

Präsidentenkonferenz der
Landwirtschaftskammern Österreichs

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EC - DG Competition
Unit H.6 State aid Registry
1049 Bruxelles/Brussel
Belgique /België

HT.100254 - review of de minimis aid in agriculture

Wien, 21. Juli 2024

Dear Sir or Madam,

the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture (Number in Transparency Register -> 66690371529-15) warmly welcomes the proposed review of the rules on exemptions for small amounts of aid (de minimis aid) in agriculture which – after six years with unexpectedly high inflation rates in recent years – is highly necessary.

These are our considerations and suggestions to improve the proposed revision and make it fit for purpose and future:

- We welcome the increase of the individual ceiling to EUR 37.000, but it is not enough. The individual ceiling should be increased up to EUR 40.000 which is necessary due to a massive increase of costs for procurements, operating resources (energy, fertilizers, fuel, etc.) and purchased services from agricultural businesses in connection with a real reduction in the purchasing power of compensation and support payments of CAP as a result of the high inflation rates since 2021 (much higher than anticipated e.g. in MFF 21-27).
- The publication of all beneficiaries in a register should make use of a lower limit for publication necessity (e.g. EUR 1.250). Also the data published should be kept at a minimum. Therefore we suggest to even reject the introduction of a mandatory register as the existing reporting obligations at Member State level are sufficient.
- No expiry should be envisaged. Instead, an overall evaluation should be carried out by 2032.

Kind regards,

Thomas Weber

on behalf of Landwirtschaftskammer Österreich (Austrian Chamber of Agriculture)