

Targeted consultation on the ex-post evaluation of the Regional Aid Framework

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

In 2012, the Commission launched the State aid modernisation initiative. The objectives of this initiative are to: 1) foster sustainable, smart and inclusive growth in a competitive internal market; 2) focus the Commission's ex ante scrutiny on cases with the biggest impact on the internal market; and 3) streamline State aid rules and facilitate faster decision-making. In view of these objectives, the Commission has revised since 2013 a number of State aid rules, including the rules applicable to regional aid.

In January 2019, the European Commission announced its intention to prolong seven sets of State aid rules for a period of two years^[1] and launched a [comprehensive policy evaluation in the area of State aid \("fitness check"\)](#). Part of this exercise is the evaluation of the regional aid framework for the period 2014 - 2020 to reflect if the current rules are still fit for purpose. The regional aid framework applicable for the period 2014-2020 consists of (i) the regional aid [guidelines](#) (RAG) for 2014-2020, (ii) the regional aid [maps](#) , and (iii) the provisions applicable to regional aid contained in Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014, declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation, [GBER](#)).

Besides a general public consultation on the fitness check of EU State aid rules and an external evaluation study on the regional aid framework, this targeted consultation asks supplementary questions in order to gather stakeholders' views on the implementation of the regional aid framework 2014-2020 and aims to receive your insights on potential gaps, overlaps, or excessive regulatory burden.

You are kindly invited to reply to a set of eight questions. Please make sure you use the save button as you proceed with the questionnaire to avoid losing information that was already inserted - especially in the case of questions with open replies. At the end of the survey, you will have an opportunity to provide broader, more general comments and to upload documents, which you consider as relevant.

The Commission will publish an analysis of the results of the fitness check and examine possible follow up actions in 2020.

[1] For details and state-of-play see the relevant initiatives on the Better Regulation Portal: [State aid – 2-year extension for General Block Exemption Regulation](#); [State aid – 2-year extension for de minimis regulation](#); [Prolongation of State aid rules reformed under the State aid modernisation package expiring end of 2020](#).

About you

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Specific privacy statement: Contributions received, together with the identity of the contributor, will be published on the internet, unless the contributor objects to the publication of the personal data on the grounds that such publication would harm his or her legitimate interests. In this case, the contribution may be published anonymously. Otherwise the contribution will not be published nor will, in principle, its content be taken into account.

* Do you agree with the publication of your identity as described above?

- Yes
- No, I wish my contribution to be anonymous

Please provide your contact details below:

* Language of my contribution:

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- Gaelic
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Latvian
- Lithuanian
- Maltese
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Romanian
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Spanish
- Swedish

* Name:

* I am giving my contribution as:

- Academic/research institution
- Business association
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- Consumer organisation
- EU citizen
- Environmental organisation
- Non-EU citizen
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Public authority
- Trade union
- Other

* Country of origin:

- Afghanistan
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- Andorra
- Angola
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Azerbaijan
- Bahamas
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Barbados
- Belarus
- Belgium
- Belize
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Brunei Darussalam
- Bulgaria
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Côte D'Ivoire
- Cabo Verde
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Canada

- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Chile
- China
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Costa Rica
- Croatia
- Cuba
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Denmark
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Estonia
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Finland
- France
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Germany
- Ghana
- Greece
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq

- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Laos
- Latvia
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Malta
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Monaco
- Mongolia
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- North Korea

- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Poland
- Portugal
- Qatar
- Republic of Moldova
- Romania
- Russian Federation
- Rwanda
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- San Marino
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Saudi Arabia
- Senegal
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Korea
- South Sudan
- Spain
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Swaziland
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania

- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

* E-mail address:

Please describe the main activities/competences of your authority/company/organisation/association, if applicable:

3000 character(s) maximum

Please describe the relevance of State aid for you:

3000 character(s) maximum

How would you best describe the nature of your understanding and involvement in matters related to State aid rules?

3000 character(s) maximum

In case you work for a public authority, please indicate the respective type of region for which you are responsible:

at most 4 choice(s)

- 'A'-region
- 'C'-region
- Non-assisted region
- National
- Other

Scope of your activities

- International
- Local
- National
- Regional

Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more employees)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

Questionnaire

* 1. In your opinion, following the State aid modernisation in 2013/2014, have Member States and granting authorities shifted from granting regional aid to granting other categories of aid, infrastructure measures, or other non State aid measures?

at most 3 choice(s)

- yes, to other categories of aid
- yes, to other infrastructure measures
- yes, to other non State aid measures
- no
- don't know

Please explain your reply:

3000 character(s) maximum

* 2. On the basis of Article 107(3) (a) and (c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), regional State aid may be considered compatible with the internal market in order to promote the economic development of certain disadvantaged areas within the European Union. The regional aid framework 2014-2020 establishes the methodology and criteria for the determination of regions eligible for

regional State aid in the Member States. To what extent do you agree that the indicators and method for the definition of the maps related to the regional aid framework 2014-2020 allow an effective coverage of those areas in the EU?

