0 1 MARS 2019

Brussels,
COMP.A3 DGdP/tb HT.5349 2019/028116

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATION, THE UNITED KINGDOM

Subject: **HT.5349 - Request to provide the annual report on State aid expenditure in 2018 - Deadline to submit the report: 30 June 2019.**

Sir/Madam,

I am contacting you regarding the annual reporting obligations on State aid in accordance with Articles 5 to 7 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 794/2004[1], as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/2282[2].

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[1].   OJ L 140, 10.4.2004, p. 1.
[2].   OJ L 325, 10.12.2015, p.1-180.

First, I would like to thank your authorities for the cooperation during the last reporting exercise in 2018. The summary of the corresponding reported expenditures has been published on the Commission website on 24 January 2019:
http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/scoreboard/index_en.html

Additionally, the information provided by your authorities regarding expenditures on State aid schemes is also included in the case information publicly available through the case search application: http://ec.europa.eu/competition/elojade/isef/

The State Aid Reporting Interactive (SARI) application[3] will be ready for reporting as from 1 March 2019. It will contain pre-filled information on the State aid measures introduced before 2018 that are not expired yet, as well as information regarding the State aid schemes, individual applications within schemes and *ad hoc* aid for which Commission Decisions were adopted in 2018. Based on our analysis of the information provided in 2018, we would like to draw your attention on the importance to report accurately on all expenditures, including those on renewable energy support schemes and structural funds, as well as to verify, and if necessary correct, the information regarding aid budgets (total and annual) and co-financed measures. More detailed guidance for reporting (Reporting Instructions) are enclosed to this letter and additionally uploaded into SARI, together with an updated user manual, to assist your authorities with the 2018 exercise.

DG Competition staff are happy to advise on specific questions and concerns, which can be submitted to the functional mailbox COMP-SARI@ec.europa.eu.

As for last year, the reporting on compensations and aid to the rail sector is part of the 2019 reporting cycle. To this end, a template with a comprehensive table is enclosed to this letter and will be additionally uploaded into SARI to assist your authorities with the preparation of the corresponding reporting. We invite you to submit your contribution to the functional mailbox COMP-SARI@ec.europa.eu.

Pursuant to Article 6 of the Implementing Regulation, I would like to ask your Government to ensure that **the complete annual report is submitted to DG Competition by 30 June 2019** by validation in SARI and provision of the railways reporting template.

Yours faithfully,

Kris Dekeyser

Enclosures: - Guidelines for annual reporting on State aid
                 - Template for reporting on rail sector

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[3]   The secured internet address of SARI is the same as in the previous year but will be communicated again to your national authority acting as the central state aid coordinator.