

Training Aid

In the context of the Block
exemption regulations

Legal basis for compatibility

- Derogation of Article 87(3) EC as regards training
 - Article 87(3)c EC: Aid to facilitate the development of certain economic activities or certain areas, where such aid does not adversely affect trading conditions

Scope of application of the BER

- Training aid BER: all sectors

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Content of the training aid exemption regulation: Substantive criteria for compatibility

- In principle no substantive changes: only change of procedure was envisaged
- Conditions of compatibility with the common market are taken from the previously applicable framework

Specific conditions: Training Aid

- Distinction between “general training” and “specific training”, Art. 2 of BER: varying degree of of transferability of qualifications
- General training: 50 %
- Specific training: 25 %

Notification large individual aids

- Threshold of notification for large projects
 - Training: aid > 1 million Euro
- Commission examines in the light of the criteria of the Regulation
- Cumulation : only possible if the overall intensity remains within the ceilings fixed by the Regulation (Art. 6 (2)).

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Conclusions

- The four regulations are in force until 31.12.2006
- Future block exemption regulations ?
- The three BERs will be prolonged for one year
 - R&D aid for SMEs has been included in the SME Block exemption
 - AGRI aid for SMEs has been adopted last year
 - “Super-BER” ? Commission plans to widen the scope of the BER and include some other areas such as environment, culture and so on.
 - Following the adoption of the new regional aid guidelines, possibility to block exempt certain types of Regional aid.
 - The De minimis Regulation will not be included in the Super BER, since it follows another logic.