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Information and Notices

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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Ecu ⁽¹⁾

9 July 1996

(96/C 200/01)

Currency amount for one unit:

Belgian and Luxembourg franc	39,4426	Finnish markka	5,85857
Danish krone	7,37946	Swedish krona	8,40449
German mark	1,91494	Pound sterling	0,810142
Greek drachma	300,835	United States dollar	1,25693
Spanish peseta	161,202	Canadian dollar	1,72187
French franc	6,48327	Japanese yen	138,979
Irish pound	0,789482	Swiss franc	1,58437
Italian lira	1928,04	Norwegian krone	8,19333
Dutch guilder	2,14948	Icelandic krona	84,5414
Austrian schilling	13,4769	Australian dollar	1,58344
Portuguese escudo	196,874	New Zealand dollar	1,82641
		South African rand	5,45082

The Commission has installed a telex with an automatic answering device which gives the conversion rates in a number of currencies. This service is available every day from 3.30 p.m. until 1 p.m. the following day. Users of the service should do as follows:

- call telex number Brussels 23789;
- give their own telex code;
- type the code 'cccc' which puts the automatic system into operation resulting in the transmission of the conversion rates of the ecu;
- the transmission should not be interrupted until the end of the message, which is marked by the code 'ffff'.

Note: The Commission also has an automatic telex answering service (No 21791) and an automatic fax answering service (No 296 10 97) providing daily data concerning calculation of the conversion rates applicable for the purposes of the common agricultural policy.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EEC) No 3180/78 of 18 December 1978 (OJ No L 379, 30. 12. 1978, p. 1), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1971/89 (OJ No L 189, 4. 7. 1989, p. 1).
Council Decision 80/1184/EEC of 18 December 1980 (Convention of Lomé) (OJ No L 349, 23. 12. 1980, p. 34).

Commission Decision No 3334/80/ECSC of 19 December 1980 (OJ No L 349, 23. 12. 1980, p. 27).

Financial Regulation of 16 December 1980 concerning the general budget of the European Communities (OJ No L 345, 20. 12. 1980, p. 23).

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3308/80 of 16 December 1980 (OJ No L 345, 20. 12. 1980, p. 1).

Decision of the Council of Governors of the European Investment Bank of 13 May 1981 (OJ No L 311, 30. 10. 1981, p. 1).

Information procedure — technical regulations

(96/C 200/02)

(Text with EEA relevance)

- Directive 83/189/EEC of 28 March 1983 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations (OJ No L 109, 26. 4. 1983, p. 8).
- Directive 88/182/EEC of 22 March 1988 amending Directive 83/189/EEC (OJ No L 81, 26. 3. 1988, p. 75).
- Directive 94/10/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 23 March 1994 materially amending for the second time Directive 83/189/EEC (OJ No L 100, 19. 4. 1994, p. 30).

Notifications of draft national technical regulations received by the Commission.

Reference ⁽¹⁾	Title	End of three-month standstill period ⁽²⁾
96/206/D	Approval Regulation BAPT 222 ZV 20 for receivers for use in the regional radio-paging service	26. 8. 1996
96/207/D	General administrative Regulation concerning the procedure for officially monitoring observance of the principles of good laboratory practice (German designation: ChemVwV-GLP)	26. 8. 1996
96/208/D	Order amending Annex 1 of the Chemicals Act	22. 8. 1996
96/209/F	Decree amending decree No 88-466 of 28 April 1988 relating to products containing asbestos	23. 8. 1996
96/210/NL	Commodity board for ornamental plants (Dutch designation PVS) order on quality Regulations for (flower) bulbs	2. 9. 1996
96/211/NL	Regulation containing amendments to the order on the composition, classification, packaging and labelling of plant protective agents	2. 9. 1996
96/212/D	Order implementing the Federal Immissions Protection Act (order on electromagnetic fields, German designation: BImSchV)	2. 9. 1996
96/213/D	Type-approval Regulation BAPT 213 ZV 09 for SGN installations in the Ku-band	2. 9. 1996
96/214/D	Type-approval Regulation BAPT 222 ZV 80 for terminal equipment used in the mobile telephone service for direct connection to analogue dial-up ports (excluding emergency and direct-dial connections) of Deutsche Telekom AG's telephone network/ISDN	2. 9. 1996

⁽¹⁾ Year — registration number — Member State of origin.

