



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
COMPETITION DG

Markets and cases I : Energy and Environment
The Director

Brussels, 31/03/2021
COMP.B.3/ZT/LV/ajn*2021/035864

Permanent Representation of
Bulgaria to the European Union
Square Marie-Louise 49/Maria-
Louizasquare 49
1000 Bruxelles/Brussel

Bulgarian translation will follow

Subject: SA.62112(2021/N) – RRF – Design, construction and commissioning of infrastructure for transport of hydrogen and low-carbon gaseous fuels for supply of power plants and other consumers in coal regions in the Republic of Bulgaria

Dear Madam/Sir,

We thank you for the notification your authorities submitted on 25 February 2021 and for the additional information provided by letter on 18 March 2021. In your letter, you confirm that the project of design, construction and commissioning of infrastructure for transport of hydrogen and low-carbon gas is included in the Ten-year Infrastructure Development Plan of the TSO Bulgartransgaz. We therefore understand that the construction and operation of such an infrastructure is subject to the legal or natural monopoly of the TSO. In your letter, you also confirmed the infrastructure is not designed to selectively favour a specific undertaking or sector and that the TSO is obliged to grant access to the gas transmission networks on equal terms to persons meeting the conditions laid down in rules adopted by the independent regulator. Consequently, if there were other power plants in Bulgaria wishing to switch to a gaseous fuel, they would be entitled to access the network (including, if necessary, the construction of new infrastructure) under the same conditions.

On the basis of the information provided and after careful examination of the elements in this case, the Commission services confirm your assessment that the project notified is not state aid in the sense of article 107.1 of the TFEU, in line with the guidance provided by the Commission in the Analytical Grid for Energy Infrastructure¹. On this basis, we kindly invite you to withdraw the notification.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/modernisation/grid_energy_en.pdf

Please note that the Commission services cannot exclude the possibility of a new examination of the file if new divergent information put this conclusion in question. Therefore, this letter is without prejudice to any future decision that the Commission may take in case in view of new available and contradicting information.

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)

Anna COLUCCI

Director

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