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Committee on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures

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SUBSIDIES

NEW AND FULL NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XVI:1 OF THE GATT 1994 AND ARTICLE 25 OF THE AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES

EUROPEAN UNION

Addendum

The following addendum to the notification of the European Union dated and received on 31 July 2025 relates to the subsidy programmes of **Belgium**.

Table of Contents

1	FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4
1.1	R&D Scheme in the Aeronautical Sector	4
2	FLEMISH REGION	5
2.1	Aid for Economic Expansion – Decree of 16 March 2012 on the Economic Support Policy.....	5
2.1.1	Decision of the Flemish Government of 17 December 2010 regarding the granting of aid to enterprises for ecological investments in the Flemish Region (Ecology Premium plus or EP+) – SA.108201	5
2.1.2	Decision of the Flemish Government of 16 November 2012 regarding the granting of aid to enterprises for strategical ecological investments in the Flemish Region (Strategic ecology support or STRES) – SA.108202.....	6
2.1.3	Decision of the Flemish Government of 17 July 2013 regarding strategic transformation aid for enterprises in the Flemish Region (Strategic Transformation Support – STS) – SA.108200.....	7
2.2	Aid to Enterprises – Decision of the Flemish Government of 26 February 2016 regarding the granting of aid to small and medium-sized enterprises for entrepreneurship-encouraging services and SME growth subsidy (SME E Wallet + SME Growth Subsidy) – No SA number (<i>de minimis</i>).....	8
2.3	Research and Development – Decision of the Flemish Government of 12 May 2017 regarding the granting of aid to enterprises for R&D with a knowledge intensive character in Flanders (SA.108207) and Decision of the Flemish Government of 12 May 2017 regarding the granting of aid to enterprises for development and innovation in Flanders (SA.108206)	9
2.4	Aid for Employment – Decision of the Flemish Government of 10 June 2016 regarding the execution of the Decree of 4 March 2016 on the Flemish policy on targetted groups of employees (formerly Decision of 18 July 2008 regarding the professional integration of people with a disability)	11
3	WALLOON REGION	13
3.1	Aid for SMEs	13
3.1.1	Decree of 11 March 2004 – Implementation Order of 6 May 2004	13
3.2	Aid for Disadvantaged Regions	13
3.2.1	Decree of 11 March 2004 on regional incentives in favour of large enterprises Implementation Order of 6 May 2004	13
3.2.2	Aid co-financed by the European Union – European Regional Development (ERDF) Programme 2014-2020 and 2021-2027	14
3.3	Research and Technology Aid.....	15
3.3.1	Decree of 3 July 2008 on support for research, development and innovation in the Walloon Region	15
3.4	Support for Investments in favor of the Manufacture of Products	16
3.4.1	Decree of the Walloon Government of special powers n° 74 relating to the granting of an investment premium in favor of the manufacture of products linked to COVID-19, in accordance with the communication from the Commission relating to the temporary framework state aid measures to support the economy in the current context of the COVID-19 outbreak.	16
3.4.2	Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 10 décembre 2020 confiant une mission déléguée à la S.A. SOFIPOLE pour l’octroi d’une subvention à l’Université de Liège pour le financement des investissements destinés à la production de produits dans le cadre du dépistage du COVID-19....	17
4	BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION	19
4.1	Economic Expansion Aid	19

4.1.1 Investment aid (2023): Ordinance of 3 May 2018 on aid measures aimed at the economic development of enterprises - Investment aid - Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty SA 52749 – SA 108738	19
4.1.2 Investment aid (2024): Ordinance of 13 October 2023 on aid measures aimed at the economic development of enterprises - Investment aid - Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty	20
4.1.3 Consultancy and training aid measures (2018): Ordinance of 3 May 2018 on aid measures aimed at the economic development of enterprises - Aid for Consultancy, Studies and Training - COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to <i>de minimis</i> aid - Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to <i>de minimis</i> aid	21
4.1.4 Consultancy and training aid measures (2023): Ordinance of 13 October 2023 on aid measures aimed at the economic development of enterprises - Aid for Consultancy, Studies and Training - Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to <i>de minimis</i> aid ...	22
4.2 Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Aid	23
4.2.1 RDI aid: Ordinance of 27 July 2017 aimed at promoting research, development and innovation by granting aid for economic purposes intended for enterprises and research organisms assimilated to enterprises - Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty - Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to <i>de minimis</i> aid - Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to <i>de minimis</i> aid - SA 60199 – 60200 – 60201 – 60202 – 60203 – 60204 – 60205 – 60206 – 60207 – 60188 – 60195 60196	23

1 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

1.1 R&D Scheme in the Aeronautical Sector

1. Title of the subsidy programme, if relevant, or brief description or identification of the subsidy

- 1) "Aéronautique 2008-2013".
- 2) "Aéronautique dans le cadre des programmes Airbus" → started in 2018.

2. Period covered by the notification

- 1) 2008-mid 2014.
- 2) 2018-2023.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

Aid for R&D&I in the aeronautical industry.

4. Background and authority for the subsidy

Competent authorities: Federal Public Service Economy and Belgian Science Policy.

