

COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 717/2014**of 27 June 2014****on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid in the fishery and aquaculture sector**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 108(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 994/98 of 7 May 1998 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to certain categories of horizontal State aid ⁽¹⁾,

Having published a draft of this Regulation ⁽²⁾,

After consulting the Advisory Committee on State Aid,

Whereas:

- (1) State funding meeting the criteria in Article 107(1) of the Treaty constitutes State aid and requires notification to the Commission by virtue of Article 108(3) of the Treaty. However, under Article 109 of the Treaty, the Council may determine categories of aid that are exempted from this notification requirement. In accordance with Article 108(4) of the Treaty, the Commission may adopt regulations relating to those categories of State aid. By virtue of Regulation (EC) No 994/98 the Council decided, in accordance with Article 109 of the Treaty, that *de minimis* aid could constitute one such category. On that basis, *de minimis* aid, being aid granted to a single undertaking over a given period of time that does not exceed a certain fixed amount, is deemed not to meet all the criteria laid down in Article 107(1) of the Treaty and is therefore not subject to the notification procedure.
- (2) The Commission has, in numerous decisions, clarified the notion of aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) of the Treaty. The Commission has also stated its policy with regard to a *de minimis* ceiling below which Article 107(1) of the Treaty can be considered not to apply, initially in its notice on the *de minimis* rule for State aid ⁽³⁾ and subsequently in Commission Regulations (EC) No 69/2001 ⁽⁴⁾ and (EC) No 1998/2006 ⁽⁵⁾. In view of the special rules which apply in the fishery and aquaculture sector and of the risks that even low levels of aid could fulfil the criteria laid down in Article 107(1) of the Treaty, the fishery and aquaculture sector was excluded from the scope of those Regulations. The Commission has already adopted a number of Regulations providing rules on *de minimis* aid granted in the fishery and aquaculture sector, the latest of which was Regulation (EC) No 875/2007 ⁽⁶⁾. By virtue of that Regulation, the total amount of *de minimis* aid granted to one single undertaking active in the fisheries sector was regarded as not meeting all the criteria laid down in Article 87(1) of the EC Treaty where it did not exceed EUR 30 000 per beneficiary over any period of three fiscal years and below a cumulative amount laid down for each Member State representing 2,5 % of annual fisheries output. In the light of the experience gained in applying Regulation (EC) No 875/2007, it is appropriate to revise some of the conditions laid down in that Regulation and to replace it.
- (3) It is appropriate to maintain the ceiling of EUR 30 000 as the amount of *de minimis* aid that a single undertaking may receive per Member State over any period of three years. That ceiling remains necessary to ensure that any measure falling under this Regulation can be deemed not to have any effect on trade between Member States and not to distort or threaten to distort competition where the total amount of such aid granted to all undertakings in the fishery and aquaculture sector over three years is below a cumulative amount laid down for each Member State representing 2,5 % of the annual fisheries turnover i.e. of catching, processing and aquaculture activities (the national cap).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 142, 14.5.1998, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 92, 29.3.2014, p. 22.

⁽³⁾ Commission notice on the *de minimis* rule for State aid (OJ C 68, 6.3.1996, p. 9).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 69/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to *de minimis* aid (OJ L 10, 13.1.2001, p. 30).

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 1998/2006 of 15 December 2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to *de minimis* aid (OJ L 379, 28.12.2006, p. 5).

⁽⁶⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 875/2007 of 24 July 2007 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to *de minimis* aid in the fisheries sector and amending Regulation (EC) No 1860/2004 (OJ L 193, 25.7.2007, p. 6).

