

Case No: 74663
Event No: 690210
Dec. No: 479/13/COL

EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY DECISION
of 4 December 2013
on the prolongation of 4 regional aid schemes 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,

Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement (“Protocol 3”), in particular to Article 1(3) of Part I,

Whereas:

I. FACTS

1. Procedure

- (1) On 23 October 2013 the Authority adopted the Guidelines on Regional State Aid for 2014-2020¹ (“RAG 2014-20”), in which it extended the period of application of the the Guidelines on National Regional Aid 2007-2013² (“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 and the prolongation of the approved aid schemes under RAG 2007-13 for the period from 1 January 2014 to 30 June 2014 (paragraph 163).
- (2) By its Decision No 478/13/COL of today the Authority approved the extension of application of the regional aid map for Norway for 2007-2013 until 30 June 2014.

¹ 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>.

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

- (3) The Norwegian authorities have likewise notified the Authority of the intended prolongation of all approved aid schemes listed in the Annex. They have done so by using the simplified notification procedure laid down in Article 4 of the Implementing Provisions Decision.

2. Description of the aid schemes and the notified amendments

- (4) All aid schemes listed in the Annex to this decision have been declared compatible with the functioning of the EEA Agreement. In the Annex, references are made to those decisions, which contain a detailed description and assessment of the aid schemes in question. With the present notifications the Norwegian authorities seek to extend the period of application of all aid schemes, as listed in the Annex, until 30 June 2014.
- (5) The Norwegian authorities have confirmed that all other conditions and commitments contained in the respective decisions approving the state aid schemes as listed in the Annex remain unchanged.
- (6) The Norwegian authorities have confirmed that the notifications do not contain business secrets.

3. Assessment

- (7) The Authority assesses the notified amendments in accordance with Article 4 of the Implementing Provisions Decision on the basis of the RAG 2007-13 and of paragraphs 162 and 163 of the RAG 2014-20.
- (8) The Authority notes that the notifications concern the prolongation of authorised aid schemes as listed in the Annex until and including 30 June 2014, which is in conformity with paragraph 163 of the RAG 2014-20. As the prolongation of these authorised aid schemes is limited to six months (i.e. from 1 January 2014 until 30 June 2014), it is significantly shorter than the six year period provided for in Article 4(2)(b) of the Implementing Provisions Decision.
- (9) In view of the above, and given the fact that that the prolongations of the schemes until and including 30 June 2014 are in conformity with paragraph 163 of the RAG 2014-20, the Authority is of the view that the notified amendments to all aid schemes as listed in the Annex are compatible with the functioning of the EEA Agreement on the basis of its Article 61. The aid schemes as listed in the Annex shall therefore be valid until 30 June 2014.

4. CONCLUSION

- (10) The Authority has accordingly decided to consider the notified amendments to the state aid schemes as listed in the Annex to be compatible with the internal market pursuant to Article 61 of the EEA Agreement.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The EFTA Surveillance Authority raises no objections to the notified prolongation of 4 regional aid schemes, as listed in the Annex to this Decision, until 30 June 2014.

Article 2

The implementations of the notified measures are authorised accordingly.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Norway.

Article 4

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

Case No: 74663
Event No: 690213

Annex to Decision No 479/13/COL (Event No 690210) – the 4 regional aid schemes prolonged until 30 June 2014

Title	Regionally differentiated social security contributions	The application of the depreciation rules of the Petroleum Tax Act at LNG facilities	Regional transport aid scheme	Regional risk-loan scheme
Decision approving the scheme	228/06/COL of 19.7.2006	411/06/COL of 19.12.2006	143/07/COL of 24.4.2007	410/06/COL of 19.12.2006
Authority Case No	59280	60970	61274	60867
OJ	C 305, 14.12.2006, p. 32	C 111, 17.5.2007, p. 22	C 266, 8.11.2007, p. 6	C 111, 17.5.2007, p. 21
EEA Supplement	No 26, 14.12.2006, p. 34	No 23, 17.5.2007, p. 6	No 52, 8.11.2007, p. 16	No 23, 17.5.2007, p. 5
National legal basis	Act no 19 of 28.2.1997 on social security Article 23-2, Decision of the Parliament No 1213 of 27.11.2012 on determination of social security fees etc. for 2013	Act no 35 of 13.6.1975 on petroleum tax Article 3(b)	National guidelines for regional transport aid	Act no 130 of 19.12.2003 on Innovation Norway
Overall budget	Tax concessions. No fixed overall budgets		NOK 27 million	NOK 100 million
Initial duration	1.1.2007-31.12.2013			
New duration	1.1.2014-30.6.2014			