

Brussels, 10 July 2024
Case No: 92179
Document No: 1460846
Decision No 112/24/COL

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
PO Box 8090
Dep 0032 Oslo
Norway

**Subject: ENOVA investment aid scheme for floating offshore wind
- amendments**

1 Procedure and description of measure

- (1) On 3 July 2024, Norway notified the EFTA Surveillance Authority (“ESA”) of a planned budget increase (“the measure”) of the State aid scheme to support investment in floating offshore wind (“the scheme”). The scheme was originally approved by ESA’s [Decision No 108/23/COL](#) (“the approval decision”). With the measure, the total budget is raised from NOK 4 billion (approx. EUR 337 million) to NOK 10 billion (approx. EUR 850 million).¹ The scheme remains otherwise unchanged.
- (2) The measure is notified under the simplified procedure under Article 4 of ESA’s [Decision No 195/04/COL](#) on the implementing provision referred to under Article 27 of Part II of Protocol 3 to the Agreement between the EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice (“[Decision No 195/04/COL](#)”) and in accordance with ESA’s [Decision No 533/09/COL](#) providing guidelines on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain types of State aid (“the Guidelines”).²
- (3) The measure is described in the [summary of the notification](#) published on ESA’s website.³
- (4) ESA considers that there are no circumstances precluding the application of the simplified procedure in line with paragraphs 8 to 10 in Annex I of the Guidelines. In addition, ESA notes that the Norwegian authorities have confirmed that the aid granted under the scheme will not benefit an undertaking which is subject to an outstanding recovery order in line with paragraph 11 of the Guidelines.

¹ For currency conversions related to notifications, ESA uses the relevant exchange rate from the European Commission’s currency converter for the month when a complete notification was submitted, see <https://www.eftasurv.int/state-aid/rates>. The complete notification was submitted on 8/12/2023 (see para (1) of this decision). The relevant exchange rate for December 2023 is NOK 1 = EUR 0.0855.

² ESA [Decision No 533/09/COL](#) of 16 December 2009, OJ 2012 L 75, pp. 26-35.

³ Press release of 14 December 2023: <https://www.eftasurv.int/newsroom/updates/call-comments-planned-budget-increase-norwegian-aid-scheme-alternative-fuels>.

- (5) ESA also confirms that the Norwegian authorities have submitted annual reports in accordance with Article 21 in Part II of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement. The requirement in Article 4(3) of Decision 195/04/COL is therefore fulfilled.

2 Lawfulness of the aid

- (6) The Norwegian authorities have notified the measure and have yet to let it enter into force, thereby complying with the obligations under Article 1(3) of Part I of Protocol 3 to the Agreement between the EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice

3 Assessment

3.1 Existence of aid within the meaning of Article 61(1) of the EEA Agreement

- (7) By its approval decision, ESA concluded that the scheme constitutes State aid within the meaning of Article 61(1) of the EEA Agreement. The changes introduced by the notified measure do not alter ESA's conclusion in this regard.

3.2 Compatibility of the aid

- (8) ESA's assessment of the notified measure is that the amendment does not raise any doubts as to its compatibility with the functioning of the EEA Agreement. The additional budget will be disbursed under an otherwise unaltered scheme, i.e. under the same principles that ESA considered to be compatible with the functioning of the EEA Agreement in its approval decision, including under the same maximum aid intensities. Therefore, the budget increase of the scheme does not alter ESA's original compatibility assessment as set out in the approval decision.
- (9) ESA finally notes that it did not receive any comments from third parties upon publication of a summary of the notification on its website.

4 Conclusion

- (10) On the basis of the foregoing assessment, ESA considers that the budget increase constitutes State aid with the meaning of Article 61(1) of the EEA Agreement. ESA finds that the aid is compatible with the functioning of the EEA Agreement pursuant to its Article 61(3)(c) and therefore has no objections to its implementation.
- (11) The Norwegian authorities have confirmed that the notification does not contain any business secrets or other confidential information that should not be published.

For the EFTA Surveillance Authority,

Yours faithfully,

For Arne Røksund
President
Responsible College Member

Stefan Barriga
College Member

Árni Páll Arnason
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This document has been electronically authenticated by Arni Pall Arnason, Mel-po-Menie Josephides.