

Brussels, 04.03.2024 COMP.A.3*HT.100253

PERMANENT REPRESENTATION. BELGIUM PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, BULGARIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, CZECH REPUBLIC PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, DENMARK PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, GERMANY PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, ESTONIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, IRELAND PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, GREECE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, SPAIN PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, FRANCE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, CROATIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, ITALY PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, CYPRUS PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, LATVIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, LITHUANIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, LUXEMBOURG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, HUNGARY PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, MALTA PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, THE NETHERLANDS PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, AUSTRIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, POLAND PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, PORTUGAL PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, ROMANIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, SLOVENIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, SLOVAKIA PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, FINLAND PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, SWEDEN

Subject: HT.100253 - Request to provide the annual report on State aid expenditure in 2023 - Deadline to submit the report: 30 June 2024.

Sir/Madam,

I am contacting you regarding the annual reporting obligations on State aid in accordance with Articles 5 to 7 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 794/2004¹, as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/2282².

² OJ L 325, 10.12.2015, p.1-180.

¹ OJ L 140, 10.4.2004, p. 1.

First, I would like to thank your authorities for the cooperation during the last reporting exercise. The summary of the corresponding reported expenditures will be published soon on the Commission website:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/scoreboard/index_en.html

Additionally, the information provided by your authorities regarding expenditures on State aid schemes is also included in the case information publicly available through the case search application: https://competition-cases.ec.europa.eu/

The reporting should be completed through the State Aid Reporting Interactive 2 (SARI2) application³. As in previous years, to facilitate the exercise for your authorities, SARI2 contains pre-filled information on the State aid measures introduced before 2023 that have not expired yet, as well as information regarding the State aid schemes, individual applications within schemes and *ad hoc* aid for which Commission Decisions were adopted in 2023 or fall under block-exemptions.

More detailed guidance for reporting (Reporting Instructions) is enclosed to this letter and uploaded into SARI2 in the form of short videos⁴. Please note that a 'bulk upload' functionality is also present SARI2. As for the other features of the tool, a complete explanation of the bulk upload is provided in the video tutorials.

As in the previous year, reporting in SARI2 includes all sectors, including agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, with the exception of the railways sector. For the reporting on compensations and aid to the rail sector, a template containing a comprehensive table is enclosed to this letter and will be additionally uploaded into SARI2, in national languages. We invite you to submit your contribution to the functional mailbox COMP-SARI2@ec.europa.eu. Please submit your contribution in Excel format.

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Implementing Regulation, I would like to ask your Government to ensure that **the complete annual report is submitted to DG Competition by 30 June 2023** by validation in SARI2 and provision of the railways reporting template.

Based on our analysis of the information provided in this reporting exercise, we would like to draw your attention on the importance to report accurately on all expenditures and in a timely manner.

DG Competition staff are happy to advise on specific questions and concerns, which can be submitted to the functional mailbox COMP-SARI2@ec.europa.eu.

Yours faithfully,

Inge BERNAERTS

Enclosures: - Guidelines for annual reporting on State aid

- Template for reporting on rail sector

³ The secured internet address of SARI2 is https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/competition/sari2.

⁴ https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFm7hmI4mmeXLDwMJPpBcT4bEdP65Chxi