

Consultation on Revisions to the General Block Exemption Regulation

Response from the West of Scotland European Forum

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The West of Scotland European Forum (WSEF) welcomes the opportunity to provide some brief comments on the consultation on the proposed changes to the General Block Exemption Regulation.
- 1.2 WSEF is a grouping of the 12 local authorities (plus a number of other organisations) in the region. It has a long standing interest in development and implementation of certain aspects of EU State Aid policy, including the General Block Exemption Regulation. It also takes an active interest in the European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes for which all or part of the region is eligible.
- 1.3 Notwithstanding the proposed withdrawal of the UK from the EU, WSEF has an agreed position in favour of continued participation of organisations in the region in relevant ETC programmes for the 2021-27 period.

2.0 COMMENTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE GENERAL BLOCK EXEMPTION REGULATION

- 2.1 WSEF supports the proposed changes to GBER insofar as these relate to ETC programmes. Its view is that the current provisions, while well intentioned at the time they were drafted, have proven in practice to have been rather too restrictive. The scope in the proposal for larger undertakings to benefit from GBER provision relating to GBER is welcomed, as is the increase in maximum aid intensities from the original 50% to 65%.

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WSEF

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