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**Subject: State aid SA.109322 (2023/N) – Greece  
Amendment to the Regional aid map for Greece (1 January 2022 –  
31 December 2027) for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027  
(mid-term review)**

Excellency,

**1. PROCEDURE**

- (1) The Commission approved the regional aid map for Greece for the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2027 (hereinafter ‘regional aid map for Greece’) by Commission decision of 6 January 2022 <sup>(1)</sup> (hereinafter ‘initial Decision’). The regional aid map for Greece was subsequently amended, as approved by Commission decision of 14 July 2022 <sup>(2)</sup> (hereinafter ‘first amendment’).
- (2) Pursuant to paragraph 194 of the Guidelines on Regional State Aid <sup>(3)</sup> (hereinafter ‘RAG’), the Commission published on 2 June 2023 a Communication amending

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<sup>(1)</sup> Commission Decision C(2022) 25 final, in case SA.100372 (2021/N) – Greece – Regional aid map for Greece (1 January 2022 – 31 December 2027) (OJ C 060, 4.2.2022, p. 19), available at: <https://competition-cases.ec.europa.eu/cases/SA.100372>.

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Decision C(2022) 5087 final, in case SA.103501 (2022/N) – Greece – Amendment to the Regional aid map for Greece (1 January 2022 – 31 December 2027) – increased aid intensities for territories identified for support from the JTF (OJ C 337, 2.9.2022, p. 13), available at: <https://competition-cases.ec.europa.eu/cases/SA.103501>.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ C 153, 29.04.2021, p.1.

Κύριος Γιώργος Γεραπετρίτης  
Υπουργός Εξωτερικών  
Βασιλίσσης Σοφίας 5  
10671 Αθήνα  
ΕΛΛΑΔΑ

paragraph 188, Annexes I and IV to the RAG regarding the mid-term review of the regional aid maps for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2027 (the ‘Communication’) <sup>(4)</sup> that sets out the details of the mid-term review. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of the Communication, Member States that intend to amend their regional aid maps following the mid-term review are invited to notify the Commission of those amendments pursuant to Article 108(3) TFEU before 15 September 2023. Such amendments may concern the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027 and are not mandatory.

- (3) By electronic notification dated 12 September 2023, registered at the Commission on the same day (Ares(2023)6178102), the Greek authorities notified the second amendment to the regional aid map for Greece (hereinafter ‘second amendment’) in the context of that mid-term review.

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTIFIED AMENDMENT TO THE REGIONAL AID MAP

- (4) In their notification, the Greek authorities propose to increase the aid intensity in the NUTS 2 regions of EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio, EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia. Under the regional aid map for Greece, the NUTS 2 regions of EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio, EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia were identified as areas eligible for regional aid under Article 107(3), point (a), TFEU (hereinafter “a” areas’) based on paragraph 159, point (1), RAG. In line with paragraph 179, point (2), RAG, the NUTS 2 regions of EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia were designated on the regional aid map for Greece with a maximum aid intensity for large enterprises of 40 %, based on the fact that their gross domestic product (‘GDP’) per capita is above 55 % and below or equal to 65 % of the EU-27 average. In line with paragraph 179, point (3), RAG the NUTS 2 region of EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio was designated on the regional aid map for Greece with a maximum aid intensity for large enterprises of 30 %, based on the fact that its GDP per capita is above 65 % of the EU-27 average. As set out in paragraph 13 of the Communication and shown in Table 1, the GDP per capita in the NUTS 2 regions of EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia has fallen below 55 % of the EU-27 average, and in the NUTS 2 region of EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio below 65 % of the EU-27 average.

*Table 1: Proposed higher maximum aid intensities established in accordance with paragraph 179 in ‘a’ areas <sup>(5)</sup>*

NUTS Code	Name of NUTS region	GDP per capita 2016-2018	GDP per capita 2019-2021	Maximum aid intensity in the regional aid map for Greece	Proposed maximum aid intensities
EL42	Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio	73.67	64.00	30 %	40 %
EL43	Κρήτη / Kriti	58.33	52.67	40 %	50 %

<sup>(4)</sup> Communication from the Commission (2023/C 194/05) amending paragraph 188, Annexes I and IV to the Guidelines on regional State aid regarding the mid-term review of the regional aid maps for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2027 (OJ C 194, 2.6.2023, p. 13).

