

COMMENTS BY THE LATVIAN AUTHORITIES ON THE DRAFT COMMISSION REGULATION DECLARING CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF AID IN THE AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY SECTORS AND IN RURAL AREAS COMPATIBLE WITH THE INTERNAL MARKET IN APPLICATION OF ARTICLES 107 AND 108 OF THE TREATY ON THE FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND REPEALING COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) NO 702/2014

| No | Place in the text of the document | Comments/proposals |
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| 1. | Article 9 | In order to reduce the financial and administrative burden, MS request to review and exempt from the publication requirement aid granted in the form of a subsidised service requiring the publication of beneficiaries as defined for the support measure EIP and CLLD to be granted under Article 51 of the draft Regulation. |
| 2. | Article 9 | Please leave the publication ceiling for the agricultural sector at EUR 60 000, thus reducing the financial and administrative burden in MS. Please specify clearly in Article 9 of the draft Regulation the period for which State aid granted must be published. |
| 3. | Article 11 | Please apply the current approach of submitting MS summary forms 10 working days before the entry into force of the aid scheme. |
| 4. | Articles 13(12) and 16(6) | Taking into account the European Commission's policy that support should take the form of financial instruments rather than direct grants. Please align the support to working capital for SPR financial instruments with the ABER, including support for working capital in the form of financial instruments. There is no clear picture of the shortcomings of the ABER in order to also be able to grant aid to working capital in the form of financial instruments, as provided for in the SPR. |
| 5. | Article 16(2) | It is necessary to review and simplify the introduction of an aid measure by taking over the requirements of a single regulation instead of using two ABERs and GBERs, thus reducing the administrative burden for MS in the implementation and administration of the aid measure. It is therefore necessary to add a reference to Article 2(44) to Article 16(2). |

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