- (4) For the purposes of the rules on competition laid down in the Treaty an undertaking is any entity engaged in an economic activity, regardless of its legal status and the way in which it is financed ⁽¹⁾. The Court of Justice of the European Union has ruled that all entities which are controlled (on a legal or on a *de facto* basis) by the same entity should be considered as a single undertaking ⁽²⁾. For the sake of legal certainty and to reduce the administrative burden, this Regulation should provide an exhaustive list of clear criteria for determining when two or more enterprises within the same Member State are to be considered as a single undertaking. The Commission has selected from the well-established criteria for defining 'linked enterprises' in the definition of small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC ⁽³⁾ and in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 ⁽⁴⁾ those criteria that are appropriate for the purposes of this Regulation. The criteria are already familiar to public authorities and should be applicable, given the scope of this Regulation, to both SMEs and large undertakings. Those criteria should ensure that a group of linked enterprises is considered as one single undertaking for the application of the *de minimis* rule, but that enterprises which have no relationship with each other except for the fact that each of them has a direct link to the same public body or bodies are not treated as being linked to each other. The specific situation of enterprises controlled by the same public body or bodies, which may have an independent power of decision, is therefore taken into account.
- (5) Considering the scope of the common fisheries policy and the definition of the fishery and aquaculture sector laid down in Article 5 (d) of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council ⁽⁵⁾, this Regulation should be applicable to undertakings active in production, processing and marketing of the fishery and aquaculture products.
- (6) It is a general principle that no aid should be granted in circumstances where EU law, and in particular rules of the common fisheries policy, are not complied with. This principle also applies to *de minimis* aid.
- (7) In view of the need to ensure coherence with the objectives of the common fisheries policy and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, in particular aid for purchase of fishing vessels, aid for the modernisation or replacement of main or ancillary engines of fishing vessels and aid to any of the ineligible operations under Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council ⁽⁶⁾ should be excluded from the scope of this Regulation.
- (8) The Court of Justice of the European Union has established that, once the Union has legislated for the establishment of a common organisation of the market in a given sector of agriculture, Member States are under an obligation to refrain from taking any measure which might undermine or create exceptions to it ⁽⁷⁾. This principle also applies in the fishery and aquaculture sector. For that reason, this Regulation should not apply to aid the amount of which is fixed on the basis of the price or quantity of products purchased or put on the market. Nor should it apply to support which is linked to an obligation to share the aid with primary producers.
- (9) This Regulation should not apply to export aid or aid contingent upon the use of domestic over imported products. In particular, it should not apply to aid financing the establishment and operation of a distribution network in other Member States or in third countries. Aid towards the costs of participating in trade fairs, or of studies or consultancy services needed for the launch of a new or existing product on a new market in another Member State or a third country does not normally constitute export aid.
- (10) Where an undertaking is active in the fishery and aquaculture sector and is also active in other sectors or has other activities falling within the scope of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 ⁽⁸⁾, the provisions of that Regulation should apply to aid granted in respect of those other sectors or activities, provided that the Member State concerned ensures, by appropriate means such as separation of activities or distinction of costs, that the activity in the fishery and aquaculture sector does not benefit from *de minimis* aid granted in accordance with that Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ Case C-222/04 *Ministero dell'Economia e delle Finanze v Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze SpA et al.* [2006] ECR I-289.

⁽²⁾ Case C-382/99 *Netherlands v Commission* [2002] ECR I-5163.

⁽³⁾ Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (OJ L 124, 20.5.2003, p. 36).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (OJ L 214, 9.8.2008, p. 3).

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on the common organisation of the markets in the fishery and aquaculture products, amending Council Regulations (EC) No 1184/2006 and (EC) No 1224/2009 and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 104/2000 (OJ L 354, 28.12.2013, p. 1).

⁽⁶⁾ Regulation EU No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 149, 20.5.2014, p. 1).

⁽⁷⁾ Case C-456/00 *France v Commission* [2002] ECR I-11949.

⁽⁸⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid (OJ L 352, 24.12.2013, p. 1).

