



# ROMÂNIA

## CONSILIUL CONCURENȚEI



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### FORMAL OPINION

**on amending the state aid scheme "Financing research, development and innovation (RDI) projects through Programme of Research, Development and Innovation for Space Technology and Advanced Research - STAR" approved by the decision no. 9220/2012 of President of A.N.C.S.**

By analysing

The draft on amending the state aid scheme "Financing research, development and innovation (RDI) projects through Programme of Research, Development and Innovation for Space Technology and Advanced Research - STAR" approved by the decision no. 9220/2012 of President of A.N.C.S.

and

The draft of summary information sheet regarding State aid granted under *Commission Regulation (EU) no 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty*<sup>1</sup>,

Submitted by the Ministry of National Education – National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (ANCS), by letter no. 1619/5.6.2015, registered at the Competition Council with no. RG 6301/5.6.2015, in order to receive a formal opinion

and

The draft decision of the National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation for approval of state aid schemes related to the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation 2015-2020, registered at the Competition Council by letter no. RG 8198/9.7.2015

And ascertaining that:

1. Through this project is modified an existing aid scheme exempted from the obligation of notification (SA.35478), which was made under the provisions of *Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty*<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 187, 6.26.2014

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 214, 9.8.2008

2. The scheme was developed under *Commission Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty* and comply with the elements set out in this Regulation:
  - The scope of the Regulation;
  - Notification thresholds;
  - Maximum intensities;
  - Eligible costs;
  - The requirements on transparency, cumulative incentive effect, publishing and information
3. The scheme complies with *GEO no 77 of 3 December 2014 on national procedures for state aid and amending and supplementing Law no. 21/1996<sup>3</sup>*, approved by Law no. 20/2015;
4. This scheme will provide support for the following objectives:
  - increasing the competitiveness of research, industrial or academic entities for participating at activities of European Space Agency (ESA), including pre-qualification activities and adapting to ESA requirements, as foreseen by Law no. 262/2011 regarding Romania's accession to ESA Convention;
  - knowledge creation, to achieve high scientific and technological results, competitive at global level, in order to increase the international visibility of Romanian research and transfer the results into the economy and society;
  - increasing the competitiveness of the Romanian economy through research and innovation, with impact on economic agents and knowledge transferring into economic practice.
5. **State aid grantor** is the National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation.
6. The authority which manages the scheme is the National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation through subordinated public institution that will implement the program as leader of the program, namely Romanian Space Agency – ROSA Programme for Research, Development and Innovation for Space Technology and Advanced Research – STAR.
7. The **main amendments** aims at extending the period of application of the scheme and introduction of new types of projects that can be financed.
8. The aid is granted in the form of **non-refundable financial assistance (grants)**.
9. State aid beneficiaries are legal entities which have research and/or technological development as business activity and which provide economic activities, namely activities consisting in offering goods and/or services on the market.
10. The scheme is valid until **31 December 2019**.
11. The **total estimated budget** of the scheme (financed from national funds) is **RON 384.18 million** for the period **2012-2019**.

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<sup>3</sup> Published in the Official Journal of Romania, Part I, no. 893 / 9.12.2014

12. The maximum estimated number of beneficiaries is 800.

13. The summary information sheet comply with the standard sheet included in Annex II of *Commission Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty*,

## **COMPETITION COUNCIL**

Based on Article 7 point (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*, approved and modified by Law no. 20/2015

## **ISSUES FORMAL OPINION**

On the *draft on amending the state aid scheme* "Financing research, development and innovation (RDI) projects through Programme of Research, Development and Innovation for Space Technology and Advanced Research - STAR" and *the draft of summary information sheet* regarding State aid granted under *Commission Regulation (EU) no 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty*.