



FORMAL OPINION
on the draft of de minimis aid scheme provided by the *National Multiannual Programme to support arts and crafts*

By analyzing

The draft of de minimis aid scheme provided by the *National Multiannual Programme to support arts and crafts*

Submitted by the Ministry of Energy, Small and Medium Enterprises and Business Environment, by the address no 120296/ALI/22.04.2015, registered at the Competition Council with no. RG 4358/24.04.2015, in order to receive a formal opinion,

And ascertaining that:

1. The Scheme was set up based on the Regulation (EC) no 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid¹;
2. In 2015, the program aims at organizing eight Regional Arts and Crafts Fairs, in order to support small artisans in promoting their products and preservation of indigenous traditions and stimulate their wider promotion;
3. Ministry of Energy, Small and Medium Enterprises and Business Environment, through Entrepreneurial Policies and Programme Implementation for SMEs Directorate, is managing the de minimis scheme and simultaneously is the supplier of the de minimis aid;
4. De minimis aid scheme complies with art. 3(4) of the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 77 of 3 December 2014 regarding national procedures in the state aid field and the amendment and completion of the Competition Law no. 21/1996 – an opportunity analysis was drawn (attached);
5. The scheme is applying throughout Romania, in all 8 development regions, as defined by Law no. 315/2004 on regional development in Romania;

¹ Published in the Official Journal of the European Union no L 352/24.12.2013, final paper.

6. The budget allocated to de minimis aid scheme is 1,700,000 lei, divided evenly among O.T.I.M.M.C. for organizing eight Regional Arts and Crafts Fairs 2015 and to cover related spending to Fair participants. The minimum number of beneficiaries is estimated to 200 operators with activities in the field of arts and crafts;

7. The scheme is valid until 31 December 2015;

COMPETITION COUNCIL

Based on art. 7 par. (6) of the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 77 of 3 December 2014 regarding national procedures in the state aid field and the amendment and completion of the Competition Law no. 21/1996,

ISSUES FORMAL OPINION

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