- (11) Where an undertaking is active in the fishery and aquaculture sector as well as in the sector of primary production of agricultural products, the provisions of this Regulation shall apply to aid granted in respect of the former sector or activities, provided that the Member State concerned ensures, by appropriate means such as separation of activities or distinction of costs, that the primary production of agricultural products does not benefit from *de minimis* aid granted in accordance with this Regulation.
- (12) This Regulation should lay down rules to ensure that it is not possible to circumvent maximum aid intensities laid down in specific regulations or Commission decisions. It should also provide for clear rules on cumulation that are easy to apply.
- (13) The period of three years to be taken into account for the purposes of this Regulation should be assessed on a rolling basis so that, for each new grant of *de minimis* aid, the total amount of *de minimis* aid granted in the fiscal year concerned and during the previous two fiscal years needs to be taken into account.
- (14) This Regulation does not exclude the possibility that a measure might be considered not to be State aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) of the Treaty on grounds other than those set out in this Regulation, for instance because the measure complies with the market economy operator principle or because the measure does not involve a transfer of State resources. In particular, Union funding centrally managed by the Commission which is not directly or indirectly under the control of the Member State, does not constitute State aid and should not be taken into account in determining whether the relevant ceiling or the national cap is respected.
- (15) For the purposes of transparency, equal treatment and effective monitoring, this Regulation should apply only to *de minimis* aid for which it is possible to calculate precisely the gross grant equivalent *ex ante* without any need to undertake a risk assessment ('transparent aid'). Such a precise calculation can, for instance, be made for grants, interest rate subsidies, capped tax exemptions or other instruments that provide for a cap ensuring that the relevant ceiling is not exceeded. Providing for a cap means that as long as the precise amount of aid is not or not yet known, the Member State has to assume that the amount equals the cap in order to ensure that several aid measures together do not exceed the ceiling set out in this Regulation and to apply the rules on cumulation.
- (16) For the purposes of transparency, equal treatment and the correct application of the *de minimis* ceiling, all Member States should apply the same method of calculation. In order to facilitate such calculation, aid amounts not taking the form of a cash grant should be converted into their gross grant equivalent. Calculation of the gross grant equivalent of transparent types of aid other than grants and of aid payable in several instalments requires the use of market interest rates prevailing at the time such aid is granted. With a view to uniform, transparent and simple application of the State aid rules, the market rates applicable for the purposes of this Regulation should be the reference rates, as set out in the Communication from the Commission on the revision of the method for setting the reference and discount rates ⁽¹⁾.
- (17) Aid comprised in loans, including *de minimis* risk finance aid taking the form of loans, should be considered transparent *de minimis* aid if the gross grant equivalent has been calculated on the basis of market interest rates prevailing at the time the aid is granted. In order to simplify the treatment of small loans of short duration, this Regulation should provide for a clear rule that is easy to apply and takes into account both the amount of the loan and its duration. Based on the Commission's experience, loans that are secured by collateral covering at least 50 % of the loan and that do not exceed either EUR 150 000 and a duration of five years or EUR 75 000 and a duration of 10 years can be considered as having a gross grant equivalent not exceeding the *de minimis* ceiling. Given the difficulties linked to determining the gross grant equivalent of aid granted to undertakings that may not be able to repay the loan, this rule should not apply to such undertakings.
- (18) Aid comprised in capital injections should not be considered as transparent *de minimis* aid, unless the total amount of the public injection does not exceed the *de minimis* ceiling. Aid comprised in risk finance measures taking the form of equity or quasi-equity investments, as referred to in the risk finance guidelines ⁽²⁾, should not be considered as transparent *de minimis* aid unless the measure concerned provides capital not exceeding the *de minimis* ceiling.

⁽¹⁾ Communication from the Commission on the revision of the method for setting the reference and discount rates (OJ C 14, 19.1.2008, p. 6).

⁽²⁾ Community guidelines on State aid to promote risk capital investments in small and medium-sized enterprises (OJ C 194, 18.8.2006, p. 2).

