

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

ARES (2016) 6.7.2.6.308

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY (REGIO) Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programmes Implementation IV

Brussels, REGIO.DGA2.G.5/PT

01 12. 2016 HOYPTEIO ELAIKH I PANAMATEIA ALAXEP THI Ε.Π.«ΜΕΤΑΡΡΥΘΜΙΣΗ Δ

Dear Mr. Korkolis,

Exemption from the self-suspension clause on ICT projects, ExAC 2.1 Subject:

I refer to your letter of 18 November 2016 in which you ask for an exemption from the self-suspension clause applicable to Ex Ante Conditionality 2.1 - ICT growth strategy.

The proposed exemption concerns "phased" projects. It would allow the declaration of already generated expenditure and thereby allow the programmes concerned to meet their expenditure targets as per 31 December 2016.

The exemption would allow the Managing Authorities which will host these projects to proceed with the call for proposals, evaluation, and approval of projects in conformity with the applicable rules and procedures, in advance of the formal approval of Greece's Digital Strategy.

Our services can agree with the proposed exemption from the self-suspension clause. This exemption should be limited to cases where it is needed to mitigate the risk of not meeting expenditure targets by 31 December 2016. I underline that the responsibility for verifying the eligibility of those projects lies with the competent Greek authorities. Please communicate to my services the list of phased ICT projects approved for exemption.

The Greek authorities should verify and ensure the coherence of the exempted projects with the 2014-2020 programming period and notably the Digital Strategy which is being finalised. This verification should be conducted by the General Secretariat for Digital Policy within the newly established Ministry for Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media. As a matter of course, if projects do not conform to the priorities of the said Digital Strategy and/or are not selected on the basis of the established rules and procedures, they cannot be included in the programme, neither now or in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Panagiotis Korkolis,

Secretary General for Public Investments and NSRF

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