⁽²⁾ Deadline for comments from Commission and Member States.

⁽³⁾ The usual information procedure does not apply to *Pharmacopoeia*.

⁽⁴⁾ No standstill period as the Commission has accepted the grounds for urgent adoption.

⁽⁵⁾ No standstill for fiscal or financial measures, Article 1 (9) (3) of Directive 94/10/EC.

The Commission would point out that, under the terms of its communication of 1 October 1986 (OJ No C 245, 1. 10. 1986, p. 4), it considers that if a Member State adopts a technical regulation which comes under the provisions of Directive 83/189/EEC without communicating the draft to the Commission or respecting the standstill obligation, that regulation cannot be enforced against third parties under the terms of the legal system of the Member State in question. The Commission therefore considers that litigants have a right to expect national courts to refuse to implement national technical regulations that have not been notified as required by Community law.

Information on these notifications can be obtained from the national administrations, a list of which was published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 67 of 17 March 1989.

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case No IV/M.774 — Saint-Gobain/Wacker-Chemie/NOM)**

(96/C 200/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 1 July 1996, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾ by which the undertakings Société Européenne des Produits Réfractaires (SEPR), controlled by Compagnie de Saint-Gobain SA (Saint-Gobain), Elektroschmelzwerk Kempten GmbH (ESK), controlled by Wacker-Chemie GmbH, and NV NOM (owned by the Dutch Government) acquire within the meaning of Article 3 (1) (b) of the Council Regulation joint control of a newly created joint venture under Dutch law. The Joint venture will acquire all of ESK's silicon carbide assets in the EU.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for SEPR: manufacture of fused-cast refractory products,
- for Saint-Gobain: flat glass, industrial ceramics, abrasives and construction materials, manufacture and processing of silicon carbide,
- for ESK: manufacture and processing of silicon carbide, boron carbide, boron nitride and silicon nitride,
- for Wacker-Chemie: manufacture and sale of chemical products,
- NOM: investment and development.

3. Upon preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified concentration could fall within the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than ten days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (fax No (32 2) 296 43 01/296 72 44) or by post, under reference IV/M.774 — Saint-Gobain/Wacker-Chemie/NOM, to the following address:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition (DG IV),
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Avenue de Cortenberg/Kortenberglaan 150,
B-1040 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 395, 30. 12. 1989. Corrigendum: OJ No L 257, 21. 9. 1990, p. 13.

COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBER STATES

laying down guidelines for operational programmes which Member States are invited to establish in the framework of a Community initiative concerning urban areas

(URBAN)

(96/C 200/04)

1. At its meeting on 8 May 1996, the Commission of the European Communities decided to establish an extension of the Community initiative concerning urban areas (hereafter called Urban) within the meaning of Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 ⁽¹⁾ amending Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 and Article 3 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2083/93 ⁽²⁾ amending Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88.
2. In the context of Urban, Community assistance in the form of loans and grants and technical assistance is made available for measures in areas which respect the guidelines laid down in this notice, and which are included in operational programmes submitted by the Member States and approved by the Commission of the European Communities.

I. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE

3. Some of the Community's most acute problems associated with lack of economic opportunity, low incomes and a generally poor quality of life are found in urban areas. The growing tensions within European society are evident particularly in the serious level of social exclusion in an increasing number of inner city or peripheral urban areas.
4. Problems are often aggravated by the financial difficulties of many urban local authorities who are unable to provide increasingly expensive support services for a less affluent population. This leads to the deterioration of the urban fabric, the impossibility of renovating or replacing obsolete infrastructures and the disappearance or severe reduction of economic activity in the worst affected areas.
5. Difficult neighbourhoods within cities may be identified geographically. Certain socio-economic indicators are significantly worse than the average of the city or urban agglomeration area. These would include unemployment levels, education attainment, the crime rate, standard of housing, the percentage of social-welfare benefit recipients, the socio-ethnic mix, environmental decay, deteriorating public

transport and poor local facilities etc. These deprived areas can also be within generally prosperous cities, or in cities which are the most prosperous parts of a less developed region.

