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PUBLIC VERSION
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Subject: State Aid SA. 57587 (2020/N) – Cyprus COVID-19: ‘Aid scheme in support of the agricultural sector to address the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, on the basis of the EU State Aid Temporary Framework’

Excellency,

1. Procedure

(1) By electronic notification of 5 June 2020, Cyprus notified aid in the form of direct grants (‘Aid scheme in support of the agricultural sector to address the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, on the basis of the EU State Aid Temporary Framework’’) under the Temporary Framework for State aid schemes to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak, as amended (“the Temporary Framework”). The Commission requested additional information by email of 6 June 2020, which the Cypriot authorities submitted by email of 11 June 2020.

(2) Cyprus exceptionally agrees to waive its rights deriving from Article 342 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (“TFEU”), in conjunction with

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Dimostheni Severi Ave
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Article 3 of Regulation 1/1958 and to have this Decision adopted and notified in English.

2. **DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEME**

(3) Cyprus considers that the COVID-19 outbreak has started to affect the real economy. The scheme forms part of an overall package of measures and aims to ensure that sufficient liquidity remains available in the market, to counter the liquidity shortage faced by undertakings because of the outbreak, to ensure that the disruptions caused by the outbreak do not undermine the viability of the undertakings and thereby to preserve the continuity of economic activity during and after the outbreak.

(4) The compatibility assessment of the scheme is based on Article 107(3)(b) TFEU, as interpreted by Section 2 and Section 3.1 of the Temporary Framework.

2.1. **The nature and form of aid**

(5) The scheme provides aid in the form of direct grants, paid directly to the final beneficiaries by the Department of Agriculture.

2.2. **Legal basis**

(6) The legal basis for the scheme is the Decision of the Council of Ministers of 7 May 2020, ‘Schemes to support the agricultural sector in the context of the Covid-19 outbreak’ (Απόφαση Υπουργικού Συμβουλίου της 7ης Μαΐου 2020 ‘Μέτρα στήριξης του γεωργικού τομέα για την αντιμετώπιση των επιπτώσεων της πανδημίας του κορωνοϊού’).

2.3. **Administration of the scheme**

(7) The Department of Agriculture of Cyprus is responsible for administering the scheme.

2.4. **Budget and duration of the scheme**

(8) The budget of the scheme is estimated at no more than EUR 1 800 000, divided into the following categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Producers of vegetables, fresh herbs, strawberries</td>
<td>Total budget not exceeding EUR 650 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producers of oranges of the ‘Valencia’ variety</td>
<td>Total budget not exceeding EUR 100 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producers with farms outside irrigated areas</td>
<td>Total budget not exceeding EUR 450 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regulation No 1 determining the languages to be used by the European Economic Community, OJ 17, 6.10.1958, p. 385.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Floriculture</th>
<th>Total budget not exceeding EUR 450,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Producers active in the farmers’ markets</td>
<td>Total budget not exceeding EUR 150,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(9) The scheme will be financed from the national budget.

(10) Aid may be granted under the scheme as from its approval until no later than 31 December 2020.

2.5. Beneficiaries

(11) The final beneficiaries of the scheme are natural or legal persons active in the primary agricultural production in the Republic of Cyprus and in particular the following categories: (i) producers active in the primary agricultural production of fresh vegetables, strawberries, herbs, (ii) producers active in the primary agricultural production of oranges of the ‘Valencia’ variety, (iii) producers active in the floriculture sector, (iv) primary agricultural producers who are owners or managers of agricultural holdings and participate in farmers’ markets, (v) producers who are owners or managers of agricultural farms without access to irrigation, and fulfilling one of the following conditions:

a) are registered in the Farmers’ registry under category 2, 4, 11 or 16; or,

b) natural persons registered in the Social Security Fund exclusively as farmers for at least the last 2 years; or,

c) retired farmers, who had been registered the last 5 years before their retirement in the Social Security Fund exclusively as farmers and continue to have activity as farmers.

(12) The following categories are not eligible for aid under this scheme:

a) natural persons who are not legal residents of the Republic of Cyprus;

b) natural persons who are participating or have participated in the early retirement scheme for farmers;

c) natural/legal persons who have benefitted from other schemes approved by the Council of Ministers in response to the COVID-19 outbreak after 7 May 2020;

d) natural/legal persons subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market.

