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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	Working Party on Competition
Subject:	Presidency discussion paper on the points of interest of Member States in the State aid field (agenda item 5.)

Delegations will find attached a Presidency discussion paper on the points of interest of Member States in the State aid field, to steer the discussion in view of the Working Party on Competition meeting on 17 February 2025.



POLAND25.EU

Working Party on Competition on 17th February 2025

Presidency discussion paper on the points of interest of Member States in the State aid field

We are at the point in time where the new Commission and the new Commissioner for Competition are concluding their plans for future work. And since no final political decisions have been made, we are now at the right time and place to raise awareness on the most serious problems, the most urgent issues and the best ideas for the future. We are looking for everything that will help to boost our competitiveness and improve the functioning of the internal market, while applying the competition/State aid rules that can help achieve these goals and that protect against possible threats to a properly functioning market, rules that provide a level playing field for development for all Member States.

We therefore want to ask Member States to signal to this community the elements of the State aid policy that are most important to them, that cause problems, constitute restrictions or threats to the level playing field and also what works well and should be kept in future. We want to ask you to point out what is crucial for you and what should or at least could be improved. Let us focus on issues that directly affect some of you, which slip under our radar because we focus on the bigger ones, but which nevertheless exist and constitute some burdens in our actions.

In order to do that, we would like to ask Member States to reflect on the following issues:

- 1) Please, list 1, 2 maximum 3 **topics that are currently the biggest problems or priorities for your country** in State aid policy and explain why; is this a problem unique to your country or could it also affect other EU countries or the internal market?
- 2) Please, indicate how, in your opinion, this **problem could be solved**; what can countries do, what can the Commission or other institutions do about it?
- 3) Please, indicate whether, and if so, **how the proposed solution could affect other Member States and – if it is possible to determine – the internal market**; what positive impact the solution to this problem could have on the EU?; could it be also beneficial for other Member States and the EU economy?
- 4) Which of the **current solutions/provisions work well, in your opinion, and should be kept** in future?

What is worth underlying, we don't want to make this debate either long or too detailed, we'd rather prefer it to be concise but rich in specific issues exchange.

At the same time, we would like the Commission to take note of our contributions, identify the problems that concern us and, if it considers them worth solving, at the appropriate moment, use them in a way which could be the most suitable.