

EN

E-005877/2020

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Vestager
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.12.2020)

1. As of 3 December 2020, the Commission has taken 371 decisions approving 444 national measures notified by 27 Member States and the United Kingdom (UK).

On this basis, the amount of around EUR 3.01 trillion of total State aid approved so far is a best estimate, based on budgets approved in State aid decisions and other publicly available figures. It should be noted that some Member States have notified preliminary budgets to the Commission that may be further adapted.

All State aid approved has been found necessary and proportionate to support businesses and remedy the serious disturbance to the European economy due to the COVID-19 outbreak. There are large differences in budgets approved across Member States, which appear linked to the impact of the pandemic in each Member State, the fiscal space and the respective size of their economies.

Around 52.5% of State aid approved has been notified by Germany. Italy has notified measures that represent around 14.9% of the entire amount of State aid approved, while the aid notified by France represents 14.1%. The aid notified by Spain represents 4.9%, the aid notified by the UK represents 2.7%, while the aid notified by Poland and Belgium corresponds to around 1.9% and 1.8% respectively. Aid notified by other Member States is estimated to be between 0.01% and 1.1% of the total EUR 3.01 trillion estimated.

Recently, the Commission has launched a survey to seek information from Member States on the implementation of COVID-19 related State aid measures. Pending the publication in line with the transparency obligations under the Temporary Framework, this preliminary data can only give a first insight, as the time-span surveyed was very short and the information made available to the Commission by Member States may not have been complete. Member States have also made very different use of the instruments (i.e. grants, guarantees, loans etc.) with varying impact on competition. It is also not possible at this stage to provide data per economic sector.

With these caveats in mind and based on the replies of all 27 Member States (the UK did not reply), in the period between mid-March and end of June 2020, of the estimated EUR 2.3 trillion in aid approved by then, around EUR 354 billion was actually spent.

In absolute terms, according to the preliminary data submitted by Member States, France has granted more than a third of the total aid paid out (EUR 123 billion), followed by Germany with 27% of the total aid paid out (EUR 96 billion), Spain at 18.5% (EUR 65 billion), and Italy at about 7% (EUR 26 billion).

In relative terms, according to the preliminary data sent by Member States, Spain is the country that has disbursed the most as compared to its own gross domestic product (GDP) (5.3%), followed by France (5.1%), Poland (2.9%), Germany (2.8%), Portugal (2.5%), Slovenia (1.9%), Malta (1.8%), Austria (1.6%), Cyprus (1.4%) and Italy (1.4%). At EU level,

the coronavirus related State aid spending until the end of June 2020 corresponds to around 2.6% of EU GDP.

2. State aid approved under the Temporary Framework has been necessary and proportionate to support businesses and remedy the serious disturbance to the European economy due to the COVID-19 outbreak. At the same time, there are huge differences in the budgets approved across Member States, which appears linked to the fiscal space they have as well as the respective size of their economies.

The comprehensive package of EUR 1 824.3 billion, approved by the European Council in July 2020, which combines the multiannual financial framework (MFF - EUR 1 074.3 billion) and Next Generation EU (EUR 750 billion), including the Recovery and Resilience Facility, will be deployed in a short space of time based on national plans to be presented. It will therefore provide an immediate and effective contribution to restoring a level playing field in the Single Market.