

European Commission has launched a public consultation on the revision of the EC Communication on State aid for films and other audiovisual works

The European Commission has launched a public consultation with a view to assessing the opportunity to modify the existing EC rules on State aid for films and other audiovisual works.

Audiovisual works, particularly films, play an important role in shaping European identities. They reflect the cultural diversity of the different traditions and histories of the EU Member States and regions. Audiovisual works are both economic goods, offering important opportunities for the creation of wealth and employment, and cultural goods which mirror and shape our societies.

Within the EEA, any assistance given by a public body to undertakings which has the potential to distort competition and affect trade between EU Member States is subject to the EU State aid rules. This generally includes public support for audiovisual works.

In 2001, the European Commission adopted a Communication which set out the State aid assessment criteria for support for producing films and audiovisual works (the Cinema Communication). The validity of these criteria was extended in 2004, 2007 and 2009.

The criteria expired on 31 December 2012. As a new Communication is expected to be adopted by the Commission shortly, during this interim period, the Commission is continuing to assess film support schemes directly on the basis of the Treaty based on its case practice, where possible, provided that the Member State commits to modify the scheme if needed by a change in the State aid rules during its lifetime.

The period for this consultation is: 30.04.2013 – 28.06.2013.

The consultation is available in:

DOCX:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_state_aid_films/draft_communication_en.docx

PDF:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_state_aid_films/draft_communication_en.pdf

ODT:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_state_aid_films/draft_communication_en.odt