- (19) Aid comprised in guarantees, including *de minimis* risk finance aid taking the form of guarantees, should be considered as transparent if the gross grant equivalent has been calculated on the basis of safe-harbour premiums laid down in a Commission notice for the type of undertaking concerned ⁽¹⁾. In order to simplify the treatment of guarantees of short duration securing up to 80 % of a relatively small loan, this Regulation should provide for a clear rule that is easy to apply and takes into account both the amount of the underlying loan and the duration of the guarantee. This rule should not apply to guarantees on underlying transactions not constituting a loan, such as guarantees on equity transactions. Where the guarantee does not exceed 80 % of the underlying loan, the amount guaranteed does not exceed EUR 225 000 and the duration of the guarantee does not exceed five years, the guarantee can be considered as having a gross grant equivalent not exceeding the *de minimis* ceiling. The same applies where the guarantee does not exceed 80 % of the underlying loan, the amount guaranteed does not exceed EUR 112 500 and the duration of the guarantee does not exceed 10 years. In addition, Member States can use a methodology to calculate the gross grant equivalent of guarantees which has been notified to the Commission under another Commission Regulation in the State aid area applicable at that time and which has been accepted by the Commission as being in line with the Guarantee Notice, or any successor notice, provided that the accepted methodology explicitly addresses the type of guarantee and the type of underlying transaction at stake in the context of the application of this Regulation. Given the difficulties linked to determining the gross grant equivalent of aid granted to undertakings that may not be able to repay the loan, this rule should not apply to such undertakings.
- (20) Where a *de minimis* aid scheme is implemented through financial intermediaries, it should be ensured that the latter do not receive any State aid. This can be done, for example, by requiring financial intermediaries that benefit from a State guarantee to pay a market-conform premium or to fully pass on any advantage to the final beneficiaries, or by respecting the *de minimis* ceiling and other conditions of this Regulation also at the level of the intermediaries.
- (21) Upon notification by a Member State, the Commission may examine whether a measure which does not consist of a grant, loan, guarantee, capital injection or risk finance measure taking the form of an equity or quasi-equity investment leads to a gross grant equivalent that does not exceed the *de minimis* ceiling and could therefore fall within the scope of this Regulation.
- (22) The Commission has a duty to ensure that State aid rules are complied with and in accordance with the co-operation principle laid down in Article 4(3) of the Treaty on European Union, Member States should facilitate the fulfilment of this task by establishing the necessary tools in order to ensure that the total amount of *de minimis* aid granted to a single undertaking under the *de minimis* rule does not exceed the overall permissible ceiling. To that end, when granting *de minimis* aid, Member States should inform the undertaking concerned of the amount of *de minimis* aid granted and of its *de minimis* character and should make express reference to this Regulation. Member States should be required to monitor aid granted to ensure the relevant ceilings are not exceeded and the cumulation rules are complied with. To comply with that obligation, before granting such aid, the Member State concerned should obtain from the undertaking a declaration about other *de minimis* aid covered by this Regulation or by other *de minimis* regulations received during the fiscal year concerned and the previous two fiscal years. Alternatively it should be possible for Member States to set up a central register with complete information on *de minimis* aid granted and check that any new grant of aid does not exceed the relevant ceiling.
- (23) Before granting any new *de minimis* aid, each Member State should verify that neither the *de minimis* ceiling nor the national cap will be exceeded in that Member State by the new *de minimis* aid and that the other conditions of this Regulation are complied with.
- (24) Having regard to the Commission's experience and in particular the frequency with which it is generally necessary to revise State aid policy, the period of application of this Regulation should be limited. If this Regulation expires without being extended, Member States should have an adjustment period of six months with regard to *de minimis* aid covered by this Regulation,

⁽¹⁾ For instance, Commission notice on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to State aid in the form of guarantees (OJ C 155, 20.6.2008, p. 10).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Scope

1. This Regulation applies to aid granted to undertakings in the fishery and aquaculture sector, with the exception of:
 - (a) aid the amount of which is fixed on the basis of price or quantity of products purchased or put on the market;
 - (b) aid to export-related activities towards third countries or Member States, namely aid directly linked to the quantities exported, to the establishment and operation of a distribution network or to other current expenditure linked to the export activity;
 - (c) aid contingent upon the use of domestic over imported goods;
 - (d) aid for the purchase of fishing vessels;
 - (e) aid for the modernisation or replacement of main or ancillary engines of fishing vessels;
 - (f) aid to operations increasing the fishing capacity of a vessel or equipment increasing the ability of a vessel to find fish;
 - (g) aid for the construction of new fishing vessels or importation of fishing vessels;
 - (h) aid to the temporary or permanent cessation of fishing activities unless specifically provided for in the Regulation (EU) No 508/2014;
 - (i) aid to exploratory fishing;
 - (j) aid to the transfer of ownership of a business;
 - (k) aid to direct restocking, unless explicitly provided for as a conservation measure by a Union legal act or in the case of experimental restocking.
2. Where an undertaking is active in the fishery and aquaculture sector and is also active in one or more of the sectors or has other activities falling within the scope of Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013, that Regulation shall apply to aid granted in respect of the latter sectors or activities, provided that the Member State concerned ensures, by appropriate means such as separation of activities or distinction of costs, that the activities in the fishery and aquaculture sector do not benefit from the *de minimis* aid granted in accordance with that Regulation.
3. Where an undertaking is active in the fishery and aquaculture sector as well as in the primary production of agricultural products falling within the scope of Commission Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 ⁽¹⁾, this Regulation shall apply to aid granted in respect of the former sector provided that the Member State concerned ensures, by appropriate means such as separation of activities or distinction of costs, that the primary production of agricultural products does not benefit from *de minimis* aid granted in accordance with this Regulation.

