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| **3.**  **Supplementary information sheet on aid in**  **RURAL AREAS** |

*This form must be used for the notification of any State aid measure for the rural areas covered by Chapter 3 of Part II of the European Union Guidelines for State aid in the agriculture and forestry sectors and in rural areas ('the Guidelines').*

*Please submit information concerning the legal basis provided for in national law, or the draft act providing the legal basis in national law, together with any additional documents, such as calculation methodology, expert(s)’ opinion, which describe in more details the State aid measure.*

*If aid for the rural areas is to be granted under Union rules common to all sectors or specific to trade and industry, please use the applicable notification form for those sectors when notifying a State aid measure.*

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| **1. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** |

* 1. Please indicate the category of aid:

aid for basic services in rural areas;

business start-up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas;

aid for agri-environment-climate commitments in rural areas to beneficiaries other than farmers;

aid for area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements to beneficiaries other than farmers;

aid to promote and support quality schemes for cotton or foodstuffs and their use by farmers;

aid for cooperation in rural areas, including aid for participating in community-led local development (‘CLLD’) and European Innovation Partnership for agricultural productivity and sustainability (‘EIP’) Operational Group projects;

aid for setting up mutual funds.

* 1. Will the aid be granted in the framework of a strategic plan in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/2115?

yes  no

If the answer is no, please note that the aid cannot be declared compatible with the internal market on the basis of the Guidelines.

* 1. Please indicate the relevant strategic plan and the measure under which the aid is granted:

Strategic plan: ………………………………………………………………………….

Measure: ………………………………………………………………………….

* 1. Is it co-financed by the EAFRD or does it constitute additional national financing?

(a) co-financed by the EAFRD

(b) additional national financing

* 1. Is the aid granted in favour of working capital?

yes  no

If the answer is yes, please note that such aid may be considered to be compatible with the internal market only where aid is provided in the form of financial instruments.

* 1. Is the aid granted as operating aid?

yes  no

If the answer is yes, please note that such aid may be considered to be compatible with the internal market only such aid is expressly provided for in the relevant Union legislation.

* 1. Is the aid available to undertakings in difficulty as defined in point (33)66 of the Guidelines?

yes  no

If the answer is yes, please note that under point (23) of the Guidelines, the Commission considers that when an undertaking is in financial difficulty, given that its very existence is in danger, it cannot be considered an appropriate vehicle for promoting other public policy objectives until such time as its viability is assured. Such aid must therefore comply with the Commission Guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring non-financial undertakings in difficulty, unless it is exempt from the obligation to notify it.

* 1. Is the aid available to undertakings which are subject to an outstanding recovery order following a previous Commission decision declaring an aid illegal and incompatible with the internal market?

yes  no

If the answer is yes, please note that when assessing such aid, the Commission will take account of the amount of aid still to be recovered.