5. Form of the subsidy (i.e., grant, loan, tax concession, etc.)

Repayable advances.

6. To whom and how the subsidy is provided

Provided to companies in the aeronautical industry through advances.

7. Amount of the Subsidy

- 1) 2023: EUR 174,748,910 (cumulative 2023 included).
2024: EUR 174,748,910 (cumulative 2024 included).
- 2) 2023: EUR 23,179,438 (cumulative 2023 included).
2024: EUR 25,854,496 (cumulative 2024 included).

8. Duration of the subsidy and/or any other time limits attached to it, including date of inception/commencement

- 1) Contract implementation started in the period 2008-June 2014.
- 2) Contract implementation started in the period 2019-2023.

9. Trade effects of the Subsidy

No trade effects, it only concerns aid (i.e., repayable advances) for R&D&I.

- 1) Financial support in the form of a repayable advance capped at 60% of the eligible industrial research expenditures actually incurred and 40% of the experimental development expenditures actually incurred.
- 2) Financial support in the form of a repayable advance capped at 60% of the eligible industrial research expenditures actually incurred and 35% of the experimental development expenditures actually incurred.
This aid falls under the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

2 FLEMISH REGION

2.1 Aid for Economic Expansion – Decree of 16 March 2012 on the Economic Support Policy

On 16 March 2012 a new decree on the economic support policy entered into force (and replaced the old decree of 31 January 2003). The decree contains merely a consolidation of the current EU state aid legislation.

2.1.1 Decision of the Flemish Government of 17 December 2010 regarding the granting of aid to enterprises for ecological investments in the Flemish Region (Ecology Premium plus or EP+) – SA.108201

1. Form of aid

This scheme is aimed at investment aid, but exclusively for ecological investments, as defined in the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) No. 651/2014 of the European Commission (OJ, 26/6/2014, L 187). The aid is given in the form of a subsidy.

2. Amount of aid in 2023 and 2024

In 2023, the Flemish Government granted aid for ecological investments based on this scheme for a total budget of EUR 9.53 million.

In 2024, the Flemish Government granted aid for a total budget of EUR 6.18 million.

3. Objectives of the aid

The Flemish Government agrees with the overall aim of reduction and reorientation of aid measures towards more horizontal objectives. The promotion of ecological investments is a valuable tool in achieving that goal.

4. Time-frame

The decision of the Flemish Government of 17 December 2010 came into force on 1 February 2011. The scheme was amended slightly in 2015 to bring it in line with the new 2014 GBER. The scheme continued until mid-2024.

5. Statistics

There are no statistics available which could contribute to the evaluation of the effects of this aid scheme on WTO commerce and trade.

6. Legal basis

The Decree of 16 March 2012 on the economic support policy and its implementing decisions of the Flemish Government.

7. Rules and conditions

The scheme has been developed to provide aid to all enterprises, regardless of their size, for ecological investments. The enterprises qualifying for aid will receive a percentage of their eligible investment costs.

Depending on the type of investment (environmental protection, energy, renewals, etc.), various aid intensities are possible, within the maximum limits of the EU GBER. The Flemish Government established a limited list of accepted technologies which qualify for aid. If an enterprise invests in an accepted technology, it can receive a subsidy. If the technology is not already accepted, another procedure is followed in order to investigate the merits of the new technology. If accepted by the

engineers of the Ministry of the Flemish Community, the new technology is placed upon the list, thus ensuring easier acceptance for future cases.

The various Decisions of the Flemish Government and ministerial decrees can adapt the scheme towards other types of eligible cost, aid amounts or aid percentages. The scheme is open-ended, where every eligible case will receive aid. The maximum aid amount is EUR 1 million, and the aid intensity is set at 15-55% of the extra costs.

2.1.2 Decision of the Flemish Government of 16 November 2012 regarding the granting of aid to enterprises for strategic ecological investments in the Flemish Region (Strategic ecology support or STRES) – SA.108202

1. Form of aid

This scheme is aimed at investment aid, but exclusively for ecological investments, as defined in the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) No. 651/2014 of the European Commission (OJ, 26/6/2014, L 187). The aid is given in the form of a subsidy.

2. Amount of aid in 2023 and 2024

In 2023, the Flemish Government granted aid for ecological investments based on this scheme for a total budget of EUR 2.32 million.

In 2024, the Flemish Government granted aid for a total budget of EUR 2.40 million.

3. Objectives of the aid

The Flemish Government agrees with the overall aim of reduction and reorientation of aid measures towards more horizontal objectives. The promotion of ecological investments is a valuable tool in achieving that goal.

4. Time-frame

The decision of the Flemish Government of 16 November 2012 came into force on 28 February 2013. The scheme was amended slightly in 2015 to bring it in line with the new 2014 GBER. The scheme continued until mid-2024.

5. Statistics

There are no statistics available which could contribute to the evaluation of the effects of this aid scheme on WTO commerce and trade.

6. Legal basis

The Decree of 16 March 2012 on the economic support policy and its implementing decisions of the Flemish Government.

