

Case No: 74662
Event No: 690191
Dec. No: 478/13/COL

EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY DECISION
of 4 December 2013
on the prolongation of the Norwegian regional aid map 2007-2013 until 30 June 2014
(Norway)

The EFTA Surveillance Authority (“the Authority”),

HAVING REGARD to:

The Agreement on the European Economic Area (“the EEA Agreement”), in particular to Articles 61 to 63 and Protocol 26,

The Agreement between the EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice (“the Surveillance and Court Agreement”), in particular to Article 24,

Whereas:

1. Procedure

- (1) By its Decision No 226/06/COL of 19 July 2006 (“Decision 226/06/COL”) the Authority approved the regional aid map for Norway for the period 2007-2013¹ until 31 December 2013. In accordance with paragraph 86 of the Guidelines on National Regional Aid 2007-2013² (“RAG 2007-13“), the approved regional aid map was published in the Official Journal of the European Union and the EEA Supplement thereto, and is considered an integral part of the RAG 2007-13.
- (2) On 23 October 2013 the Authority adopted the Guidelines on Regional State Aid for 2014-2020³ (“RAG 2014-20“), in which it extended the period of application of the RAG 2007-13 until 30 June 2014 (paragraph 162) and invited the Contracting Parties to notify the prolongation of their regional aid maps approved for 2007-2013 for the period from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014 (paragraph 163).
- (3) By letter dated 14 November 2013,⁴ the Norwegian authorities notified the prolongation of the Norwegian regional aid map 2007-2013 until 30 June 2014.

¹ OJ L 54, 28.2.2008, p. 21 and EEA Supplement No 11, 28.2.2008, p. 19.

² OJ L 54, 28.2.2008, p. 1 and EEA Supplement No 11, 28.2.2008, p. 1.

³ Not yet published in the OJ or the EEA Supplement, available on the Authority’s website at the following url. <http://www.eftasurv.int/media/state-aid-guidelines/Part-III---Guidelines-on-regional-State-Aid-for-2014-2020.pdf>.

⁴ Event No 690162.

2. Description of the notified amendment

- (4) The proposed amendment seeks to extend the period of application of the regional aid map 2007-2013 for Norway until 30 June 2014. The Norwegian authorities confirmed that all other conditions and commitments contained in the Decision 226/06/COL approving the regional aid map for 2007-2013 remain unchanged.

3. Assessment

- (5) The Authority assesses this prolongation on the basis of the RAG 2007-13 and of paragraphs 162 and 163 of the RAG 2014-20.
- (6) The Authority notes that the notification concerns only the prolongation of the regional aid map until 30 June 2014 and that all other conditions and commitments contained in the Decision 226/06/COL approving the regional aid map for Norway on the basis of the RAG 2007-13 remain unchanged, and that the prolongation of the map until 30 June 2014 is in conformity with paragraph 163 of the RAG 2014-20.
- (7) The Authority is therefore of the view that the prolongation of the regional aid map 2007-2013 for Norway until 30 June 2014 meets the criteria for compatibility with the EEA Agreement as it fulfils the conditions laid down in the RAG 2007-13 and is in accordance with the extended period of application of these guidelines as provided for in the RAG 2014-20. Therefore, the regional aid map for Norway for the period 2007-2013 shall be valid until 30 June 2014.
- (8) The Authority recalls that the decisions by which the Authority adopts the regional aid maps for each Contracting Party form an integral part of the guidelines on regional aid.⁵ By adopting the present decision, the Authority therefore complements the RAG 2007-13.

4. Conclusion

- (9) The Authority has accordingly decided to consider the prolongation of the regional aid map for Norway until and including 30 June 2014 to be compatible with the functioning of the EEA Agreement.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The prolongation of the Norwegian regional aid map 2007-2013 until and including 30 June 2014 is hereby approved.

Article 2

This decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Norway.

⁵ See Case C-242/00 *Germany v Commission* [2002] ECR p. I-5603 and paragraph 86 of RAG 2007-13.

Article 3

Only the English version is authentic.

Done at Brussels, 4 December 2013.

For the EFTA Surveillance Authority

Oda Helen Sletnes
President

Sverrir Haukur Gunnlaugsson
College Member