



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Competition DG

Markets and cases II: Information, Communication and Media

State Aid

Brussels, 30/04/2021

COMP/C4/KK/ASz/ao D(2021)046215

Permanent Representation of  
Finland to the European Union  
Avenue de Cortenbergh 80.  
1000 Brussels  
Belgium

**Subject: SA.62830 - State aid to public service broadcaster YLE for VOD and online learning services – FI**

Dear Sir/Madam,

In the above-mentioned matter, the Commission has received a complaint concerning the granting of alleged state aid to the Finnish public service broadcaster Yleisradio Oy (hereinafter: “YLE”) for VOD and online learning services. Attached the non-confidential version of the complaint.

The Commission services would welcome if your authorities could clarify the issues brought forward in the complaint. In particular, we would ask you to include in your reply clarifications regarding the following issues:

- In your view, could the financing of the VOD and online learning services be considered existing aid? Please reason your reply.
- Please explain whether the VOD and online learning services are included in YLE’s public service remit and provide the justification for including such services in the public service remit. Please include in your reply a detailed assessment of the latest legislative proposal modifying Section 7 of the YLE Act (submitted to the Parliament in December 2020), explaining whether the new wording of Section 7 sufficiently clarifies YLE’s public service remit for these services.
- Please clarify whether the VOD services offered by YLE amount to a self-standing commercial offer, different from the classical catch-up services.

Should your authorities be of the opinion that the issue does not involve unlawful aid, it would be appreciated if your authorities could provide their own summary of the facts, as

**Please specify the name of the case and the case number in all correspondence.**

well as the reasons why they do not consider the alleged aid to be unlawful aid. The Commission could then forward a non-confidential version of this assessment to the complainant to allay his previous suspicion. To this end, we will assume your agreement that your answer could be forwarded to the complainant. Should this not be the case, please indicate the precise data that you consider confidential and provide a non-confidential version.

On the other hand, if your authorities cannot address the arguments brought forward by the complainant, your authorities can consider notifying the State aid to the Commission for approval.

I would appreciate to receive clarification of the above issues within **20 working days** from the date of receipt of this letter.

Please note that if the Commission does not receive sufficient information, the Commission's services might be obliged to propose an information injunction pursuant to Article 12 (3) of the 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.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, if the Commission's services are not able to clarify these issues, a formal investigation procedure might have to be opened on the basis of the information available.

This letter is in English, however, it can be provided to you in Finnish upon request.

Yours faithfully,

*e-signed*

Krzysztof KUIK  
Head of Unit

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 248, 24.9.2015.