Article 2

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Regulation the following definitions shall apply:
 - (a) 'undertakings in the fishery and aquaculture sector' means undertakings active in the production, processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products;
 - (b) 'fishery and aquaculture products' means the products defined in Article 5 (a) and (b) of Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013;

⁽¹⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid in agriculture sector (OJ L 352, 24.12.2013, p. 9).

- (c) 'processing and marketing' means all operations, including handling, treatment, production and distribution, performed between the time of landing or harvesting and the end-product stage.
2. 'Single undertaking' includes, for the purposes of this Regulation, all enterprises having at least one of the following relationships with each other:
- (a) one enterprise has a majority of the shareholders' or members' voting rights in another enterprise;
 - (b) one enterprise has the right to appoint or remove a majority of the members of the administrative, management or supervisory body of another enterprise;
 - (c) one enterprise has the right to exercise a dominant influence over another enterprise pursuant to a contract entered into with that enterprise or to a provision in its memorandum or articles of association;
 - (d) one enterprise, which is a shareholder in or member of another enterprise, controls alone, pursuant to an agreement with other shareholders in or members of that enterprise, a majority of shareholders' or members' voting rights in that enterprise.

Enterprises having any of the relationships referred to in points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph through one or more other enterprises shall also be considered to be a single undertaking.

Article 3

De minimis aid

1. Aid measures shall be deemed not to meet all the criteria in Article 107(1) of the Treaty, and shall therefore be exempt from the notification requirement in Article 108(3) of the Treaty, if they fulfil the conditions laid down in this Regulation.
 2. The total amount of *de minimis* aid granted per Member State to a single undertaking in the fishery and aquaculture sector shall not exceed EUR 30 000 over any period of three fiscal years.
 3. The cumulative amount of *de minimis* aid granted per Member State to undertakings active in the fishery and aquaculture sector over any period of three fiscal years shall not exceed the national cap set out in the Annex.
 4. *De minimis* aid shall be deemed granted at the moment the legal right to receive the aid is conferred on the undertaking under the applicable national legal regime irrespective of the date of payment of the *de minimis* aid to the undertaking.
 5. The ceiling laid down in paragraph 2 and the national cap referred to in paragraph 3 shall apply irrespective of the form of the *de minimis* aid or the objective pursued and regardless of whether the aid granted by the Member State is financed entirely or partly by resources of Union origin. The period of three fiscal years shall be determined by reference to the fiscal years used by the undertaking in the Member State concerned.
 6. For the purposes of the ceiling laid down in paragraph 2 and the national cap referred to in paragraph 3, aid shall be expressed as a cash grant. All figures used shall be gross, that is, before any deduction of tax or other charge. Where aid is granted in a form other than a grant, the aid amount shall be the gross grant equivalent of the aid.
- Aid payable in several instalments shall be discounted to its value at the moment it is granted. The interest rate to be used for discounting purposes shall be the discount rate applicable at the time the aid is granted.
7. Where the ceiling laid down in paragraph 2 or the national cap referred to in paragraph 3 would be exceeded by the grant of new *de minimis* aid, none of that new aid may benefit from this Regulation.
 8. In the case of mergers or acquisitions, all prior *de minimis* aid granted to any of the merging undertakings shall be taken into account in determining whether any new *de minimis* aid to the new or the acquiring undertaking exceeds the ceiling or the national cap. *De minimis* aid lawfully granted before the merger or acquisition shall remain lawful.

9. If one undertaking splits into two or more separate undertakings, *de minimis* aid granted prior to the split shall be allocated to the undertaking that benefited from it, which is in principle the undertaking taking over the activities for which the *de minimis* aid was used. If such an allocation is not possible, the *de minimis* aid shall be allocated proportionately on the basis of the book value of the equity capital of the new undertakings at the effective date of the split.

