



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: COREPER
to: Council

Subject: EU State Aid Modernisation
– Presidency conclusions

Delegations will find attached, for their information, the Presidency conclusions set out in Annex.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL, 13 NOVEMBER 2012
EU STATE AID MODERNISATION

Presidency conclusions

Having taken note of the Commission Communication of 8 May 2012 on "State Aid Modernisation (SAM)"¹, and acknowledging the forthcoming discussion in the Council (COMPET) on 10 December 2012, the Presidency:

1. WELCOMES the Commission plan to modernise state aid control to better exploit its potential to support growth, employment and EU competitiveness, while contributing to Member States efforts towards a more efficient use of public finances.
2. SUPPORTS objectives of (i) redirecting state aid towards initiatives that can efficiently and effectively support the achievement of the Europe 2020 growth objectives, (ii) prioritising scrutiny of those types of aid which are potentially the most harmful to the internal market and (iii) simplifying the rules and procedures to ensure faster, better informed and more robust decisions based on a clear economic rationale, a common approach and clear obligations.
3. EMPHASISES that an effective control of state aid should be based on a clear and predictable framework for Member States policies that ensures a transparent level playing field in the internal market.
4. AGREES that instruments allowing for a better prioritisation and greater simplification should go hand in hand with effective evaluation and control of compliance with the State aid rules at the national and European level, while remaining proportionate and preserving the institutional competences of the Commission and the Member States.
5. INVITES the Commission to develop its proposals in close consultation with the Member States.

¹ Doc. 10266/12.