- strongly agree
- agree
- neutral
- disagree
- strongly disagree
- don't know

Please explain your reply:

3000 character(s) maximum

3. To what extent do you agree that the eligibility conditions to grant aid in 'a' and 'c' areas to large enterprises (LEs) and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as specified under article 14 (3) of the GBER, are appropriate to allow for the development of disadvantaged areas in the EU, while maintaining a competitive internal market?

	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
* Eligibility conditions for large enterprises (LEs) in 'a' areas are appropriate	<input type="radio"/>					
* Eligibility conditions for large enterprises (LEs) in 'c' areas are appropriate	<input type="radio"/>					
* Eligibility conditions for SMEs are appropriate	<input type="radio"/>					

Please explain your replies:

3000 character(s) maximum

4. The GBER sets out conditions on eligibility and compatibility that have to be met to benefit from the provisions of the GBER and to be exempted from the obligation to notify the aid to the Commission. To what extent do you agree with the following statements on those eligibility and compatibility conditions?

	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
* The eligibility conditions for regional aid as set out in GBER are easy to implement .	<input type="radio"/>					

* The eligibility conditions for regional aid as set out in GBER are appropriate and justified .	<input type="radio"/>					
* The eligibility conditions for regional aid as set out in GBER are clear and sufficiently detailed .	<input type="radio"/>					
* The compatibility conditions for regional aid as set out in GBER are easy to implement .	<input type="radio"/>					
* The compatibility conditions for regional aid as set out in GBER are appropriate and justified .	<input type="radio"/>					
* The compatibility conditions for regional aid as set out in GBER are clear and sufficiently detailed .	<input type="radio"/>					

Please explain your replies:

3000 character(s) maximum

5. To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the eligibility and compatibility conditions set out in the RAG for regional aid that are not covered by the GBER?

	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
* The eligibility conditions for regional aid as set out in the RAG are sufficiently detailed and clear .	<input type="radio"/>					
* The eligibility conditions for regional aid as set out in the RAG are appropriate and justified .	<input type="radio"/>					
* The eligibility conditions for regional aid as set out in the RAG are easy to implement .	<input type="radio"/>					
* The compatibility conditions for regional aid as set out in the RAG are sufficiently detailed and clear .	<input type="radio"/>					
* The compatibility conditions for regional aid as set out in the RAG are appropriate and justified .	<input type="radio"/>					

* The compatibility conditions for regional aid as set out in the RAG are easy to implement .	<input type="radio"/>					
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Please explain your replies:

3000 character(s) maximum

6. The Commission does not support the grant of State aid that would encourage or facilitate the relocation of services or production to another Member State. To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the anti-relocation provisions as modified in 2017, compared to the anti-relocation provisions introduced in 2014?

	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
* Anti-relocation provisions as modified in 2017 are easier to implement than the anti-relocation provisions introduced in 2014.	<input type="radio"/>					
* Anti-relocation provisions as modified in 2017 are more effective than the anti-relocation provisions introduced in 2014.	<input type="radio"/>					

Please explain your replies:

3000 character(s) maximum

7. The regional aid framework applies, in principle, to all sectors of economic activity. However, the following activities are currently excluded (with some exceptions for operating aid and outermost regions):

- Regional aid to the steel and synthetic fibres sectors is considered incompatible with the internal market in the RAG due to the particularities of those sectors and is excluded from the scope of the regional aid section of the GBER;
- The sectors of fisheries and aquaculture, agriculture (with some specific exceptions), transport, airports and energy are subject to sector-specific State aid rules and are therefore excluded from the scope of the RAG and the regional aid section of the GBER;
- In addition, the GBER excludes the coal and shipbuilding sectors from regional aid.

Furthermore, regional operating aid is not allowed in favor of undertakings whose principal activities fall under Section K 'Financial and insurance activities' of the NACE Rev. 2, or to undertakings that perform intra-group activities whose principal activities fall under classes 70.10 'Activities of head offices' or 70.22

'Business and other management consultancy activities' of NACE Rev. 2.

To what extent do you agree that the sectoral exclusion from regional aid is appropriate and justified?

	strongly agree	agree	neutral	disagree	strongly disagree	don't know
* steel sector (incompatible)	<input type="radio"/>					
* synthetic fibre sector (incompatible)	<input type="radio"/>					
* fisheries and aquaculture sector (specific State aid rules)	<input type="radio"/>					
* agriculture sector (specific State aid rules)	<input type="radio"/>					
* energy sector (specific State aid rules)	<input type="radio"/>					
* transport sector (specific State aid rules)	<input type="radio"/>					
* airport sector (specific State aid rules)	<input type="radio"/>					
* operating aid to principal activity of 'Financial and insurance activities', 'Activities of head offices', 'Business and other management consultancy activities'	<input type="radio"/>					
* coal sector	<input type="radio"/>					
* shipbuilding sector	<input type="radio"/>					

Please explain your replies:

3000 character(s) maximum

* 8. The operating aid provisions address appropriately the difficulties faced by assisted areas.

- strongly agree
- agree
- neutral
- disagree
- strongly disagree
- don't know

Please explain your reply:

3000 character(s) maximum

Additional information

Further to your replies of the questionnaire, you may provide below any additional comments, observations, information, or suggestions you deem relevant to share with us.

3000 character(s) maximum

You may also upload a file in relation to your response here:

The maximum file size is 1 MB

Thank you for your participation.