7. Rules and conditions

The scheme has been developed to provide aid to all enterprises, regardless of their size, for ecological investments. The enterprises qualifying for aid will receive a percentage of their eligible investment costs. This scheme must be seen as an extra possibility besides the before-mentioned EP+ scheme. Whereas the EP+ scheme works with a standard list of already approved and accepted technologies, the second strategic STRES scheme, focusses on new and innovative technologies which were not yet commonly accepted. As a rule, the strategic projects are larger and more challenging compared to the more basic approach of the EP+ scheme.

The various Decisions of the Flemish Government and ministerial decrees can adapt the scheme towards other types of eligible cost, aid amounts or aid percentages. Depending on the type of investment (environmental protection, energy, renewals, etc.), various aid intensities are possible, within the maximum limits of the EU GBER.

The scheme is open-ended, where every eligible case will receive aid. The maximum aid amount is EUR 1 million, and the aid intensity is set at 20-40% of the extra costs.

2.1.3 Decision of the Flemish Government of 17 July 2013 regarding strategic transformation aid for enterprises in the Flemish Region (Strategic Transformation Support – STS) – SA.108200

1. Form of aid

The scheme puts the focus on the "transformation" aspects of new investments or training activities organized by enterprises. In order to be eligible for aid, the potential beneficiaries have to demonstrate that the foreseen investment or training contributes towards a new kind of investment or activity which is new or more elaborate for the enterprise and thus enabling the beneficiary to transform into a more efficient and stable enterprise, conform the New Industrial Policy of the Flemish Government. The projects must focus on innovation, international economic competitiveness, knowledge dissemination and sustainability.

This scheme still contains 3 types of aid. It is on the one hand aimed at investment aid, both by SME's in the whole Flemish territory as for large enterprises in assisted areas of the 2014-2021 and 2022-2027 regional aid maps, and on the other hand aimed at training aid for SME's and large enterprises in the whole of the Flemish territory.

The aid is given in the form of a subsidy.

2. Amount of aid in 2023 and 2024

In 2023, a total of EUR 8.36 million was attributed to this type of aid (6.85 million to training aid, 1.49 million to SME investment aid and 0 million to regional investment aid for large enterprises).

In 2024, a total of EUR 10.22 million was attributed to this type of aid (5.6 million to training aid, 4.61 million to SME investment aid and 0 million to regional investment aid for large enterprises).

3. Objectives of the aid

The regional aid part is aimed at the development of the lowest scoring areas within the Flemish Region and provides the Flemish Government with a strong tool for attracting (new) investors towards the assisted areas where the economic situation is less favourable than in the rest of the country and the European Union.

A potential beneficiary of the aid has to prove in a two-scenario approach which investments or training would be organized even without the aid, and which extra investments or training would be developed in the event of receiving aid. Only the cost of the extra investments or training, going beyond what the beneficiary would invest anyway, is eligible. This will lead to lower aid amounts and less deadweight, leaving more of the budget available to grant in favour of new or extra investments.

The investment aid for SMEs is in line with the overall aim of reduction and reorientation of aid measures towards more horizontal objectives. The promotion of investments by SMEs is one of the best ways of ensuring that. The aid scheme aims at promoting entrepreneurship.

The training aid part is also in line with the overall aim of reduction and reorientation of aid measures towards more horizontal objectives. The promotion of training is a very good way of ensuring that. The aid benefits not only the beneficiaries but also the employees, as they acquire more skills and competences which increase their value on the labour market.

4. Time-frame

The decision of the Flemish Government of 17 July 2013 is based upon the 2014 GBER and will continue until 2025.

5. Statistics

There are no statistics available which could contribute to the evaluation of the effects of this aid scheme on WTO commerce and trade.

6. Legal basis

The Decree of 16 March 2012 on the economic support policy and its implementing decisions of the Flemish Government.

7. Rules and conditions

There are threshold of minimal eligible cost that have to be reached in order to qualify as a strategic project.

For investment aid, a potential individual beneficiary should at least invest between EUR 1 and EUR 3 million (depending of its size) or between EUR 3 and EUR 7 million for cooperating enterprises. The standard aid intensity is set at 8% of the eligible costs.

The training aid scheme has been developed to provide aid for SME's and large enterprises throughout Flemish territory for "strategic" or large training programmes. For training aid a potential individual beneficiary should at least invest between EUR 100,000 and EUR 300,000 (depending of its size) or between EUR 300,000 and EUR 700,000 for cooperating enterprises. The standard aid intensity is set at 20% of the eligible cost.

The maximum aid amount is set at EUR 500,000 per individual beneficiary. Transformation project which an exceptional importance for sustainability or climate goals can receive up to EUR 1 million.

2.2 Aid to Enterprises – Decision of the Flemish Government of 26 February 2016 regarding the granting of aid to small and medium-sized enterprises for entrepreneurship-encouraging services and SME growth subsidy (SME E Wallet + SME Growth Subsidy) – No SA number (*de minimis*)

1. Form of aid

This scheme is aimed at SMEs and focusses on giving entrepreneurs financial aid in the purchase of training and advisory services. This aid regime is fully web-based and paperless. The aid is given in the form of a subsidy.

