

European Commission  
Rue de la Loi  
B-1049 BRUSSEL

Your ref

Our ref  
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## **Targeted revision of the General Block Exemption Regulation (HT.5224)**

The Norwegian authorities would like to express our appreciation of the work the European Commission has undertaken in improving and amending the GBER.

The proposed amendments with regard to aid to undertakings participating in European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) projects represent a significant improvement of the GBER. The proposed amendments allow for the participation of large undertakings in ETC projects. In our experience, the exclusion of large undertakings from the scope of the GBER in this respect has limited the success of some ETC projects. We have in some cases declined to accept large undertakings in projects due to the lack of a possibility to grant aid under the GBER. This is the case even where we have concluded that their participation would be beneficial to the success of the project. The proposed amendments also simplify significantly the participation for undertakings in smaller projects.

The Norwegian authorities therefore fully support the proposed amendments.

Yours sincerely,

Elisabeth Torkildsen  
Acting Deputy Director General

Nina Gørrissen  
Senior Adviser

*This document is signed electronically and has therefore no handwritten signature*