



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR COMPETITION

The Director-General

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COMP/H2-3/HT.5271/Consultation

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**Subject: Written consultation on the Commission's proposal to withdraw the
Employment Aid Communication (2009/C 188/02) and Training Aid
Communication (2009/C 188/01)**

The Commission wishes to consult all Member States on a proposal to withdraw the Communication from the Commission 'Criteria for the analysis of the compatibility of State aid for the employment of disadvantaged and disabled workers subject to individual notification' (2009/C 188/02, the 'Employment Aid Communication'), and the Communication from the Commission 'Criteria for the analysis of the compatibility of State aid for training subject to

individual notification' (2009/C 188/01, the 'Training Aid Communication'). These lay down the criteria to be applied by the Commission to assess the compatibility of State aid measures for the employment of disadvantaged workers and workers with disabilities and for training.

You can find attached to this letter a draft Communication from the Commission on the withdrawal of these two Communications, on which you are invited to **provide written feedback until 4 September 2026**, included. The written comments should be submitted to COMP-H2-H3@ec.europa.eu ; please mention HT.5271 in the subject line. This consultation will serve as a written consultation of the Expert group 'Multilateral meetings on State aid' pursuant to Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure of this Expert Group, replacing a meeting of the Expert Group.

With the proposal to withdraw the Employment Aid Communication and the Training Aid Communication, the Commission aims to achieve simplification of the State aid legal framework, as well as to offer additional flexibility to the Member States to design their aid measures in the fields of employment of disadvantaged workers and workers with disabilities and training.

The proposal reflects feedback received in response to the call for evidence on a revision of Regulation (EC) No 651/2014 ⁽¹⁾ ('the General Block Exemption Regulation', 'GBER'), which included questions on the relevance of the Employment Aid Communication and the Training Aid Communication. The majority of respondents indicated that the two Communications are not widely used and are no longer relevant. In fact, because of the possibilities available to Member States to adopt aid measures for the employment of disadvantaged workers and workers with disabilities and for training in compliance with the GBER, only a very limited number of such measures in these fields has been notified for prior approval of the Commission. In the ongoing revision of the GBER, the relevant provisions will be substantially amended and enlarged, in order to provide for more possibilities to Member States. You may see the proposed changes in the latest version of the revised GBER text, shared with you together with the invitation to the Advisory Committee meeting on 1 September 2026.

In view of the planned increased possibilities for Member States to design State aid measures for the employment of disadvantaged workers and workers with disabilities and for training in compliance with the revised GBER, the Commission considers that the Employment Aid Communication and the Training Aid Communication are largely redundant legal bases. In any event, if Member States wish to design aid measures not complying with the GBER, it remains possible to notify such measures directly under Article 107(3)(c) of the Treaty for the Functioning of the European Union.

(¹) Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, pp. 1-78.

Yours faithfully,

Anthony WHELAN

Annex:

Annex I: Draft Communication from the Commission concerning the withdrawal of Communication 2009/C 188/02 and of Communication 2009/C 188/01