6. Urban issues should be tackled in an integrated way, supporting business creation, improving infrastructures and the physical environment, providing customized training, actions for equality of opportunities and social amenities. In this respect, a special attention will also have to be paid in order to face the problems of a lack of opportunities for women, long-term unemployment, the urban environment. The combined effort of ERDF and ESF will be needed, but it has to be complemented by other resources.
7. This extension of the Urban initiative cannot hope to match in scale what is in effect a major problem of contemporary society. It aims instead to act as a catalyst in a broad-based approach, by undertaking key schemes to help deprived urban areas achieve a lasting improvement in living standards for their inhabitants.
8. It will provide assistance to the responsible authorities in their efforts to provide the necessary amenities so as to attract economic activity and create confidence and security for the population living in the areas, integrating them into the economy and the social mainstream.

II. DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE AREAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF URBAN

9. Eligible areas for the purpose of the Urban initiative will include a limited number of urban areas within cities, in particular medium-sized cities, and urban agglomerations with a population of more than 100 000. There are some 350 to 400 such cities in the European Union. In exceptional cases urban areas in smaller cities could be taken into consideration.
10. Target areas could be urban neighbourhoods geographically identifiable; either an existing administrative unit such as a borough, a commune or even smaller entities within a densely populated area, with a minimum size of population, with a high level of unemployment, with a decayed urban fabric, bad housing conditions and lack of social amenities.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 24.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 36.

11. Priority would be given to urban areas in cities located in Objective 1 regions.
12. The number of individual projects that could be supported by this extension of the Urban initiative might be around twenty. They should have a demonstrative character for other urban areas suffering from similar problems. Each Member State would send a limited list of proposed projects, in agreement with the local and other authorities concerned.
13. Priority will be given to innovative projects forming part of long-term urban integration strategies being implemented by the cities concerned. The drafting of plans of this kind could be supported, at the request of a Member State, by technical assistance.

III. ELIGIBLE MEASURES

14. Community assistance, in the form of loans or grants in aid as appropriate, may be made available within the framework of this extension of the Urban initiative, in favour of integrated development programmes for a geographically defined and limited part of a city. The integrated approach should address in a comprehensive way the economic, social and environmental problems of the deprived urban area. The integrated programme should comprise a balanced and coherent set of economic development, social integration and environmental measures based on local partnership proposals. Priority will be given to integrated programmes which are of an innovative character, which have a demonstrable added value and help create local employment.
15. There should be a systematic attempt to add the multiplier effect of public input in support of private and collective efforts. The structural funds cannot be involved in all areas, e.g. housing, but can contribute to concerted action by national and city authorities. In this context the Funds could support the preparation of overall urban strategies at the request of the Member States or the regional or local authorities concerned.
16. The initiative should also back European networks for mutual cooperation and exchange of information in sharing experience from schemes that have already proved successful, so far as these requirements are not met by cooperation activities assisted under other Community initiatives introduced under the structural funds regulations or other programmes of the Community. A suitable amount of financial resources, within each operational programme, should be intended for this purpose. The exchange of experience networks,

developed in cooperation with the Member States, the local authorities concerned and others, can include cities in regions not currently eligible for ERDF assistance.

17. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the measures to be included in an integrated programme should be drawn up by the local partnership, taking into account the diversity of problems faced by cities. The following list of possible measures that could feature in integrated programmes is intended to be illustrative and indicative. It comprises a number of types of measures which have been included in the urban pilot programme financed under Article 10 of the ERDF Regulation. When conceiving and implementing measures through this extension of the Urban initiative, it is recommended that special scope be also given for actions in favour of equality of opportunities for women, long-term unemployment and the environment in urban areas.