(13) As regards in particular primary agricultural producers who participate in farmers’ markets, the following additional eligibility conditions apply:

a) Applicants must be natural/legal entities who are producers and owners or managers of an agricultural holding;
b) applicants must submit a valid certificate in accordance with law (Ν96(I)/2013) issued by the Department of Agriculture for the period 2019-2020. In case such certificate was not required by the community/municipality in the farmers’ markets on which the producer has been active, applicants may request the issuance of the certificate while the State aid scheme is open for applications;

c) applicants must possess a valid permit to sell products on farmers’ markets in accordance with Law Ν96(I)/2013. In case such permit was not required by the community/municipality in the farmers’ markets of which the producer has been active, applicants may submit other official documentation, which will be investigated by the managing authority;

d) applicants must have participated in a farmers’ market for the purpose of selling their products in March 20202 as demonstrated by proof of payment of the relevant municipal/community fees;

(14) Financial institutions are excluded as eligible final beneficiaries.

(15) Aid may not be granted under the scheme to undertakings that were already in difficulty within the meaning of the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation (“ABER”)3 on 31 December 2019.

(16) Aid is granted under the scheme directly to the final beneficiaries without the intermediation of credit or other financial institutions.

2.6. **Sectoral and regional scope of the scheme**

(17) The scheme is open to holdings active in the primary agricultural production sector, and in particular to the sectors indicated in recital (11).

(18) The scheme applies to the whole territory of Cyprus. As regards in particular the part of the scheme providing aid to owners or managers of agricultural holdings without access to irrigation, the scheme applies to areas that do not have access to the south pipeline or other government irrigation works for water supply for agricultural purposes.

2.7. **Basic elements of the scheme**

(19) The scheme provides aid in the form of direct grants paid directly to the final beneficiaries in accordance with Section 3.1. of the Temporary Framework. Eligible for aid are holdings active in specific categories of the primary agricultural sector as described in recital (11).

(20) The maximum aid amount per beneficiary under this scheme shall not exceed EUR 100 000.

(21) The Cypriot authorities have confirmed that aid under this scheme will not be fixed on the basis of the price or quantity of products put on the market.

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Where an undertaking is active in several sectors to which different maximum amounts apply in accordance with points 22 (a) and 23 (a) of the Temporary Framework, it will be ensured, by appropriate means such as separation of accounts, that for each of these activities the relevant ceiling is respected and that the overall maximum amount of EUR 100,000 per undertaking is not exceeded.

The amount of the aid is calculated according to the category to which the beneficiary belongs, as described below. All figures are gross, that is, before any deduction of tax or other charges.

**Specific Provisions**

The following specific provisions apply for the part of the scheme providing aid to holdings active in the primary agricultural production of fresh vegetables, strawberries, or herbs:

a) the aid amount per beneficiary will not exceed EUR 20,000; in case that the total value of the eligible applications exceeds the total budget of EUR 650,000 dedicated to this part of the scheme, the aid amount per beneficiary will be adjusted accordingly in order for the total aid amounts to not exceed the above mentioned budget;

b) applicants must submit only one application for all eligible parcels. The aid amount will be calculated on the basis of the surface declared in the applicants’ Subsidies Application for the year 2020, insofar as it does not exceed the maximum eligible surface threshold. The following crops are not eligible for State aid under the scheme; potatoes, mushrooms, roses cultivated for rose extract;

c) eligible to participate are holdings of a minimum surface of 1 decare;

d) applicants must submit their applications to participate in the scheme to the District Agricultural Office of the Department of Agriculture within set deadlines that will be announced by the Department of Agriculture;

e) on-site sampling inspections will be conducted by officials of the Department of Agriculture to holdings that apply to benefit from the scheme in order to confirm:

- the size of the parcels for which an aid application has been submitted;

- whether the parcels are/have been cultivated with vegetables, strawberries or herbs.

f) During the on-site inspections, the applicant, or their legal representative in the case of legal entities, are required to be present and sign the inspection form. In case the applicant or their legal representative disagree with the inspection findings, they have the right to submit an objection. In cases of objection, a second on-site inspection will be performed by a different inspector within 3 working days. The outcome of the second inspection is final and irrevocable.