2. Amount of aid in 2023 and 2024

The total budget for this scheme in 2023 was EUR 45.57 million for the SME E-Wallet and EUR 11.95 million for the SME Growth Subsidy.

The total budget for this scheme in 2024 was EUR 44 million for the SME E-Wallet and EUR 13.62 million for the SME Growth Subsidy.

3. Objectives of the aid

The Flemish Government agrees with the overall aim of reduction and reorientation of aid measures towards more horizontal objectives. The promotion of aid for SMEs in order to stimulate them to obtain specialized external advice or training is a positive element for the sustainability and results of the enterprises.

4. Time-frame

The decision of the Flemish Government of 26 February 2016 will continue until 2025.

5. Statistics

There are no statistics available which could contribute to the evaluation of the effects of this aid scheme on WTO commerce and trade.

6. Legal basis

The Decree of 16 March 2012 on the economic support policy and its implementing decisions of the Flemish Government.

The decision of 26 February 2016 is currently based upon the EU new "*de-minimis*" regulation 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 (OJ of 15 December 2023, L serie).

7. Rules and conditions

There are 2 kinds of aid possible.

1) SME e-wallet

The beneficiary can buy training or consultancy services from an external, certified service provider. The aid is granted in the form of a subsidy. The maximum aid intensity is set at 20% of the eligible costs for a medium sized enterprise and at 30% for a small enterprise.

The maximal aid amount per beneficiary is set at EUR 7,500 per year per enterprise. The maximal aid amount can be divided between several aid applications during one year.

Certain costs regarding mandatory training or services are excluded, as are services that are continuous or periodic or relate to the undertaking's usual operating costs.

2) SME growth subsidy

A beneficiary that develops a SME growth project can receive a subsidy. A SME growth project is considered as a (re)orientation roadmap to realise significant growth within the SME during a process of transformation, innovation or internationalisation. The Project has to be strategic, and has to lead to growth. It has to be irreversible and has to have a substantial impact on the internal processes of the undertaking. The beneficiaries can receive a subsidy for buying specialised consultancy from an external, certified service provider. The beneficiary can also decide to hire a new employee with a strategic profile.

The maximum aid intensity is set at 50%. The maximal aid amount per beneficiary is set at EUR 25,000 per year for both the strategic consultancy or for the employment of a new member of staff, resulting in a total maximum aid amount of EUR 50,000.

Starting from 2023 the SME growth subsidy scheme is amended and will work with periodical calls, and will focus on 4 themes (digitalisation, innovation, sustainable and circular entrepreneurship, and internationalisation).

2.3 Research and Development – Decision of the Flemish Government of 12 May 2017 regarding the granting of aid to enterprises for R&D with a knowledge intensive character in Flanders (SA.108207) and Decision of the Flemish Government of 12 May 2017 regarding the granting of aid to enterprises for development and innovation in Flanders (SA.108206)

1. Form of the aid

Direct subsidies related to R&D projects proposed by enterprises in Flanders. The first scheme focusses on the more early stages ("knowledge intensive") of R&D and are called "Research Projects". The second scheme focusses at project in the later stages of development and innovation closer to the market and are called "development projects".

2. Amount of aid in 2023 and 2024

In 2023, a total of EUR 86.92 million was attributed to the knowledge intensive scheme, and EURO 101.72 million was attributed to the development projects.

In 2024, a total of EUR 113.38 million was attributed to the knowledge intensive scheme, and EURO 120.36 million was attributed to the development projects.

3. Objectives of the aid

Research, development and innovation.

4. Time-frame

The aid scheme started in 2018 and will continue until 2025.

5. Statistics

There are no statistics available which could contribute to the evaluation of the effects of this aid scheme on WTO commerce and trade.

6. Legal basis

The new decisions of 17 May 2017 were based upon the Decree regarding the budget 2002, article 41ter, §2, as modified by decree of 20 November 2015. This change of legal bases was made upon the creation of a new Flemish Agency, Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship ("VLAIO") which is now competent to grant all RDI aid to enterprises in Flanders.

Both new decisions are based upon the RDI articles of the 2014 GBER.

7. Rules and conditions

1) Research project

The knowledge intensive decision focusses on the more early stages of R&D. It is a subsidy for enterprises extending or reinforcing their research and development activities. Specifically, this entails the agency giving subsidies for the implementation of individual projects by one or more companies. In doing so, the project starts with an innovative idea requiring new knowledge and whereby research and possibly development activities must be carried out.

The project must be substantial (aid amount demanded between 100,000 and 3 million euro). The eligible costs are staff and other costs related to the knowledge development phase in an innovation trajectory.

The aid intensity can vary between 25 to 60% of the project budget.

2) Development project

The development decisions or innovation decisions, focus on subsidies for innovations that play a key role in achieving a business case that can strengthen the business of the beneficiaries.

The project must be substantial (aid amount demanded between 25,000 and 3 million euro). The eligible costs are staff and other costs related to a development project.

The aid intensity can vary between 25 to 50% of the project budget.

