



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 12.10.2021
C(2021) 7457 final

PUBLIC VERSION

This document is made available for
information purposes only.

**Subject: State Aid SA.100006 (2021/N) – Greece
COVID-19: Aid to electronic media providers (amendment to SA.63896
(2021/N))**

Excellency,

1. PROCEDURE

- (1) On 20 September 2021, Greece notified an amendment (“the notified amendment”) of the COVID-19 aid scheme SA.63896 (2021/N) (“the existing aid scheme”¹) approved on 27 July 2021 under the Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak, as amended (the “Temporary Framework”)².
- (2) Greece exceptionally agrees to waive its rights deriving from Article 342 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (“TFEU”), in conjunction with Article 3 of Regulation 1/1958³ and to have this Decision adopted and notified in English.

¹ State Aid SA.63896 (2021/N) – Greece - COVID-19: Aid to newspapers, magazines, media service providers and radio stations, C(2021) 5749 final of 27.7.2021, [295529_2303837_98_2.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#).

² Communication from the Commission - Temporary framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak (OJ C 91I, 20.3.2020, p. 1), as amended by Commission Communications C(2020) 2215 (OJ C 112I, 4.4.2020, p. 1), C(2020) 3156 (OJ C 164, 13.5.2020, p. 3), C(2020) 4509 (OJ C 218, 2.7.2020, p. 3), C(2020) 7127 (OJ C 340I, 13.10.2020, p. 1) and C(2021) 564 (OJ C 34, 1.2.2021, p. 6).

³ Regulation No 1 determining the languages to be used by the European Economic Community, OJ 17, 6.10.1958, p. 385.

Κύριος Νίκος Δένδιας
Υπουργός Εξωτερικών
Βασιλίσσης Σοφίας 5
Grèce - 10671 Αθήνα

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTIFIED MEASURE

- (3) Greece wishes to amend the existing aid scheme as it intends to extend the circle of beneficiaries. The original beneficiaries, newspapers, magazines, media service providers and radio stations, should now also include electronic media providers, including regional terrestrial television stations.
- (4) The Greek authorities have not introduced any other amendments to the original scheme.
- (5) Apart from the notified amendments, Greece confirms that no further amendments are proposed to the existing aid scheme. All other conditions of that scheme remain unaltered.
- (6) The legal basis of the measure is the “Amendment to Joint Ministerial Decision No 165/29.07.2021 on a financing programme for financial support for companies publishing Panhellenic newspapers and regional and local newspapers, providers of regional digital terrestrial television content, radio stations and magazines”.

3. ASSESSMENT OF THE MEASURE

3.1. Lawfulness of the measure

- (7) By notifying the measure before putting it into effect⁴, the Greek authorities have respected their obligations under Article 108(3) TFEU.

3.2. Presence of State aid

- (8) For a measure 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 measure 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 measure must distort or threaten to distort competition and affect trade between Member States.
- (9) The existing aid scheme constitutes State aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) TFEU for the reasons set out in recitals (33) to (38) of the initial decision. The notified amendments do not affect that conclusion. The Commission therefore refers to the respective assessment of the initial decision and concludes that the existing aid scheme, as amended, constitutes State aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) TFEU.

3.3. Compatibility

- (10) The Commission assessed the original aid scheme on the basis of the Temporary Framework, and concluded that measure was necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State pursuant to Article 107(3)(b) TFEU.

⁴ The draft text of the legal basis contains the statement that the Decision of the Greek authorities will only enter into effect on the date of notification of the approval of the scheme by the European Commission.

- (11) The existing aid scheme is compatible with the internal market pursuant to Article 107(3)(b) TFEU, since it meets the conditions of section 2 and section 3.1 of the Temporary Framework for the reasons set out in recitals 39 to 48 of the initial decision. The Commission therefore refers to the respective assessment of the initial decision.
- (12) The notified amendments do not affect that conclusion. In particular, the Commission considers that electronic media providers were also severely impacted by the restrictions related to the COVID-19 outbreak and their liquidity and continuity of operation, similarly to other media undertakings, must also be ensured.
- (13) Apart from the notified amendments, Greece confirms that no further amendments are proposed to the existing aid scheme and that all other conditions of that scheme remain unaltered.
- (14) The Commission therefore considers that the notified amendments are necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State pursuant to Article 107(3)(b) TFEU, since they meet all the relevant conditions of the Temporary Framework. The Commission therefore considers that the notified amendments do not alter the Commission's conclusion on the compatibility of the existing aid scheme in the initial decision.

4. CONCLUSION

The Commission has accordingly decided not to raise objections to the notified 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>.

Yours faithfully,

For the Commission

Margrethe VESTAGER
Executive Vice-President

