Brussels, 16 September 2020

# Survey – State aid in the Covid-19 crisis

## Data collection for assessing the way forward of the Temporary Framework

## Introduction

On 19 March 2020, the Commission adopted a State aid Temporary Framework[[1]](#footnote-1) to support the economy in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak, based on Article 107(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The Temporary Framework was amended on 3 April 2020[[2]](#footnote-2), 8 May 2020[[3]](#footnote-3) and 29 June 2020[[4]](#footnote-4). The Temporary Framework recognises that the entire EU economy is experiencing a serious disturbance. It enables Member States to use the full flexibility foreseen under State aid rules to support the economy and combat the public health crisis, while limiting negative consequences to the level playing field in the Single Market. Alongside the Temporary Framework, Member States could also design support measures in line with Block Exemption Regulations[[5]](#footnote-5) without the involvement of the Commission. They could also design measures on the basis of Article 107(3)(c) TFEU and as further specified in the Rescue and Restructuring State aid Guidelines[[6]](#footnote-6). Finally, Member States could also compensate undertakings in sectors for damages suffered as a result of measures taken to contain the COVID-19 outbreak on the basis of Article 107(2)(b) TFEU.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis and the implementation of the Temporary framework, the European Commission has authorised 289 decisions[[7]](#footnote-7) under Temporary Framework, under Article 107(3)(b) TFEU, Article 107(2)(b) TFEU and Article 107(3)(c) TFEU.

In this context, and in light of the envisaged expiry date of the Temporary Framework, the Commission seeks to obtain from Member State information that would be useful to inform the thinking around the need and manner in which to continue the State aid response to COVID-19.

This survey contains three main sections:

1. A data request and related questions on **actual aid granted for all COVID-19 related State aid measures** put in place by Member States and approved by the Commission. This information is crucial to understand how Member States are making concrete use of the flexibility foreseen under State aid rules to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus outbreak. While COVID-19 State aid measures are subject to specific monitoring and reporting provisions[[8]](#footnote-8), such information will not become completely available to the Commission until the end of 2021 at the earliest. Given this background and in order to avoid creating a disproportionate burden for Member States, the Commission seeks to obtain from Member State aggregate information on the actual take-up of COVID-19 State aid measures, including in the form of best estimates, orders of magnitude or ranges if precise figures are not available.
2. A data request of some **economic indicators** to contextualize the information on granted aid.
3. **Questions** to seek views on the way forward of the Temporary Framework.

Full cooperation by Member States is of the essence in order for the Commission to perform this assessment based on sound and reliable information. To avoid creating a disproportionate burden for Member States, this survey focuses as much as possible on data that Member States are already collecting.

## Instructions

Member States are kindly asked to read this set of instructions carefully before compiling the survey.

In order to assure an accurate statistical treatment of the data collected, the Commission kindly asks Member States to follow the instructions below:

* Please provide the data for **all COVID-19 State aid measures approved under the Temporary Framework, directly under Article 107(2)(b) TFEU, Article 107(3)(b) TFEU, as well as based on Article 107(3)(c) TFEU and as further specified in the Rescue and Restructuring State aid Guidelines**.
* Please provide the data in a machine-readable format (ie. Excel or csv files) using the dedicated template attached to this survey.
* Data should be provided at **aggregate level**, covering all regions and all granting authorities.
* If it is not possible to provide aggregated data, Member States have the possibility to send disaggregated data to the Commission, for example by beneficiary or time series. In this case, the Commission will take upon itself the task of aggregating the information.
* In case a piece of information is not available, please provide **best estimates** and mention it in your reply; aggregates can also be provided as orders of magnitude or in ranges.
* All monetary amounts shall be expressed in **thousands of Euros**.
* Please provide the data in **nominal amount**, and not in gross grant equivalent;
* Data should refer to the **cut-off reference date indicated in the template, i.e. 30 June 2020**. If data is only available at a date before 30 June 2020, the reference date should be clearly reported in the file.
* The data collection includes also **optional** columns where Member States can provide data at a date after 30 June 2020, if available. This shall be regarded as additional information that in no case can replace the mandatory information at 30 June 2020.
* Data should always be reported in the appropriate cell, even if the requested information is missing. If a value is not available (meaning that best estimates are not possible), this should be reported as "n.a.". Values equal to zero should always be reported as zeros (i.e., only true zeros should be encoded as "0"). As a result, no cell in the data file should be empty.
* Any other feature of the specific data items that will be shared with the European Commission that is not covered by these instructions or by the template, and that is deemed to be relevant for their subsequent use, should be described by the Member State with the greatest possible detail at the time of the submission of the file(s).

## Content of the survey

## Use of State aid by Member States during the COVID-19 crisis

1. Please fill-in the template “*EC - DATA COLLECTION – STATE AID IN THE COVID-19 CRISIS.xlsx*” with data relative to the amount of **aid granted** in nominal terms (*i.e.* nominal amount). Aid granted is any aid arising from a legally binding commitment from the Member State to award the aid that can be invoked before the national courts. This differs from aid paid out.
2. The file contains several tabs for different breakdowns.
	* **Tab1 – “State aid measures - TF”**: Total amount of aid granted for measures approved under the Temporary Framework, breakdown by State aid measure and Temporary Framework section in nominal amount and EUR thousand;
	* **Tab2 – “State aid measures - Treaty”**: Total amount of aid granted for measures approved directly under the Treaty, breakdown by State aid measure, in nominal amount and EUR thousand;
	* **Tab3 – “Sectors”**: Total amount of aid granted, breakdown by sector (identified by the main section of the NACE code of the beneficiary), in nominal amount and EUR thousand;
	* **Tab4 – “Beneficiary type”**: Total amount of aid granted, breakdown by type of beneficiary (*e.g.* large undertakings, SMEs), in nominal amount and EUR thousand.