2.4 Aid for Employment – Decision of the Flemish Government of 10 June 2016 regarding the execution of the Decree of 4 March 2016 on the Flemish policy on targetted groups of employees (formerly Decision of 18 July 2008 regarding the professional integration of people with a disability)

1. Form of the aid

This scheme is aimed at providing employment aid, as defined by the EU Commission in the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) No. 651/2014 of the European Commission (OJ, 26/6/2014, L 187). The scheme was last notified to the Commission under number SA.53048. The aid is given in the form of a subsidy.

On the 1st July 2023, it was no longer possible for employers and self-employed to introduce a new demand for the aid. The measure is replaced by individual tailored support. Only employers and self-employed who already have the aid can continue to benefit from this aid until the end of the decision, with a maximum of 5 years.

2. Amount of aid in 2023

In 2023: EUR 112,710 million

In 2024: EUR 72,645 million

3. Objectives of the aid

The public employment service VDAB decides which persons with a disability have a right to this grant for an unlimited period or for a limited period. People are granted a right for a limited period when their disability causes extra costs or a loss of production. When their situation can still progress, persons are granted a right for a limited period.

The grant for persons with a right for a limited period is maximum 20% of the salary for a period of two years.

The grant for persons with a right for an unlimited period gives employers an assurance that they will be reimbursed with 40% of the salary in the first year, then with 30%, and then with 20% as from the fifth year. The grant is also based on the actual wage (with a maximum of up to the double of the minimum wage). The reason for this gradual approach is that an employer's costs come mainly at the beginning of the employment.

After two years (grant for a limited period) or five years (grant for an unlimited period), the employer can ask for a prolongation of the grant. The employer must motivate this request. The experts of VDAB visit the workplace to assess the necessity of the grant (minimum 20% loss of production or extra costs compared to an employer without a disability).

The integration of an employee with a disability often takes longer and working methods have to be adapted and tasks distributed, etc. It is possible for a grant higher than these basic amounts to be paid (up to 60%), but then the employer must demonstrate his real additional costs or loss of production. The experts of VDAB visit the working place to assess the necessity of this increase of the grant.

The regulations also provide for a simplified application for contributions for adapting equipment, purchasing adapted tools, employing interpreters and paying moving or accommodation costs.

4. Duration of the programme

The scheme was renotified and prolonged according to the 2014 GBER and is now valid until the end of 2023.

5. Statistical data

The aim of the aid is to enhance the labour participation of people with disabilities. The impact is thus mainly on employment in very diverse sectors. There are no statistical data available that would make it possible to assess its effects on world trade.

In 2023, employers and self-employed received an integration premium grant for the employment of 14,184 persons with a disability.

In 2024, due to the start of individual tailored support, employers and self-employed received an integration premium grant for 9,727 persons.

6. Legal basis

The decision of the Flemish Government of 10 June 2016 regarding the execution of the decree of 4 March 2016 on the Flemish policy on targeted groups of employees (formerly decision of 18 July 2008).

3 WALLOON REGION

3.1 Aid for SMEs

3.1.1 Decree of 11 March 2004 – Implementation Order of 6 May 2004

1. Form of the subsidy

Investment premium (non-repayable premium) irrespective of the investment financing method.

Investments eligible to receive a premium are those in tangible and intangible fixed assets.

Exemption from the tax on income from immovable assets (maximum five years) for investment in immovable assets, including investment in real property and fixtures.

2. Budget

2023

The budget for 2023 amounted to EUR 81.49 million. The premiums are awarded for a wide range of projects and sectors of activity.

2024

The budget for 2024 amounted to EUR 81.33 million. The premiums are awarded for a wide range of projects and sectors of activity.

3. Policy objective

The incentives created to assist the socio-economic development of the Walloon Region are awarded, via a grant decision by the Walloon Region, to any natural or legal person that undertakes to carry out one or more operations aimed at achieving sustainable development and promoting job creation. The incentives are only awarded if they will make a decisive contribution to achieving these aims.

In practical terms, the premiums are awarded in order to encourage investment by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). An SME is an enterprise with a payroll not exceeding 250 people and a turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million or annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.

The premiums are awarded to SMEs in the industrial, handicraft, tourism, trade and services sectors.

The scheme applies throughout the territory of the Walloon Region for all enterprises meeting the SME criteria.

The scheme is therefore not specific, except insofar as it applies only to SMEs.

4. Duration

No time-limit has been fixed for the implementation of the scheme and the budget is adopted annually.

3.2 Aid for Disadvantaged Regions

3.2.1 Decree of 11 March 2004 on regional incentives in favour of large enterprises Implementation Order of 6 May 2004

Aid to large enterprises are only granted for projects in favour of new economic activity in the area concerned (according to article 14 of Commission regulation (EU) n° 651/2014), except investments in assisted areas type a.

1. Form of the subsidy

Investment grant (non-repayable grant) irrespective of the investment financing method. Investments in tangible and intangible fixed assets are eligible.

Exemption from real estate tax for seven years on equipment and tools and for maximum of 5 years on buildings.

2. Budget

2023 budget

The budget amounted to EUR 15.19 million. The premiums are awarded for a wide range of projects and sectors of activity.