The following specific provisions apply for the part of the scheme providing aid to holdings active in the primary agricultural production of oranges of the ‘Valencia’ variety:
a) the maximum budget for the part of the scheme covering this specific category will not exceed EUR 100 000; in case that the total value of the eligible applications exceeds the total budget of EUR 100 000 dedicated to this part of the scheme, the aid amount per beneficiary will be adjusted accordingly in order for the total aid amounts to not exceed the above mentioned budget;

b) applicants must submit only one application for all eligible parcels. For each parcel included in the application, applicants must submit proof of ownership, leasing contract or document certifying they are the managers of the parcel, and/or the Subsidies Application for the year 2020, mentioning the parcel in question;

c) eligible to participate are holdings of a minimum surface of 1 decare; eligible are parcels cultivated with orange trees of the ‘Valencia’ variety bearing at least 1.5 tones/decare;

d) harvested trees are not eligible for State aid in line with this scheme and the surface that they occupy must be deducted from the eligible surface of the parcel concerned;

e) eligible for aid is fruit free of damages caused by weather conditions, pests or other causes;

f) the plantations in the parcels participating in the applications must be in good condition.

g) On-site inspections will be conducted by officials of the Department of Agriculture to holdings that apply to benefit from the scheme in order to confirm points (c), (d), (e) and (f) above.

h) During the on-site inspections, the applicant, or their legal representative in the case of legal entities, are required to be present and sign the inspection form. In case the applicant or their legal representative disagree with the inspection findings, they have the right to submit an objection. In cases of objection, a second on-site inspection will be performed by a different inspector within 3 working days. The outcome of the second inspection is final and irrevocable.

(26) The following specific provisions apply for the part of the scheme providing aid to holdings active in floriculture:

a) the maximum budget for the part of the scheme covering this specific category will not exceed EUR 450 000; in case that the total value of the eligible applications exceeds the total budget of EUR 450 000 dedicated to this part of the scheme, the aid amount per beneficiary will be adjusted accordingly in order for the total aid amounts to not exceed the above mentioned budget;

b) the maximum aid per holding will not exceed EUR 20 000. The aid amounts are defined as follows, subject to the condition set in recital (23)(a):

- cut flowers in greenhouse: EUR 1 000/decare;
- ornamental potted plants grown in greenhouse: EUR 650/decare;
- cut open-farm flowers: EUR 500/decare;

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- Ornamental potted plants grown in open farm: EUR 500/decare.

- The aid amount for producers of plant propagating material will be determined following the submission of the applications, subject to the condition set in recital (23)(a).

c) Applicants must submit a single application for all eligible cultivations. For each parcel included in the application, applicants must submit proof of ownership, leasing contract or document certifying they are the managers of the parcel, and/or the latest Subsidies Application, if available. The following cultivations are eligible for State aid under this scheme:

- cut flowers cultivated in open farms or greenhouses;

- ornamental plants in pot cultivated in open farms or greenhouses;

- production of propagating material (ornamental plant cuttings, flowering and vegetable seedlings).

d) Applicants, who are producers of flowering plants (cut flowers and potted plants), must be registered in the Register of Flower Farmers maintained by the Department of Agriculture based on the latest available data of the Flower Survey for the year 2018. In addition, relevant documentation must be provided (e.g., purchase and/or sales invoices) establishing that the agricultural holding has remained active during the years 2019 and 2020.

e) Applicants, who are producers of propagating material (flower cuttings, flower and vegetable seedlings), must submit relevant documentation to demonstrate a reduction of more than 15% in the turnover of the holding during March-May 2020 compared to the average of the same period for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. To this end, applicants must submit copies of the VAT return for the period March - May for the years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 as well as detailed sales statements for the quarter March-May 2020.

f) Eligible to participate in the scheme are holdings of a minimum surface of 1 decare.

g) For flower growers (cut flowers, potted plants), the calculation of the amount of financial aid will be based on the data of the Flower Review for the year 2018 maintained by the Department of Agriculture. Therefore, administrative checks will follow in order to compare the data of the application with the latest available data of the relevant Register.

