

European Commission has launched a new public consultation on the revision of the General Block Exemption Regulation (the GBER)

The General block exemption Regulation (GBER), in force since 29 August 2008, simplifies aid granting procedures for Member States by authorising without prior notification a range of measures fulfilling horizontal common interest objectives.

The Commission launched, with its Communication on State aid Modernisation (SAM) of 8 May 2012, a broad review of State aid rules. State aid enforcement should facilitate sustainable, smart and inclusive growth, focus on cases with the biggest impact on the single market, streamline the rules and provide for faster, better informed and more robust decisions. The review of the GBER is at the centre of the SAM reform and contributes to all objectives, with particular focus on simplification. The revised GBER significantly extends the exempted aid by providing higher notification thresholds and aid intensities in many areas, and by including a number of new categories of aid, following the adoption by the Council of an amendment of the Enabling Regulation on 22 July 2013.

A first consultation on the draft GBER took place from 8 May to 28 June 2013 and, for the new exemption categories, between 24 July 2013 and 10 September 2013.

The revised draft presented in the current public consultation is a consolidated and revised version of the first drafts, taking account of the comments received in the consultation process so far. It includes new categories of exempted aid and further simplifies the assessment, thus reducing the administrative burden for Member States. The enlargement of the scope of the GBER and simplification will have to be balanced by increased transparency of aid measures and strengthened ex-post controls.

The period for this consultation is: 18.12.2013 – 12.02.2014.

The consultation is available in:

Draft General block exemption Regulation (DOCX):

Regulation:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_consolidated_gber/gber_regulation_en.docx

Annex I:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_consolidated_gber/annex_I_en.docx

Annex II:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_consolidated_gber/annex_II_en.docx

Annex III:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_consolidated_gber/annex_III_en.docx

Annex IV:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_consolidated_gber/annex_IV_en.docx

Draft General block exemption Regulation (PDF):

Regulation:

http://ec.europa.eu/competition/consultations/2013_consolidated_gber/gber_regulation_en.pdf

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