Article 4

Calculation of gross grant equivalent

1. This Regulation shall apply only to aid in respect of which it is possible to calculate precisely the gross grant equivalent of the aid *ex ante* without any need to undertake a risk assessment ('transparent aid').
2. Aid comprised in grants or interest rate subsidies shall be considered as transparent *de minimis* aid.
3. Aid comprised in loans shall be considered as transparent *de minimis* aid if:
 - (a) the beneficiary is not subject to collective insolvency proceedings nor fulfils the criteria under its domestic law for being placed in collective insolvency proceedings at the request of its creditors. In case of large undertakings, the beneficiary shall be in a situation comparable to a credit rating of at least B-; and
 - (b) the loan is secured by collateral covering at least 50 % of the loan and the loan amounts to either EUR 150 000 over five years or EUR 75 000 over 10 years; if a loan is for less than those amounts and/or is granted for a period of less than five or 10 years respectively, the gross grant equivalent of that loan shall be calculated as a corresponding proportion of the ceiling laid down in Article 3(2); or
 - (c) the gross grant equivalent has been calculated on the basis of the reference rate applicable at the time of the grant.
4. Aid comprised in capital injections shall only be considered as transparent *de minimis* aid if the total amount of the public injection does not exceed the *de minimis* ceiling laid down in Article 3(2).
5. Aid comprised in risk finance measures taking the form of equity or quasi-equity investments shall only be considered as transparent *de minimis* aid if the capital provided to a single undertaking does not exceed the *de minimis* ceiling laid down in Article 3(2).
6. Aid comprised in guarantees shall be treated as transparent *de minimis* aid if:
 - (a) the beneficiary is not subject to collective insolvency proceedings nor fulfils the criteria under its domestic law for being placed in collective insolvency proceedings at the request of its creditors. In case of large undertakings, the beneficiary shall be in a situation comparable to a credit rating of at least B-; and
 - (b) the guarantee does not exceed 80 % of the underlying loan and either the amount guaranteed does not exceed EUR 225 000 and the duration of the guarantee is five years or the amount guaranteed does not exceed EUR 112 500 and the duration of the guarantee is 10 years; if the amount guaranteed is lower than these amounts and/or the guarantee is for a period of less than five or 10 years respectively, the gross grant equivalent of that guarantee shall be calculated as a corresponding proportion of the ceiling laid down in Article 3(2); or
 - (c) the gross grant equivalent has been calculated on the basis of safe-harbour premiums laid down in a Commission notice; or
 - (d) before implementation:
 - (i) the methodology used to calculate the gross grant equivalent of the guarantee has been notified to the Commission under another Commission Regulation in the State aid area applicable at that time and accepted by the Commission as being in line with the Guarantee Notice, or any successor Notice, and
 - (ii) that methodology explicitly addresses the type of guarantee and the type of underlying transaction at stake in the context of the application of this Regulation.
7. Aid comprised in other instruments shall be considered as transparent *de minimis* aid if the instrument provides for a cap ensuring that the relevant ceiling is not exceeded.

Article 5

Cumulation

1. Where an undertaking is active in the fishery and aquaculture sector and is also active in one or more of the sectors or has other activities falling within the scope of Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013, *de minimis* aid granted for activities in the fishery and aquaculture sector in accordance with this Regulation may be cumulated with *de minimis* aid granted in respect of the latter sector(s) or activities up to the relevant ceiling laid down in Article 3(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013, provided that the Member State concerned ensures, by appropriate means such as separation of activities or distinction of costs, that the activities in the fishery and aquaculture sector do not benefit from *de minimis* aid granted in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013.
2. Where an undertaking is active in the fishery and aquaculture sector as well as in the primary production of agricultural products, *de minimis* aid granted in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1408/2013 may be cumulated with *de minimis* aid in the fishery and aquaculture sector in accordance with this Regulation up to the ceiling laid down in this Regulation, provided that the Member State concerned ensures, by appropriate means such as separation of activities or distinction of costs, that the primary production of agricultural products does not benefit from *de minimis* aid granted in accordance with this Regulation.
3. *De minimis* aid shall not be cumulated with State aid in relation to the same eligible costs or with State aid for the same risk finance measure, if such cumulation would exceed the highest relevant aid intensity or aid amount fixed in the specific circumstances of each case by a block exemption regulation or a decision adopted by the Commission. *De minimis* aid which is not granted for or attributable to specific eligible costs may be cumulated with other State aid granted under a block exemption regulation or a decision adopted by the Commission.