h) For propagating material growers (flower cuttings, flower/vegetable cuttings), the calculation of the amount of financial aid will be based on the evidence provided by the producer which will indicate the reduction of the holding’s turnover damage during the period March-May 2020 compared to the average turnover of the same period for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

i) If, following the examination of the application, it is concluded that the area included in the application is larger than the area declared in the relevant Registers or for any other reason it is concluded further investigation of the
information included in the application is necessary, an on-site inspection will be carried out.

j) During the on-site inspections, the applicant or their legal representative in the case of legal entities, are required to be present and sign the inspection form. In case the applicant or their legal representative disagree with the inspection findings, they have the right to submit an objection. In cases of objection, a second on-site inspection will be performed by a different inspector within 3 working days. The outcome of the second inspection is final and irrevocable.

(27) The following specific provisions apply for the part of the scheme providing aid to primary agricultural producers who are owners or managers of agricultural holdings and participate in farmers’ markets:

a) the aid amount per beneficiary will be proportionate to the area intended for the production and selling of the produce in the farmers’ markets, during the period that the farmers’ markets remained closed. The aid amount per beneficiary will not exceed EUR 1 200 and will be calculated as follows:

- Between 1-3 decares, EUR 400;
- Between 3-6 decares, EUR 700;
- Between 6-10 decares, EUR 900;
- Above 10 decares, EUR 1200.

b) The maximum budget for the part of the scheme covering this specific category will not exceed EUR 150 000; in case that the total value of the eligible applications exceeds the total budget of EUR 150 000 dedicated to this part of the scheme, the aid amount per beneficiary will be adjusted accordingly in order for the total aid amounts to not exceed the above mentioned budget.

c) Applicants must submit their application accompanied by the following documentation, on the basis of which an administrative control will be carried out;

- proof of ownership, leasing contract or document certifying they are the managers of the parcel, and/or the Subsidies Application for the year 2020, mentioning the parcel in question
- a valid certificate in accordance with law (N96(I)/2013)I issued by the Department of Agriculture for the period 2019-2020. In case such certificate was not required by the community/municipality in the farmers’ markets of which the producer has been active, applicants may request the issuance of the certificate while the State aid scheme is open for applications;

- a valid permit to sell products in farmers’ markets in accordance with Law N96(I)/2013). In case such permit was not required by the community/municipality in the farmers’ markets of which the producer has been active, applicants may submit other official documentation, which will be investigated by the managing authority;
- proof of payment of the relevant municipal/community fees for the occupation and use of space in a farmers’ market in March 2020.

- certification of registration as a farmer in the Social Security Fund. For retired farmers, a social security certificate establishing that they had been registered in the social security Fund as farmers for the five years preceding their retirement and continue to engage in agricultural activity;

- bank account number (IBAN copy) and an original FIMAS document, filled in and signed.

d) Applicants must declare the areas per product category intended for selling in farmers’ markets and discarded or sold at a price below their production cost during the time of the farmers’ markets’ temporary suspension of operation (24 March 2020 – 4 May 2020).

e) The Department of Agriculture may conduct any inspections deemed necessary to confirm the correctness of the information submitted by the applicants. To this end, other government bodies or agencies may participate in these inspections.

(28) The following specific provisions apply for the part of the scheme providing aid to owners or managers of agricultural holdings without access to irrigation:

a) The aid amount to compensate for the irrigation cost will be calculated as follows; EUR 0,034 per cubic meter of water for the quantity of water that the holding is allowed to use according to the relevant permit for the period March – June 2020.

b) The maximum aid amount per beneficiary will not exceed EUR 100 000. The maximum budget for the part of the scheme covering this specific category will not exceed EUR 450 000; in case that the total value of the eligible applications exceeds the total budget of EUR 450 000 dedicated to this part of the scheme, the aid amount per beneficiary will be adjusted accordingly in order for the total aid amounts to not exceed the above mentioned budget.

c) Applicants must have the legal possession or management of agricultural holdings and have legal drilling to cover the water needs of the holding. The plan will cover the cost of holdings’ needs in water for the period March-June 2020.

