

SUBSIDISED INTEREST PAYMENTS FOR LOANS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES ('SMEs')

Following the large number of legislative measures adopted by the Greek state in the context of COVID-19 crisis and pursuant to a Decision of the Deputy Minister of Development and Investment numbered 37674/2020 (Government Gazette B' 1291/10.04.2020), an *Invitation for Aid in the form of subsidised interest rates for loans of small and medium enterprises ('SMEs') affected by the measures adopted following the COVID-19 outbreak* has been published. The aid granted will be covering the interest payments of their business loan obligations for a period of 3 months.

Conditions

Recipients of the aid, i.e. companies that can receive public funding in the framework of the action, are Small and Medium-sized Enterprises ('SMEs') regardless of their legal form, operating legally in Greece, provided that the following conditions are met:

- The undertakings must be active on 19.03.2020 in the sectors of the affected Activity Code Numbers ('KΑΔ') referred to in Appendix V of the Invitation.
- The undertakings must be Small and Medium Enterprises ('SMEs') pursuant to Appendix I of Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. Specifically, (pursuant to the Regulation) ***small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs')*** are those employing fewer than 250 persons and having an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.
- The aid will not be granted to undertakings excluded pursuant to article 40 of Law 4488/2017, i.e. undertakings , against which sanctions for violation of employment regulations have been imposed.
- The aid may be granted only to undertakings that were not facing financial difficulties on 31.12.2019¹.
- The aid granted to undertakings active in the processing and marketing of agricultural products is conditional on not

¹The aid may be granted to undertakings that faced difficulties or entered in difficulty as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak provided they were not in difficulty on 31.12.2019.

being partly or entirely passed on to primary producers.

- Any order for recovery of illegal state aid shall not be pending against them.
- The undertakings must commit that on 31.12.2020 will employ at least the same number of employees as the number of employees employed on 19.03.2020².

It should be noted that the aid will not be granted to financial organizations and offshore companies.

Interest payment subsidy

The aid given will not exceed EUR 800,000 per undertaking (pursuant to the Announcement 19.3.2020/C(2020) No 1863 of the Commission). It should be noted that the undertakings, which have been given the option of temporarily suspending loan capital payments may also receive the specific aid.

Application submission process

Applications can be submitted electronically to the State Aid Information System (www.ependyseis.gr/mis) with all relevant documents of Appendix VI.

The submission of the applications³ begins on 15.04.2020 time 12:00 (EEST) and will remain open until 30.06.2020 time 17:00 (EEST).

² Companies that have been given the opportunity to suspend employment contracts in the context of COVID-19 measures may also receive the specific aid.

³ The submission will be made gradually based on the last digit of the TIN of the potential recipient (one digit per day), while from the 11th day until as

of 30.6.2020, all recipients, regardless of TIN, can apply.