

State Aid: European Commission Approves Slovak Scheme to Support Cattle, Food and Beverage Producers

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On 14 September 2023, the European Commission approved an EUR 70 million scheme to support cattle, food and beverage producers in the context of Russia's war against Ukraine. The aid takes the form of a reduction of the social security contribution payable by employers for the period from August 2023 until January 2024.

The aid is capped at EUR 700 per employee per month. The purpose of the scheme is to support companies active in the cattle production and food and beverage sectors that are currently facing liquidity shortages due to the increased cost of electricity, animal feed and fertilisers.

The European Commission assessed the scheme under the EU State aid rules, in particular under article 107(3)(b) of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union \(TFEU\)](#) and the conditions set out in the Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework, and concluded that the scheme is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a Member State. The aid will not exceed EUR 250,000 per company active in cattle production; EUR 300,000 per company active in the processing of fisheries and aquaculture; and EUR 2 million per company active in other eligible sectors. The aid will be granted no later than 31 December 2023. The public version of the decision will be made available under case number SA.109076 in the State aid register.