<sup>(5)</sup> The aid intensities apply to large enterprises and can be increased for small and medium-sized enterprises in accordance with Section 3.4. of the initial Decision.

EL53	Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia	59.67	53.33	40 %	50 %
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- (5) Pursuant to the first amendment, the NUTS 2 regions of EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio, EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia benefit from an increase of 10 percentage points in the maximum aid intensity due to their status as territories identified for support from the Just Transition Fund <sup>(6)</sup> (hereinafter ‘JTF’). The Greek authorities propose to maintain this 10-percentage point increase under the second amendment.
- (6) Consequently, in application of paragraphs 179 and 187 RAG and paragraphs 11 and 13 of the Communication, for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027, Greece proposes to increase the maximum aid intensity for the NUTS 2 region of EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio from 30 % to 40 %, to increase the maximum aid intensity for the NUTS 2 regions of EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia from 40 % to 50 %, and to maintain the increase of aid intensity by 10 percentage points for all those three NUTS 2 regions, entitling EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio to a maximum aid intensity of 50 %, and EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia to a maximum aid intensity of 60 %.
- (7) Greece proposes no other modifications to its regional aid map as approved by the initial Decision and the first amendment.

### 3. ASSESSMENT

#### 3.1. The proposed higher maximum aid intensity established in accordance with paragraphs 179 and 187 RAG in ‘a’ areas

- (8) Paragraph 179, point (1), RAG provides that the maximum aid intensity for large enterprises in ‘a’ areas with a GDP per capita below or equal to 55 % of the EU-27 average must not exceed 50 %. Paragraph 179, point (2), RAG provides that the maximum aid intensity for large enterprises in ‘a’ areas with a GDP per capita above 55 % and below or equal to 65 % of the EU-27 average must not exceed 40 %. According to paragraph 187 RAG, the maximum aid intensities for ‘a’ areas laid down by the RAG may be increased by 10 percentage points for territories identified for support from the JTF in a territorial just transition plan of a Member State approved by the Commission on the condition that those territories are located in assisted areas according to Article 107(3), point (a), TFEU.
- (9) The NUTS 2 regions of EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio, EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia are designated as ‘a’ areas in the regional aid map for Greece. Under the regional aid map for Greece, the maximum aid intensity for large enterprises in the NUTS 2 region of EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio is 40 %, following the application of an increase of the aid intensity established based on paragraph 179, point (3), RAG by 10 percentage points from 30 % to 40 % in accordance with paragraph 187 RAG. The maximum aid intensity for large enterprises in the NUTS 2 regions of EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia is 50 %, following the application of an increase of

<sup>(6)</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).

the aid intensity established based on paragraph 179, point (2), RAG by 10 percentage points from 40 % to 50 % in accordance with paragraph 187 RAG <sup>(7)</sup>.

- (10) Paragraph 13 of the Communication lists EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio, EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia as NUTS 2 regions that can be proposed for a higher maximum aid intensity. According to Eurostat data for the period 2019-2021, the GDP per capita of EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio has decreased to 64.00 % of the EU-27 average, of EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti to 52.67 % and of EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia to 53.33 %, as shown in Table 1 and in Annex 1 to the Communication. This decrease entitles the regions to a higher maximum aid intensity on the basis of Section 7.4.1 RAG. In particular, EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio is entitled to a maximum aid intensity for large enterprises of 40 % established on the basis of paragraph 179, point (2), RAG, and EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia to 50 % on the basis of paragraph 179, point (1), RAG. The maximum aid intensity can be further increased to 50 % in EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio and to 60 % in EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia based on paragraph 187 RAG and in line with the first amendment. Therefore, the increase of the maximum aid intensity for EL42 Νότιο Αιγαίο / Notio Aigaio, EL43 Κρήτη / Kriti and EL53 Δυτική Μακεδονία / Dytiki Makedonia, as proposed by the Greek authorities in recitals (4) to (6) for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027 is in line with the provisions of the RAG and the Communication.
- (11) The Commission notes that all other conditions set out in the initial Decision and in the first amendment remain unchanged.

