

Euroheat & Power response to the public consultation on the review of exemptions for small amounts of aid ('de minimis Regulation')

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Most of support targeting the deployment of district heating and cooling falls under the Guidelines on State aid for Climate, Environmental protection and Energy ('CEEAG') and the General Block Exemption Regulation ('GBER').

However the de minimis Regulation is important in the State aid toolbox to provide Member States with additional flexibility to grant aid faster for cases where there is no impact on competition and trade. In some Member States this Regulation is used by cities and municipalities to facilitate the implementation of District Heating projects.

Ceiling

Euroheat & Power supports the Commission proposal to increase the ceiling from € 200k to € 275k (i.e. the amount of aid that a single undertaking may receive over any period of three years).

The increase is motivated by:

- The need to support local authorities which intend to accelerate the deployment of heat networks in the current energy crisis circumstances
- The current level of inflation across Europe that is expected to remain high for 2023 (the current ceiling was set out in 2006¹)
- The higher costs for the deployment of energy projects since 2020 (e.g. higher prices for steel, components bottlenecks, shortage of skilled workforce etc..).
- The increase of interest rates that has also led to inflated costs for projects because of higher capital costs

Transparency requirements

Euroheat & Power supports the establishment of a mandatory public register at national and EU levels to ensure information is available on the aid granted by any authority in the framework of the Regulation.

¹ Commission Regulation (EC) 1998/2006