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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Ribera
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.5.2025)

A detailed description of the Greek tonnage tax scheme and the related existing State aid procedure can be found in the Commission decisions of 18 December 2015¹ and of 6 November 2024², as well as in the letter of 25 November 2024 recording the acceptance by Greece of the appropriate measures proposed by the Commission in the decision of 6 November 2024³.

As regards the measures to bring the existing aid scheme in line with EU State aid rules, the letter of 25 November 2024 exhaustively lists the appropriate measures and records that Greece has accepted them and the 18-month time limit for their implementation. These are the changes that Greece has committed to make to its tonnage tax scheme for it to be compatible with the internal market. Concerning the relevant foregone State revenues resulting from these changes, the nature of tonnage tax and likely fluctuations in time make it difficult to provide exact figures.

The Commission decisions in this case do not constitute an ‘approval from DG COMP’ but instead are inherent to the specific cooperation procedure for existing aid laid down in Articles 21 to 23 of the Procedural Regulation⁴. There is no ‘approval limited in time to allow for possible subsequent corrective measures’. Instead, as noted in the letter of 25 November 2024, the Greek authorities have 18 months to implement the appropriate measures.

¹ Commission decision of 18 December 2015 in case SA.33828 (2012/E, 2011/CP).

² Commission decision of 6 November 2024 in case SA.33828 (2012/E, 2011/CP).

³ Commission decision of 25 November 2024 in case SA.33828 (2012/E, 2011/CP).

⁴ Council Regulation (EU) 2015/1589 of 13 July 2015 laying down detailed rules for the application of Article 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, OJ L 248, 24.9.2015, p. 9.