### **3.2. General conclusion**

- (12) In view of the above, the Commission takes the view that the second amendment to the Greek regional aid map for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027, as notified by the Greek authorities, is in line with the RAG.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- (13) The Commission has accordingly decided:
- to approve the amendment to the Greek regional aid map for the period from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2027 as set out in the Annex, which includes all designated areas approved in the initial Decision and in the first amendment, as it fulfils the conditions laid down in the Guidelines on Regional State Aid, as adopted on 19 April 2021, and the Communication amending paragraph 188, Annexes I and IV to the Guidelines on Regional State Aid.

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<sup>(7)</sup> Recital (13) and (15) of the first amendment.

The full text of this letter in the authentic language will be published on the following Internet site: <https://competition-cases.ec.europa.eu/search?caseInstrument=SA>.

Yours faithfully,

For the Commission

Didier REYNDERS  
Member of the Commission

## ANNEX to the decision on case SA.109322 (2023/N)

### Guidelines on regional State aid (OJ C 153, 29.4.2021, p.1.)

#### GREECE - Regional aid map applicable from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2027

Zone Code	Zone Name	Maximum aid intensities applicable to regional aid granted to large enterprises <sup>8</sup>
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#### **‘a’ areas**

NUTS Code	Name of NUTS region	Maximum aid intensities (large enterprises) 1.1.2024-31.12.2027
EL41	Voreio Aigaio	60%
EL42	Notio Aigaio	<b>50%</b>
EL43	Kriti	<b>60%</b>
EL51	Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	50%
EL52	Kentriki Makedonia	50%
EL53	Dytiki Makedonia	<b>60%</b>
EL54	Ipeiros	50%
EL61	Thessalia	50%
EL62	Ionia Nisia	40%
EL63	Dytiki Elláda	50%
EL64	Stereia Elláda	40%
EL643	Evrytania (Sparsely Populated Area)	
EL65	Peloponnisos (partially: excluding Αργολίδα / Arkadia - the municipalities of Μεγαλόπολης / Megalópolis, of Γορτυνίας / Gortynias and of Τρίπολης / Trípolis from EL651 Αργολίδα, Αρκαδία / Argolida, Arkadia; and Μεσσηνία/ Messinia - the municipality of Οιχαλίας / Ochalia from EL653 Λακωνία, Μεσσηνία / Lakonia, Messinia).	40%
EL65	Peloponnisos (partially: only Αρκαδία / Arkadia - the municipalities of Μεγαλόπολης / Megalópolis, of Γορτυνίας / Gortynias and of Τρίπολης / Trípolis from EL651 Αργολίδα, Αρκαδία / Argolida, Arkadia; and Μεσσηνία/ Messinia - the municipality of Οιχαλίας / Ochalia from EL653 Λακωνία, Μεσσηνία / Lakonia, Messinia).	50%

#### **Non-predefined ‘c’ areas**

NUTS Code	Name of NUTS region	Maximum aid intensities (large enterprises) 1.1.2022-31.12.2027
EL302	Dytikos Tomeas Athinon	15%
EL305	Anatoliki Attiki	25%
EL306	Dytiki Attiki	25%
EL307	Peiraias, Nisoi	25%

<sup>8</sup> For investment projects with eligible costs not exceeding EUR 50 million this ceiling is increased by 10 percentage points for medium-sized companies and 20 percentage points for small companies as defined in the Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (OJ L 124, 20.5.2003, p. 36). For large investment projects, this maximum aid intensity is subject to adjustment in accordance with paragraph 19(3) of the RAG.