d) Applicants must declare/ have declared their parcels to the Cypriot Agency for Agricultural payments in the context of the Agricultural Subsidies’ Scheme. The information with regard to the application will be extracted from the subsidies’ application for the year 2020.

e) Applicants must submit ownership titles for the holding or lease contracts covering the period that the State aid scheme will be in effect, as well as permits for the water drilling.

f) Applicants must submit their application accompanied by the following documentation, on the basis of which an administrative control will be carried out;
- proof of ownership, lease or management of the holding as established by purchase contracts, leasing contract or formal documents certifying they are the managers of the parcel;

- a copy of the applicant’s latest Subsidies Application, mentioning the parcel in question;

- a permit for water drilling issued by the Department of Water Development in the last 10 years from the deadline for submission of applications. The permit must detail the allowed quantity of water per year, as well as the parcels that will be irrigated from the drilling. On this basis, the Department of Agriculture will calculate the needs in water per beneficiary for the period March-June 2020.

- a certificate of registration in the Farmers’ register;

- certificate of registration as a farmer in the Social Security Fund. For retired farmers, a statement from the Social Security Fund establishing the amount of monthly pension;

- bank account number (IBAN copy) and an original FIMAS document, filled in and signed

g) On-site inspections can be conducted, where necessary. In case of objections, a second inspection will be carried out by a different inspector within 3 working days from the first inspection. The outcome of the second inspection is final and irrevocable.

h) The district agricultural offices of the Department of Agriculture will compile lists of the eligible applicants, which will include the quantity of water that the applicants are entitled to irrigate for all their crops for the period March –June 2020. The total quantity must not exceed the quantity of water that the farmers are allowed to use in accordance with their water drilling permit. The lists will be sent to the Department of Agriculture for control and payment. On this basis, the Department of agriculture will calculate the needs of each agricultural holding as regards water.

2.8. Cumulation

(29) The Cypriot authorities confirm that aid granted under the scheme may be cumulated with aid under de minimis Regulations4 or the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation, provided the provisions and cumulation rules of those Regulations are respected.

(30) The Cypriot authorities confirm that aid under the notified scheme may be cumulated with other forms of Union financing, provided that the maximum aid intensities indicated in the relevant Guidelines or Regulations are respected.

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The Cypriot authorities confirm that aid granted under the scheme may be cumulated with aid granted under other schemes approved by the Commission under other sections of the Temporary Framework provided the provisions in those specific sections are respected.

The Cypriot authorities confirm that if the beneficiary receives aid on several occasions or in several forms under the scheme or aid under other schemes approved by the Commission under Section 3.1 of the Temporary Framework, the overall maximum cap per undertaking, as set out in point 23(a) of that framework, shall be respected.

2.9. Monitoring and reporting

The Cypriot authorities confirm that they will respect the monitoring and reporting obligations laid down in Section 4 of the Temporary Framework (including the obligation to publish relevant information on each individual aid granted under the scheme on the comprehensive national State aid website or Commission’s IT tool within 12 months from the moment of granting).

3. ASSESSMENT

3.1. Lawfulness of the scheme

By notifying the scheme before putting it into effect, the Cypriot authorities have respected their obligations under Article 108(3) TFEU.

3.2. Existence of State aid

For a scheme to be categorised as aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) TFEU, all the conditions set out in that provision must be fulfilled. First, the scheme must be imputable to the State and financed through State resources. Second, it must confer an advantage on its recipients. Third, that advantage must be selective in nature. Fourth, the scheme must distort or threaten to distort competition and affect trade between Member States.

The scheme is imputable to the State, since it is administered by the Department of Agriculture of Cyprus and it is based on the Decision of the Council of Ministers of 7 May 2020, ‘Scheme to support the agricultural sector in the context of the Covid-19 outbreak’ (recital (6)). It is financed through State resources, since it is financed by public funds. (recital (9))

The scheme confers an advantage on its beneficiaries in the form of direct grants (recital (5)). The scheme, thus, relieves those beneficiaries of costs, which they would have had to bear under normal market conditions.

The advantage granted by the scheme is selective, since it is awarded only to certain undertakings, in particular undertakings active in specific categories of the primary agricultural production sector, excluding the financial sector (recitals (11)-(16)).

