



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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PUBLIC VERSION

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Subject: State aid SA.38019 (2013/N) – Romania
Finanțarea proiectelor CD&I conform Planului Național de Cercetare,
Dezvoltare și Inovare II – Prolongation of the Romanian R&D&I measure
(State aid No 542/2007)

Dear Sir,

1. PROCEDURE

- (1) By electronic notification of 19 December 2013, registered at the Commission on the same day, the Romanian authorities notified to the Commission, according to Article 108(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (hereafter "TFEU") and Article 4(2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 794/2004¹ (simplified notification procedure), the above mentioned measure. The Romanian authorities submitted clarifications by e-mail on 8 January 2014.
- (2) The notified measure constitutes the prolongation of the existing measure "*Financing R&D&I projects in line with the National Plan for Research Development and Innovation II*". That scheme was approved by the Commission on 12 December 2007 (SA.23858 – N542/2004) on the basis of the Point 5 of the Community Framework for state aid for research and development and innovation (hereafter "Framework"²).

¹ Commission Regulation (EC) No 794/2004 of 21 April 2004 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 659/1999 laying down detailed rules for the application of Article 93 of the EC Treaty.

² OJ C 323/01, 30.12.2006.

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2. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING AID MEASURE

- (3) The general objectives of the scheme are i) to create knowledge, to achieve high scientific and technological results, competitive at global level, in order to increase the international visibility of the Romanian research and to apply the results into socioeconomic practice; ii) to increase the Romanian economic competitiveness through innovation, with impact upon undertakings and to apply the knowledge in the economy; iii) to increase social quality, to find technical and scientific solutions for supporting social development and increasing human conditions.
- (4) Aid is granted by the Ministry of Education Research and Youth – National Authority for Scientific Research is awarded in the form of non-repayable grants in several instalments.
- (5) The overall aid amount is RON 4 825 million (EUR 1 444 million) for 2007-2013. The budget relative to the period 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014 will be RON 566.311 (EUR 125 000³) and will be part of the overall budget.
- (6) The legal basis of the measure is *Government Decision for approving the state-aid scheme "Financing R&D&I projects in line with the National Plan for Research Development and Innovation II"*.

3. NOTIFIED MODIFICATION OF THE EXISTING MEASURE

- (7) The above mentioned scheme has been declared compatible with the internal market pursuant to Article 107 (3) c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union⁴. With the present notification Romanian authorities seek to extend the period of application of the scheme until and including 30 June 2014 with no increase in the budget.
- (8) Romanian authorities confirmed that all other conditions and commitments contained in the Commission decision approving the State aid scheme remain unchanged.
- (9) Romanian authorities confirmed that the notifications do not contain business secrets. Therefore, the full text of the letter will be published on the Internet site: <http://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/iseef/index.cfm>.

4. ASSESSMENT

- (10) Article 4(3) of Regulation (EC) No 794/2004 lays down the requirement that the simplified notification procedure shall not be used to notify alterations to aid schemes in respect of which Member States have not submitted annual reports. As the annual reports have been submitted, the requirements to use the simplified notification procedure are fulfilled.

³ Exchange rate of 4.529 RON/EUR (National Bank of Romania, 9 January 2014).

⁴ With effect from 1 December 2009, Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty have become Articles 107 and 108, respectively, of the TFEU. The two sets of provisions are, in substance, identical. For the purposes of this Decision, references to Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU should be understood as references to Articles 87 and 88, respectively, of the EC Treaty where appropriate.

- (11) The Commission notes that the notification concerns the prolongation of authorised aid schemes until and including 30 June 2014. As the prolongation of these authorised aid schemes is limited to six months (i.e. from 1 January 2014 until 30 June 2014), it is significantly shorter than the six year period provided for in Article 4(2)(b) of the Implementing Regulation.
- (12) The prolongation of the above mentioned scheme does not have any impact on the previous compatibility assessment of the Commission. Therefore, the Commission has no reason to depart from its previous positive compatibility assessment.
- (13) The Commission is therefore of the view that the prolongation of the aid scheme until and including 30 June 2014 is compatible with the internal market pursuant to Article 107 of the TFEU.

5. DECISION

- (14) The Commission has accordingly decided to consider the prolongation of the State aid schemes as listed in the Annex to be compatible with the internal market pursuant to Article 107 of the TFEU.
- (15) The Commission further reminds the Romanian authorities to submit annual reports on the implementation of the existing measure, as amended.

If this letter contains confidential information, which should not be disclosed to third parties, please inform the Commission within fifteen working days of the date of receipt. If the Commission does not receive a reasoned request by that deadline, you will be deemed to agree to the disclosure to third parties and to the publication of the full text of the letter, in the English language, on the Internet site

<http://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/index.cfm>.

Your request should be sent by registered letter or fax to:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
State Aid Registry
B-1049 Brussels

Fax No: +32 2 296 12 42

Yours faithfully,
For the Commission

Joaquín ALMUNIA
Vice-President