Please insert below your comments if any (*e.g.* if best estimates are provided).

 Click here to enter text.

1. Were schemes approved prior to the coronavirus outbreak in March 2020 used to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis in your Member State? If yes, please mention the State aid case number of the schemes concerned.

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

Click here to enter text.

1. Were GBER, ABER or FIBER schemes used to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis in your Member State? If yes, please mention the State aid case number of the schemes concerned.

[ ]  Yes

[ ]  No

Click here to enter text.

## General economic indicators to contextualize the information on State aid

To allow the Commission to develop a coherent framework for further action, Member States are requested to provide a restricted set of additional economic indicators via the attached template “*EC - DATA COLLECTION – STATE AID IN THE COVID-19 CRISIS.xlsx*”. These indicators will help orient Commission’s decisions and better shape the possible prolongation of the Temporary Framework, which requires taking into consideration the overall macroeconomic dimension.

1. Please fill-in “**Tab 5 – Economic Indicators**” of the template “*EC - DATA COLLECTION – STATE AID IN THE COVID-19 CRISIS.xlsx*” with the data requested.
2. Please insert below your comments, if any.

 Click here to enter text.

1. Please provide an overview of any other measure that does not constitute State aid (e.g. tax measures, vouchers, etc.) introduced to contrast the crisis. If possible, provide a rough estimate of the expected lost revenues for the State.

Click here to enter text.

## Questions on the State aid Temporary Framework

1. Do you think that the current rules set out in the Temporary Framework are sufficient to address the liquidity needs for a temporary halt of activity, the financial needs to adjust to the restrictive measures and the solvency concerns that companies are facing due to the restrictive measures taken by Member States to limit the spread of COVID-19? Please explain.

Click here to enter text.

1. Do you have evidence or forecasts pointing to the fact that liquidity shortage issues or other kinds of economic problems are likely to persist after 2020?

Click here to enter text.

1. Do you have any specific evidence concerning the performance of trade credit insurance in 2020 and forecast for 2021 and after? Please explain.

Click here to enter text.

1. What are your views on a possible extension of the Temporary Framework after the end of 2020 (and mid-2021 for recapitalisation measures)? Please justify (*e.g. budgetary or administrative constraints that hinder the use of the measures by December 2020; general uncertainty about the COVID situation; etc.*)

Click here to enter text.

1. For what types of temporary State aid measures among the ones set out in section 3 of the Temporary Framework should a possible extension of the Temporary Framework after December 2020 apply? Which ones do you believe are no longer needed? Please explain.

Click here to enter text.

1. Do you think that additional types of measures should be added to the Temporary Framework? Please explain which ones and why.

Click here to enter text.

1. In your opinion, should the compatibility conditions set out in point 22(a) and 23(a) of the Temporary Framework be modified and how? Please explain and justify why the current limits are not adequate.

Click here to enter text.

1. Do you think that the current rules set out in the Temporary Framework are not adequate to address the concerns of some specific sectors of the economy? Please explain which rules and how they could be amended.

Click here to enter text.

1. Do you think that certain provisions set out in the Temporary Framework should be repealed or reduced? Please explain.

Click here to enter text.

## Transmission of the data

Member States are kindly requested to submit the information electronically by **Tuesday 6 October 2020 close of business** at the email address comp-covid@ec.europa.eu (the same address can be used for questions about the survey).

Member States should submit the present survey duly filled in in Word format along with the Excel file “*EC - DATA COLLECTION – STATE AID IN THE COVID-19 CRISIS.xlsx*” that accompanies this survey.

Both the Word and the Excel files shall be sent with password protection. The password to access the protected figures should be sent to the Commission in a separate email.

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1. 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 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Communication from the Commission C(2020) 2215 final of 3 April 2020 on the Amendment of the Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak, OJ C 112I , 4.4.2020, p. 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Communication from the Commission C(2020) 3156 final of 8 May 2020 on the Amendment of the Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak, OJ C 164, 13.5.2020, p. 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Communication from the Commission C(2020) 4509 final of 29 June 2020 on the Third Amendment of the Temporary Framework for State aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 outbreak, OJ C 218, 2.7.2020, p. 1 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty, OJ L 187, 26.6.2014, p. 1; Commission Regulation (EC) No 702/2014 of 25 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid in the agricultural and forestry sectors and in rural areas compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, OJ L 193, 1.7.2014, p. 1 and Commission Regulation (EU) No 1388/2014 of 16 December 2014 declaring certain categories of aid to undertakings active in the production, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union OJ L 369, 24.12.2014, p. 37 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Communication from the Commission -Guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring nonfinancial undertakings in difficulty (OJ C 249, 31.7.2014, p. 1) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. By 11.09.2020 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Section 4 of the Temporary Framework [↑](#footnote-ref-8)