  - *Gather input from existing work done by academics and experts*
  - *Learn from experiences developed at EU and national level*
- *Building on best practices*
- *Test a methodology for evaluation*
  - *solid, simple, common*
- *Develop a guidance for MS for evaluation*



# Evaluation: challenges

- *Necessary conditions for a good evaluation*
  - *Defining the prerequisites ex ante*
  - *Data gathering*
- *Methodology for evaluation*
  - *How to design relevant evaluation criteria?*
  - *How to conduct operational evaluation leading to remedies for the schemes' shortcomings?*
- *How to keep the exercise proportionate and within a reasonable timeframe?*