39) The scheme is liable to distort competition, since it strengthens the competitive position of its beneficiaries. It also affects trade between Member States, since those beneficiaries are active in sectors in which intra-Union trade exists.

40) In view of the above, the Commission concludes that the scheme constitutes aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) TFEU. The Cypriot authorities do not contest that conclusion.

3.3. Compatibility

41) Since the scheme involves aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) TFEU, it is necessary to consider whether that scheme is compatible with the internal market.

42) Pursuant to Article 107(3)(b) TFEU the Commission may declare compatible with the internal market aid “to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State”.

43) By adopting the Temporary Framework on 19 March 2020, the Commission acknowledged (in Section 2) that “the COVID-19 outbreak affects all Member States and that the containment schemes taken by Member States impact undertakings”. The Commission concluded that “State aid is justified and can be declared compatible with the internal market on the basis of Article 107(3)(b) TFEU, for a limited period, to remedy the liquidity shortage faced by undertakings and ensure that the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 outbreak do not undermine their viability, especially of SMEs”.

44) The scheme aims at providing funding and liquidity to undertakings seriously affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, at a time when the normal functioning of credit markets is severely disturbed by the COVID-19 outbreak and that the outbreak is affecting the wider economy, leading to severe disturbances of the real economy of Member States.

45) The scheme is one of a series of measures conceived at national level by the Cypriot authorities to remedy a serious disturbance in their economy. The importance of the scheme to support liquidity and economic continuity is widely accepted by economic commentators and the scheme is of a scale, which can be reasonably anticipated to produce effects across the entire Cypriot economy. Furthermore, the scheme has been designed to meet the requirements of a specific category of aid (“Limited amounts of aid”) described in Section 3.1.

46) The Commission accordingly considers that the scheme is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State and meets all the conditions of the Temporary Framework. In particular:

- The aid takes the form of direct grants (recital (5)).

   The overall nominal value of the direct grants shall not exceed EUR 100,000 per undertaking active in the primary production of agricultural products (recitals (20) and (24) to (28)); all figures used must be gross, that is, before any deduction of tax or other charges (recital (23)). The scheme therefore complies with point 23(a) of the Temporary Framework;
Aid is granted on the basis of a scheme with an estimated budget as indicated in recital (8). The scheme therefore complies with point 22(b) in conjunction with point 23 of the Temporary Framework;

Aid will not be granted to undertakings that were already in difficulty on 31 December 2019 (recital (15)). The scheme therefore complies with point 22(c) in conjunction with point 23 of the Temporary Framework;

Aid will be granted no later than 31 December 2020 (recital (10)). The scheme therefore complies with point 22(d) in conjunction with point 23 of the Temporary Framework;

Aid granted to undertakings active in the primary production of agricultural products must not be fixed on the basis of the price or quantity of products put on the market (recital (21)). The scheme therefore complies with point 23(b) of the Temporary Framework;

Where an undertaking is active in several sectors to which different maximum aid amounts apply in accordance with points 22(a) and 23(a) of the Temporary Framework, Cyprus will ensure, by appropriate means such as separation of accounts, that the relevant ceiling is respected for each of those activities and that the overall maximum amount of EUR 100 000 is not exceeded per undertaking (recital (22). The scheme therefore complies with point 23bis of the Temporary Framework.

(47) The Cypriot authorities confirm that the monitoring and reporting rules laid down in section 4 of the Temporary Framework will be respected (recital (33)). The Cypriot authorities further confirm that the aid under the scheme may only be cumulated with other aid, provided the specific provisions in the sections of the Temporary Framework are respected and the cumulation rules of the relevant Regulations are respected (recitals (29)-(32)).

(48) The Commission therefore considers that the scheme is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State pursuant to Article 107(3)(b) TFEU since it meets all the relevant conditions of the Temporary Framework.
4. **CONCLUSION**

The Commission has accordingly decided not to raise objections to the aid on the grounds that it is compatible with the internal market pursuant to Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The decision is based on non-confidential information and is therefore published in full on the Internet site: [http://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/index.cfm).

Yours faithfully,

For the Commission

Margrethe VESTAGER
Executive Vice-President