

Simon Yarak

Senior Consultant

Email: simon.yarak@oxera.com

Tel: +32 (0) 2 895 90 80

Languages: English, French and Dutch



Expertise

- Finance and Valuation
- State Aid

Profile

Simon is a Senior Consultant in Oxera's State Aid and Competition teams. He has advised clients from various sectors, including transport, health, energy, telecommunications, sports, food and agriculture. His experience in state aid covers a wide range of issues, from compliance with the market economy operator principle (MEOP) to compatibility of aid and state aid damages. He has advised clients at all stages of the state aid procedure—from compliance to formal investigation, as well as appeals to the General Court.

Beyond state aid matters, Simon applies his skills to a range of competition issues such as antitrust and mergers.

Prior to joining Oxera, Simon completed a Master's in Economics (MPhil) at the University of Oxford, focusing on microeconomics, public and behavioural economics.

Selected professional experience

- Advice to a number of European airports on the available state aid measures in order to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and of the resulting sanitary measures (2020–)
- Advice to a large company active in the health and pharmaceutical sector on the existing state aid and subsidy regimes in Europe, in the context of its expansion plans (2020–)
- Analysis as independent experts of the terms of a public guarantee on a loan of a company active in the energy sector, in the context of the construction of a new power generation plant (2020)
- Advice to the regional authorities of the Brussels Region in the context of the conceptual audit of the separated accounts of the regional agency in charge of waste collection (Bruxelles-Propreté) (2019–20)
- Advice to a large company active in the food and agriculture sector in the context of the notification of investment aid to the European Commission, for the construction of a new production site (2019–20)

- Advice to a large company active in the sector of medical devices on alleged violation of its intellectual property by a competitor (2019–20)
- Advice to a Dutch municipality on its proposed restructuring plan of a professional football club. Application of the private creditor test in order to determine the absence of state aid (2019)
- Advice to a large infrastructure operator on the compliance with state aid rules of its plan to roll out fibre (and of the associated funding) in a rural area. Application of the MEOP (2018–19)
- Advice to a large payment company on a variety of topics linked to competition (2018–19)
- Advice to a European airline in the context of a state aid damages claim (2018–19)
- Assessment of the financial benefits of the Luxembourg Rail Protocol in a number of European and African Countries (2018–20)
- Advice to a large company active in the construction sector on the feasibility of an envisaged merger (2018)
- Advice to a large French company on the feasibility of an envisaged merger (2018–19)
- Advice to a UK airport on the compatibility of proposed state funding with state aid regulations (2018)
- Advice to a number of Italian airports on state aid issues (2017–18)
- Advice to a European airline on the compatibility with the MEOP of proposed arrangements with a number of airports throughout Europe (2017–18)
- Produced a financial model for an investment company in the context of a commercial dispute (2017)
- Advice to a European port authority on state aid issues (2017)
- Assessment of the economic impact of investments in rail on the UK economy (2017)
- Advice to Ryanair on the appeal of a state aid decision relating to a French airport (2017)
- Advice to a major European port authority on state aid matters relating to a large investment project (2017)
- Advice to the French state on an existing fiscal aid in French overseas territories in the context of a report to be submitted to the European Commission (2016–17)
- Ex ante analysis for a major port authority on the compatibility of a number of proposed actions with European state aid regulation (2016–17)
- Review and analysis of financial risk management tools in regulated industries in the UK (energy, telecoms, water, transport, etc.) for a regulated UK infrastructure owner (2016)

Qualifications

- MPhil Economics, University of Oxford, UK
- BA Economics and Management, University of Namur, Belgium