— Launching of new economic activities:

- provision of workshops; support for business, commerce, cooperatives, mutual associations, and services for SMEs; creation of business centres, technology transfer,
- creation of public/private partnerships in particular to manage integrated economic development programmes,
- creation of a pool of management and marketing consultants; customized counselling for businessmen; advice to starters,

— ensuring employment for local people:

- customized training schemes and language training oriented in particular to the specific needs of minorities,
- training for new technologies, e.g. computer skills needed in the financial services sector or computer-based production for the commercial arts,
- mobile units for employment and training advice,
- work-experience schemes for long-term unemployed on local rehabilitation projects,
- support for job-intensive projects at the local level,

- improvement of social, health and security provisions:
 - provision of nursery and crèche facilities,
 - improvement of health conditions; drug rehabilitation centres,
 - increasing security and preventing criminality, involvement of residents in the supervision of neighbourhoods; improved street lighting,
- improvement of infrastructures and environmental conditions linked to the above measures:
 - renovation of buildings to accommodate new social and economic activities,
 - rehabilitation of public spaces including green areas,
 - improvement of energy efficiency,
 - improvement of access to telematic services,
 - reclamation of derelict sites and contaminated land,
 - provision of cultural, leisure and sports amenities,
 - actions to facilitate the mobility of the local population,
- special workshops to give incentives, skills and opportunities to residents for the refurbishing, maintenance and improving of security of housing estates,
- support in improving the local capacity to solve problems, including exchange schemes and the creation of partnerships of the city organizations and actors concerned.

IV. THE COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FINANCING OF URBAN

18. The total contribution by the Structural Funds to this extension of the Urban initiative during the period 1996 to 1999 is estimated at ECU 157 million of which ECU 61 million should go to Objective 1 areas and ECU 96 million to other areas.
19. Where possible and appropriate, operations funded by this extension of the Urban initiative should be planned and implemented taking into account other actions under the Structural Funds and Community programmes such as Leonardo and other initiatives in the field of social exclusion as well as actions

supported by grants from the EFTA cohesion fund and loans from the European Investment Bank.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

20. Member States wishing to benefit from this extension of the Urban initiative are invited to present operational programmes or, where appropriate, applications for global grants for urban areas within six months of the publication of the present communication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Proposals received after this date need not be taken into consideration by the Commission.

During the preparation of proposals, the Commission will offer on request any necessary technical assistance.

Local and other authorities and the social partners should be involved in the preparation and implementation of operational programmes in the manner appropriate to each Member State.

The proposals must include an appreciation of the situation indicating the objectives to be attained and should include a timetable, criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment. During and at the end of the planning period the Commission shall evaluate, in partnership with the Member States, the results of the programmes submitted. The European Parliament, the management committee on the Community initiatives and the monitoring committees shall be informed of the results of such evaluations and the action taken in response to them.

21. In those cases where an amount allocated to the Member State is insufficient to allow the setting up of a new and worthwhile operational programme, the new allocation coming from this extension of the Urban initiative might be used to strengthen measures foreseen within the existing national programmes already selected in the framework of Urban.
22. All correspondence related to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr E. Landaburu
Director-General
Directorate-General for Regional Policy
and Cohesion
European Commission
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels.

COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBER STATES

laying down amended guidelines for operational programmes or global grants which Member States are invited to propose within the framework of the Community initiative on adaptation of the workforce to industrial change (Adapt) aimed at promoting employment and the adaptation of the workforce to industrial change

(96/C 200/05)

1. At its meeting of 15 June 1994 the Commission of the European Communities decided to introduce an initiative on adaptation of the workforce to industrial change (Adapt) in the context of Article 11 of the Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 as modified by the Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93. At its meeting on 8 May 1996 the Commission of the European Communities decided to introduce a further priority within this initiative entitled Adapt-bis (building the information society) covering the planning period 1996 to 1999.

2. Within the framework of this initiative the Community may grant subsidies for measures which satisfy the guidelines laid down in this communication and which are included in proposals for operational programmes or global grants submitted by the Member States and approved by the European Commission. In addition, other Community financial instruments may make an appropriate contribution to this initiative.

I. OBJECTIVES

3. This initiative aims to contribute to the adaptation of the workforce to industrial change, and to improve the workings of the labour market with a view to growth, employment and the competitiveness of companies in the European Union. As such, it is a direct follow-up to the Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment presented to the European Council in December 1993.

4. The initiative has four interrelated objectives:

- (a) to accelerate the adaptation of the workforce to industrial change;
- (b) to increase the competitiveness of industry, services and commerce;
- (c) to prevent unemployment by developing the workforce through improving qualifications and their internal and external flexibility and ensuring greater occupational mobility;

(d) to anticipate and accelerate the development of new jobs and new activities, particularly labour-intensive ones; this includes exploiting the potential of SMEs.

