

# State Aid: European Commission Approves Italian Scheme to Support Private Employers in Context of Russia's War Against Ukraine

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On 31 October 2023, the European Commission announced it had approved under EU State aid rules an Italian scheme aimed at supporting private employers in the context of the Russia's war against Ukraine (case number SA.108654). The scheme was found compatible with the State aid Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework adopted by the European Commission on 9 March 2023 (for details, see [State Aid: European Commission Adopts Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework to Further Support Transition Towards Net-zero Economy \(10 March 2023\)](#)).

Under the scheme, the aid takes the form of direct grants resulting in an exemption from the payment of social security contributions for the hiring of particularly disadvantaged workers between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023, up to a maximum of EUR 8,000 per hiring contract and subject to certain conditions.

The European Commission found that the Italian scheme is in line with the conditions of the Temporary Crisis and Transition Framework. In particular, the aid:

- will not exceed EUR 250,000 per beneficiary in the agricultural sector, EUR 300,000 per beneficiary in the fishery and aquaculture sectors and EUR 2 million per beneficiary in all other sectors; and
- will be granted no later than 31 December 2023.

The European Commission concluded that the Italian scheme is necessary, appropriate and proportionate to remedy a serious disturbance in the economy of a EU Member State, in line with 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.