2024 budget

The budget amounted to EUR 12.36 million. The premiums are awarded for a wide range of projects and sectors of activity.

3. Policy objective

In order to assist the sustainable development of the Region, the Government, within the specific budgetary limits set annually, may grant incentives to large enterprises which have operational site situated in a development zone in the Walloon Region and which have an investment programme significantly contributing to sustainable development and in favour of new economic activity in assisted areas type c.

In order to assess the importance of an investment programme in relation to sustainable development, are taken into particular consideration the nature of the investment programme, the job creation, the field of activity in which it operates and the economic environment in which it is implemented.

The arrangements for granting the incentive are the subject of an agreement concluded between the parties.

The incentives are granted in accordance with European Community regulations and, in particular, those concerning regional State aid in conformity with the ceilings set by the European Commission decision approving the eligible areas map for Belgium and other Community rules adopted under the provisions set forth in Articles 108 of the Treaty establishing the European Union.

The incentives provided for by the present Decree may be combined with aid from European structural funds.

4. Duration

No time-limit has been fixed for the implementation of the scheme and the budget is adopted annually.

3.2.2 Aid co-financed by the European Union – European Regional Development (ERDF) Programme 2014-2020 and 2021-2027

Implementation Order of 6 May 2004, as amended by the Order of 23 July 2015 (2014-2020) and as amended by the order of 5 April 2023 (2021-2027).

Decree of 11 March 2004 on regional incentives in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises.

This order of 23 July 2015 introduced a scheme of assistance relating to the Objective « Investment for Growth and Employment » for SMEs.

Within the framework of aids co-financed by the European Union (ERDF) 2014-2020 programme, measure 1.1.1. aims at stimulating investment in small and medium sized companies located in assisted areas (according to the regional aid map). Under the 2021-2027 ERDF programme, measure 4 also aims at stimulating investment in small and medium sized companies located in assisted areas (according to the 2022 and 2024 regional aid maps).

1. Form of the subsidy

Regional investment aid is co-financed by the European Union (ERDF). The aid takes the form of an investment premium as described above, and a potential exemption of real estate tax during 5 years, with respect to the maximum aid intensity established in the regional aid map.

2. Budget

2023 budget (regional component): (ERDF 2014-2020)

The budget amounted to EUR 1.92 million. Aids are granted to a wide range of projects and sectors of activity (divided in 16 eligible fields of activity).

2024 budget (regional component) (ERDF 2021-2027)

The budget amounted to EUR 1.99 million. Aids are granted to a wide range of projects in the manufacturing sectors of activity.

3. Policy objective

The same as mentioned above, except that there are specific sectorial requirements and a minimum number of jobs to be created (4 or 6 units depending on the size of the company).

4. Duration

The scheme for the period 2014-2020 came to an end on 31/12/2023. The current scheme is the European Regional Development (ERDF) Programme 2021-2027. It started as off 01/01/2021 and will come to an end on 31/12/2029.

3.3 Research and Technology Aid

3.3.1 Decree of 3 July 2008 on support for research, development and innovation in the Walloon Region

Walloon Government Order of 18 September 2008 on support for research, development and innovation in the Walloon Region

1. Form of the aid

- A. Aid for innovation for small and medium-sized enterprises.
- B. Aid for research projects - experimental development – subvention
- C. Aid for research projects - experimental development - repayable advances
- D. Aid for research projects - Industrial research.
- E. Aid for organisational and process innovation.
- F. Aid for Covid

2. 2023 and 2024 budgets

Form of the aid	Budget in 2023	Budget in 2024
A.	5,416,108.65	5,504,029.58
B.	61,001,878.07	39,520,702.52
C.	40,724,263.85	33,861,103.39
D.	83,317,576.75	85,177,521.01
E.	0	0
F.	0	0
Total	190,459,827.32	164,063,356.50

3. Policy objective

This is horizontal aid designed to promote research and development and to encourage innovation. It is available to all economic sectors.

The aid is not granted automatically, but depends on an assessment of the quality of the project by the administrative services and, in the case of aid awarded on the basis of calls for projects, by independent international experts.

Where the aid consists of a repayable advance, the beneficiary enterprise pays it back in the form of regular payments if it has decided to exploit the results of the research industrially or commercially.

4. Duration

The budget for R&D aid is adopted annually by the Walloon Parliament.

The duration of aid corresponds to the duration of the research work or the study financed.

5. Statistical data

The aid has an impact on trade because it may lead to the marketing of innovative products, processes or services. However its impact is difficult to isolate from the many other factors affecting trade, and is therefore difficult to evaluate statistically.

3.4 Support for Investments in favor of the Manufacture of Products**3.4.1 Decree of the Walloon Government of special powers n° 74 relating to the granting of an investment premium in favor of the manufacture of products linked to COVID-19, in accordance with the communication from the Commission relating to the temporary framework state aid measures to support the economy in the current context of the COVID-19 outbreak.**

COVID 19-related products include drugs, vaccines and other relevant medical treatments, their intermediates, active pharmaceutical ingredients and raw materials, and diagnostic tools.

