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(Announcements)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

2010 Call for proposals — Pilot project on development of prevention activities to halt desertification in Europe

(2010/C 110/04)

1. The European Commission, Directorate-General for Environment, Protection of Water Environment Unit, is launching a Call for Proposals with the aim of identifying three to five projects eligible for financial support, promoting action on desertification and droughts in pilot river basins, and contributing to the exchange of best practices at the local level on four issues, such as conservation of rainwater and surface water, alternative forms of irrigation, water saving/water efficiency measures and crops consuming less water. The pilot projects are demonstration projects aimed at testing specially designed technologies, techniques or practices. They will have to demonstrate the potential of water saving for improving human and environmental conditions in different regions of the European Union, using low-cost approaches.

2. The eligibility criteria, the priority regions, the economic sectors concerned, the duration and the financing conditions are set out in the relevant Grant Application Guide, which also contains detailed instructions on where and when to submit a proposal. The guide, as well as the relevant grant application forms can be downloaded from the Europa website at:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/funding/grants_en.htm

3. Proposals must be sent to the Commission to the address indicated in the Grant Application Guide by 30 June 2010. Proposals must be submitted by post or private courier no later than 30 June 2010 (evidence shall be constituted by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip). They may also be delivered by hand to the specific address indicated in the Guide no later than 30 June 2010 at 17:00 (evidence shall be the acknowledgement of receipt dated and signed by the responsible official).

Proposals submitted by fax, electronic mail, incomplete applications, applications sent in several parts or after the deadline for the submission will not be accepted.

4. The procedure for the award of grants is scheduled as follows:

- receipt, recording and acknowledgement of receipt by the Commission,
- appraisal of the proposals by the Commission,
- award decision and notification of the result to the applicants.

Beneficiaries will be selected on the basis of the criteria set out in the guide and within the limits of the available budget.

In the event of approval by the Commission, a grant agreement (made out in Euro) will be concluded between the Commission and the party submitting the proposal.

The procedure is strictly confidential.
