Opinion of Slovenia

Paper of the services of DG Competition containing a draft Framework for state aid for research and development and innovation

Slovenia welcomes the Commission proposal of the new Commission framework. Although Slovenia in general supports the view of the Commission there are some points and proposals of the Commission that need additional attention and discussion.

Paragraph 20.

We propose an increase of the percentage, which refers to the proportion of the economic activity, from 15 % to 25%.

Proposal is justified by the fact that the share of overall annual budget held by research organizations from economic activities can fluctuate significantly between years. In this way, the possibility of changing definition that refers to the implementation of economic activities is for many research organizations reduced.

Proposal of revised paragraph 20

Where a research organisation or research infrastructure is used for both economic and non-economic activities, public funding falls under state aid rules only insofar as it covers costs linked to the economic activities. Where the research organisation or research infrastructure is used almost exclusively for a non-economic activity, all of it may fall outside state aid rules, even if it is also used for a purely ancillary economic activity, that is to say an activity which is directly related to and necessary for its operation or intrinsically linked to its main non-economic use, and is limited in scope. For the purposes of this framework, the Commission will consider that economic activities are limited in scope where resources allocated each year to such activities do not exceed 25 % of the entity's overall annual budget.