

Dear Secretariat,

Please find below Slovak comments to the draft of Commission Regulation (EU) .../... of XXX amending Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (also known as „General Block Exemption Regulation“ (the GBER)).

We consider it very necessary that the amendment of the Regulation 651/2014 would enter into force not later than the first day of the eligibility of expenditures for the programming period 2021 – 2027 starts, i.e. 01/01/2021. Slovak republic is on long-term basis in favour of setting simplified conditions for state aid rules when it comes to providing support from the EU structural funds.

We specifically welcome setting the simplified rules in areas of European Territorial Cooperation, Seal of Excellence and InvestEU. For the Invest EU, also the allocation coming/transferring from the EU structural funds (EU shared management funds) should be exempted from the notification requirement.

In addition, we identified other areas where simplification of state aid rules should be applied. These are:

- Those projects co-financed from the EU funds which are implemented under European Commission Initiatives such as Coal regions in transition Initiative or Catching up regions Initiative, etc.
- In general, we support granting more exemptions for projects co-financed from ESIF (similarly as in case of ETC/InvestEU).