1. Form of the subsidy

Investment grant (non-repayable grant) of 50% of eligible costs, for both SMEs and large companies. on investments in tangible and intangible fixed assets are eligible. Eligible investments relate to the costs necessary for the manufacture of products related to COVID-19. Concretely, the investments can be distributed as follows: Fitting out and equipping buildings; New, used or reconditioned equipment, and incidental costs relating thereto, necessary for manufacture; which includes the storage and transport as well as the possible packaging of the manufactured products; Costs related to commissioning tests for new production facilities; Costs related to product certification.

The amount of the grant is limited to €1,500,000 and will only be awarded once per company.

2. 2023 budget

-

3. 2024 budgets

-

4. Policy objective

In the context of the COVID-19 health crisis and the fight against the spread of the virus, the Walloon Government has decided to grant an exceptional bonus relating to aid for investment in the manufacture of products related to COVID-19. The device provides support and a rapid response to the challenges raised by the epidemic in order to allow companies operating in the Walloon Region to benefit from a direct subsidy for the manufacture of products related to COVID-19.

The company undertakes to maintain employment in 2020 and 2021 in order to benefit from the grant.

The grant cannot be awarded if other regional, federal or European aid has been granted for the eligible costs set out above.

5. Duration

The requests were submitted until 30 April 2021 and relate to investments made from 1 February 2020.

3.4.2 Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 10 décembre 2020 confiant une mission déléguée à la S.A. SOFIPOLE pour l'octroi d'une subvention à l'Université de Liège pour le financement des investissements destinés à la production de produits dans le cadre du dépistage du COVID-19.

The aid is granted for the production of COVID-19 relevant products, specifically diagnostic tools and necessary raw materials.

1. Form of the subsidy

The measure provides aid in the form of a direct grant.

2. 2023 budget

-

3. 2024 budgets

-

4. Policy objective

The measure aims at supporting the production of products needed to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. According to Belgium, given the public health crisis and the shortage of certain related products (in particular diagnostic tools), it is crucial that the State can provide incentives to companies to direct their activities to research and/or production of certain products that are crucial to address that crisis. Belgium considers that the measure contributes to address the public health crisis.

Eligible costs are investment costs (infrastructure, equipment) necessary for the production (including the related packaging) of the COVID-19 relevant products. The aid intensity is limited to 80% of the eligible costs.

5. Duration

The aid will be granted no later than 30 June 2021.

4 BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION

4.1 Economic Expansion Aid

4.1.1 Investment aid (2023): Ordinance of 3 May 2018 on aid measures aimed at the economic development of enterprises - Investment aid - Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty SA 52749 – SA 108738

1. Form of the subsidy

The financial aid is granted in the form of an investment premium.

2. Amount of aid granted in 2023

Total amount (2023)

	Payments (euros)
TOTAL	12,835,029.07

Amount relating to enterprises within the development zone (2023)

	Payments (euros)
TOTAL	4,261,449.93

Amount relating to enterprises outside of the development zone (2023)

	Payments (euros)
TOTAL	8,573,579.14

Amount relating to enterprises within the ZEUS (Zone for Economic Urban Stimulation) (2023)

	Payments (euros)
TOTAL	513,304.51

3. Amount of aid granted in 2024

Total amount (2024)

	Payments (euros)
TOTAL	17,887,811.76

Amount relating to enterprises within the development zone (2024)

	Payments (euros)
TOTAL	8,991,976.60

Amount relating to enterprises outside of the development zone (2024)

	Payments (euros)
TOTAL	8,895,835.16

Amount relating to enterprises within the ZEUS (Zone for Economic Urban Stimulation) (2024)

	Payments (euros)
TOTAL	960,843.54

4. General aim and/or subject of the subsidies

Providing financial support for the development of activities that create job and added value for the Brussels-Capital Region through promoting investments

5. Validity term

The ordinance of 3 May 2018 entered into force in phases. It is set to remain applicable until May 2028.

6. Statistics which make it possible to evaluate the effects of the subsidy on trade

In terms of budgetary impact, 20% of the investment subsidies concerned applications filed by industrial or artisanal enterprises; 80% concerned applications made by commercial or service enterprises.

7. Granting conditions for the aid

The aid consists of premiums varying according to the enterprise's size.

4.1.2 Investment aid (2024): Ordinance of 13 October 2023 on aid measures aimed at the economic development of enterprises - Investment aid - Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty

1. Form of the subsidy

The financial aid is granted in the form of an investment premium.

2. Amount of aid granted in 2024

	Payments
TOTAL	529,601.71

Total amount (2024)

Amount relating to enterprises within the development zone (2024)

	Payments
TOTAL	104,265.90

Amount relating to enterprises outside of the development zone (2024)

	Payments
TOTAL	425,335.81

3. General aim and/or subject of the subsidies

Providing financial support for the development of activities that create job and added value for the Brussels-Capital Region through promoting investments

4. Validity term

The ordinance of 13 October 2023 entered into force in 2024.

5. Statistics which make it possible to evaluate the effects of the subsidy on trade

In terms of budgetary impact, 20% of the investment subsidies concerned applications filed by industrial or artisanal enterprises; 80% concerned applications made by commercial or service enterprises.

