



FORMAL OPINION
on the draft of the procedure for implementing the transparent de minimis aid scheme provided by the *National multiannual program for the development of entrepreneurial culture among women managers in the SME sector*

By analyzing

The draft of the procedure for implementing the transparent de minimis aid scheme provided by the *National multiannual program for the development of entrepreneurial culture among women managers in the SME sector*

Submitted by the Ministry of Energy, Small and Medium Enterprises and Business Environment, by the address no 120295/22.04.2015, registered at the Competition Council with no. RG 4359/24.04.2015, 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. The main objective of the program is to stimulate and support the start and the development of the private economic structures founded by women by facilitating their access to finance, increasing of the potential access to funding and facilitating access to funding for entrepreneurs women;

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 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. 21/1996², with the following specifications:

- this de minimis aid scheme complies with art. 3(4) of the GEO no. 77/2014 – an opportunity analysis was drawn (attached);

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

² Published in the Official Gazette of Romania, part I, no. 893/9.12.2014.

- art. 7 (1) of the GEO no. 77/2014, approved by Law no. 20/2015, does not apply to this scheme, since the entry into force of the article is June 7, 2015; however, it was done and approved a memorandum for framing de minimis aid measure to the economic, budgetary and financial policies of the Romanian state (reply address of the General Secretariat of the Government no. 616 / GLG / 19.02.2015).

5. De minimis scheme aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Improving the economic performance of existing enterprises run by women, by accessing funding sources from the state budget;
- Stimulating self-employment and increasing the number of women entrepreneurs within the business community;
- Capacity and entrepreneurship building among women;
- Increasing the number of new jobs created in the private economic structures headed by women and of the benefits brought to the national economy.

6. The scheme is valid until 31 December 2015;

7. The scheme is applying throughout Romania, in all 8 development regions;

8. The aid is granted as non-reimbursable financial allowances - maximum 90% of the eligible costs of the project, but no more than 50.000 lei / beneficiary;

9. The estimated number of beneficiaries is 20;

10. The overall budget of the scheme is 1.000.000 lei for granting non-reimbursable financial allowances , as follows:

- 900.000 lei from the date of approval by the Government by memorandum of unblocking the amount provided corresponding to July, according to Art. 48 par. 2) of Law no. 186/2014 of the state budget for 2015;
- 100.000 lei from the fourth quarter of 2015, according to Art. 21 of Law no. 500/2002 on public finances.

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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