Article 6

Monitoring

1. Where a Member State intends to grant *de minimis* aid in accordance with this Regulation to an undertaking, it shall inform that undertaking in writing of the prospective amount of the aid expressed as a gross grant equivalent and of its *de minimis* character, making express reference to this Regulation and citing its title and publication reference in the *Official Journal of the European Union*. Where *de minimis* aid is granted in accordance with this Regulation to different undertakings on the basis of a scheme and different amounts of individual aid are granted to those undertakings under that scheme, the Member State concerned may choose to fulfil that obligation by informing the undertakings of a fixed sum corresponding to the maximum aid amount to be granted under that scheme. In such case, the fixed sum shall be used for determining whether the ceiling laid down in Article 3(2) is reached and the national cap referred to in Article 3(3) is not exceeded. Before granting the aid, the Member State shall obtain a declaration from the undertaking concerned, in written or electronic form, about any other *de minimis* aid received to which this Regulation or other *de minimis* regulations apply during the previous two fiscal years and the current fiscal year.
2. Where a Member State has set up a central register of *de minimis* aid containing complete information on all *de minimis* aid granted by any authority within that Member State, paragraph 1 shall cease to apply from the moment the register covers a period of three fiscal years.
3. A Member State shall grant new *de minimis* aid in accordance with this Regulation only after having checked that this will not raise the total amount of *de minimis* aid granted to the undertaking concerned to a level above the ceiling laid down in Article 3(2) and the national cap referred to in Article 3(3) and that all the conditions laid down in this Regulation are complied with.
4. Member States shall record and compile all the information regarding the application of this Regulation. Such records shall contain all information necessary to demonstrate that the conditions of this Regulation have been complied with. Records regarding individual *de minimis* aid shall be maintained for 10 fiscal years from the date on which the aid was granted. Records regarding a *de minimis* aid scheme shall be maintained for 10 fiscal years from the date on which the last individual aid was granted under such a scheme.
5. On written request, the Member State concerned shall provide the Commission, within a period of 20 working days or such longer period as may be fixed in the request, with all the information that the Commission considers necessary for assessing whether the conditions of this Regulation have been complied with, and in particular the total amount of *de minimis* aid within the meaning of this Regulation and of other *de minimis* regulations received by any undertaking.

*Article 7***Transitional provisions**

1. This Regulation shall apply to aid granted before its entry into force if the aid fulfils all the conditions laid down in this Regulation. Any aid which does not fulfil those conditions will be assessed by the Commission in accordance with the relevant frameworks, guidelines, communications and notices.
2. Any individual *de minimis* aid which was granted between 1 January 2005 and 30 June 2008, and which fulfils the conditions of Regulation (EC) No 1860/2004 shall be deemed not to meet all the criteria in Article 107(1) of the Treaty and shall therefore be exempt from the notification requirement in Article 108(3) of the Treaty.
3. Any individual *de minimis aid* granted between 31 July 2007 and 30 June 2014 and which fulfils the conditions of Regulation (EC) No 875/2007 shall be deemed not to meet all the criteria in Article 107(1) of the Treaty and shall therefore be exempt from the notification requirement in Article 108(3) of the Treaty.
4. At the end of the period of validity of this Regulation, any *de minimis* aid scheme which fulfils the conditions of this Regulation shall remain covered by this Regulation for a further period of six months.

*Article 8***Entry into force and period of application**

This Regulation shall enter into force on 1 July 2014.

It shall apply until 31 December 2020.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 27 June 2014.

For the Commission
The President
José Manuel BARROSO

ANNEX

National cap as referred to in Article 3(3)

(EUR)

Member State	Maximum cumulative amount of <i>de minimis</i> aid granted per Member State in the fishery and aquaculture sector
Belgium	11 240 000
Bulgaria	1 270 000
Czech Republic	3 020 000
Denmark	51 720 000
Germany	55 520 000
Estonia	3 930 000
Ireland	20 820 000
Greece	27 270 000
Spain	165 840 000
France	112 550 000
Croatia	6 260 000
Italy	96 310 000
Cyprus	1 090 000
Latvia	4 450 000
Lithuania	8 320 000
Luxembourg	0
Hungary	975 000
Malta	2 500 000
Netherlands	22 960 000
Austria	1 510 000
Poland	41 330 000
Portugal	29 200 000
Romania	2 460 000
Slovenia	990 000
Slovakia	860 000
Finland	7 450 000
Sweden	18 860 000
United Kingdom	114 780 000