6. Granting conditions for the aid

The aid consists of premiums varying according to the enterprise's size.

4.1.3 Consultancy and training aid measures (2018): Ordinance of 3 May 2018 on aid measures aimed at the economic development of enterprises - Aid for Consultancy, Studies and Training - COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid - Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid

1. Form of the subsidy

The financial aid is granted in the form of a premium.

2. Amount of aid granted in 2023 and 2024

2023

Cost category	Payments
Consultancy / studies	5,333,369.09
Training	1,071,206.05
TOTAL	6,404,575.14

2024

Cost category	Payments
Consultancy / studies	2,887,680.10
Training	539,467.23
TOTAL	3,427,147.33

3. General aim and/or subject of the subsidies

Providing financial support for the development of activities that create jobs and added value for the Brussels-Capital Region by promoting access to studies, consultancy services or training.

4. Validity term

The ordinance will remain applicable until 2028

5. Statistics which make it possible to evaluate the effects of the subsidy on trade

It is impossible to determine the effects of the subsidy on trade.

6. Granting conditions for the aid measures

-

7. Consultancy / studies

-

8. Consultancy premium

The premium is intended for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises with an operating establishment in the Brussels-Capital Region.

9. Web premium

This premium is intended for micro and small enterprises with an operating establishment in the Brussels-Capital Region and with activities in certain business sectors.

10. Training premium

The premium is intended for micro and small enterprises with an operating establishment in the Brussels-Capital Region and with activities in certain business sectors. It covers part of the training costs for any staff member of the enterprise, at the exception of temporary workers and students.

4.1.4 Consultancy and training aid measures (2023): Ordinance of 13 October 2023 on aid measures aimed at the economic development of enterprises - Aid for Consultancy, Studies and Training - Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid

1. Form of the subsidy

The financial aid is granted in the form of a premium.

2. Amount of aid granted in 2024

2024

Cost category	Payments
Consultancy / studies	3,514,236.41
Training	664,225.08
TOTAL	4,178,461.49

3. General aim and/or subject of the subsidies

Providing financial support for the development of activities that create jobs and added value for the Brussels-Capital Region by promoting access to studies, consultancy services or training.

4. Validity term

The ordinance will remain applicable until 2028

5. Statistics which make it possible to evaluate the effects of the subsidy on trade

It is impossible to determine the effects of the subsidy on trade.

6. Granting conditions for the aid measures

-

7. Consultancy premium

The premium is intended for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises with an operating establishment in the Brussels-Capital Region.

8. Training premium

The premium is intended for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises with an operating establishment in the Brussels-Capital Region and with activities in certain business sectors. It covers part of the training costs for any staff member of the enterprise, at the exception of temporary workers and students.

4.2 Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Aid

4.2.1 RDI aid: Ordinance of 27 July 2017 aimed at promoting research, development and innovation by granting aid for economic purposes intended for enterprises and research organisms assimilated to enterprises - Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty - Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid - Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid - SA 60199 – 60200 – 60201 – 60202 – 60203 – 60204 – 60205 – 60206 – 60207 – 60188 – 60195 60196

1. Forms of the subsidy

Direct grants/repayable advances.

2. Amount of aid granted in 2023 and 2024

2023

SA	Description	Payments
60199	Funding for innovation advisory and support services	0
60200	Aid for innovative start-ups	1,331,516.98
60201	Aid for the exploitation of industrial research through the creation of enterprises	0
60202	Aid for living lab projects	0

SA	Description	Payments
60203	Aid for the secondment of highly qualified staff from a research organisation or a large enterprise to an SME	0
60204	Aid for obtaining, validating and defending patents	233,043.27
60205	Aid for innovation clusters	0
60206	Investment aid for research infrastructures	0
60207	Aid for feasibility studies	1,298,537.34
60188	Aid for experimental development (subsidies)	5,838,700.21
60188	Aid for experimental development (repayable advances)	654,742.70
60195	Aid for process and organisational innovation	0
60196	Aid for industrial research	4,462,264.66

2024

SA	Description	Payments
60199	Funding for innovation advisory and support services	0
60200	Aid for innovative start-ups	1,051,849.82
60201	Aid for the exploitation of industrial research through the creation of enterprises	0
60202	Aid for living lab projects	0
60203	Aid for the secondment of highly qualified staff from a research organisation or a large enterprise to an SME	0
60204	Aid for obtaining, validating and defending patents	309,562.93
60205	Aid for innovation clusters	413,595.96
60206	Investment aid for research infrastructures	0
60207	Aid for feasibility studies	939,690.62
60188	Aid for experimental development (subsidies)	6,452,813
60188	Aid for experimental development (repayable advances)	0
60195	Aid for process and organisational innovation	0
60196	Aid for industrial research	3,871,545.79

3. General aim and/or subject of the subsidies

Reinforcing basic industrial research

4. Validity term

The ordinance remains in force until 31 December 2026.

5. Statistics which make it possible to evaluate the effects of the subsidy on trade

Impossible to calculate for the short or medium term.