Within these objectives, the initiative will also promote actions concerned with identifying and articulating a positive social policy framework for the information society. The Adapt-bis priorities should facilitate the transition into the information society and minimize the social exclusion effects which can result from it. This can be achieved, *inter alia*, by developing practical knowledge and experience about the effects of the emerging information society on employment amongst all key social, economic, and political actors. In particular, Adapt-bis aims to stimulate:

- a high level of awareness of these issues, providing practical guidance and support for people involved in producing and implementing the new technologies and those who will be affected by them,
- the identification and transfer of good practice in the use of these technologies which is appropriate and specific to local circumstances, needs, and levels of development,
- experimentation and dissemination of experience, including that already gained from Community R&TD and vocational training programmes as well as other relevant initiatives, widely across Europe.

5. Positive benefits will accrue right across the initiative from the active cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences. In submitting requests for support under this initiative Member States should ensure that the overall package of proposals contains a well-balanced set of actions related to each of the main categories of eligible measures listed in paragraph 7 of this Communication.

The Commission, in partnership with Member States, will aim to ensure complementarity between

measures assisted under this initiative and introduced under the employment and development of human resources initiative, the initiative for SMEs as well as those supported under other Community programmes, in particular in the field of vocational training and of equal opportunities for women.

II. PRIORITIES

6. Over and above the measures taken by Member States themselves and the other activities supported by the European Social Fund, this initiative is intended to serve as a catalyst for Community-wide innovation as well as for the organized transfer of expertise and the dissemination of good practice between Member States. Attention will be given to actions aiming at promoting equal opportunities for women.

In order to achieve higher added value for the Community, Member States' proposals should aim, in particular:

- (a) to facilitate the adaptation of the workforce at risk through vocational training and retraining, guidance and counselling actions, especially for workers confronted with evolving job requirements related especially to changes in particular:
 - new technological production systems,
 - new production procedures,
 - management and organization of work (strategies of total quality),
 - use of modern communication and information systems,
 - increasing of environmental requirements,
 - rational use of energy,
 - design of products,
 - changing in marketing strategies;
 - (b) to promote partnership and cooperation between research centres, enterprises, training bodies and public authorities, in particular:
 - to stimulate enterprises to train their employees in order to allow for rapid application of research and development results which respond to the concrete needs of enterprises especially as regards the application of new technologies,
 - to improve the capacity of training providers to deliver the necessary training in this regard;
 - (c) to develop networks and cooperation between producers, suppliers and customers; this will involve both large companies and suppliers as well as SMEs, in order to stimulate the transfer of relevant know-how and good practice and to improve the ability of firms to train their workforce especially to meet the specific needs of SMEs.
- In this context, a particular effort will be made:
- to ensure the essential synergy of interrelated business and training plans,
 - to promote the development of competitive cluster activities and the participation of SMEs in enterprise networks;
- (d) to contribute to the development of a proactive social policy for the emerging European information society through the following aims:
 - to evaluate and anticipate labour market developments related to the emerging information society, in particular anticipating:
 - the obsolescence of certain areas of skill and facilitating the development of new competences,
 - the emergence of new industries and information-intensive sectors and occupations, especially those where employment is likely to grow,
 - the employment effects of the information society within industrial sectors and on labour market trends,
 - barriers to the development of the information society, in particular attitudinal, social, political and legal/regulatory barriers,
 - to develop active strategies to help the labour force adapt to the new demands of the information society and to encourage the gearing of IT products to the needs of

potential users; this could be achieved, *inter alia*, by:

- facilitating experiments and pilot schemes to provide workplace-based training and life-long learning opportunities for workers faced with adapting to the information society,
- promoting experimentation with new telematics-based employment services which facilitate wider and more user-friendly access by those requiring these services,
- helping local labour market organizations to be more responsive and flexible in the context of the information society,
- to develop and experiment policies and schemes which will support the adaptation of work organization and employment practices to the information society and to identify ways to improve both the quality of working life and business efficiency, through:
 - enhancing the skills of management regarding the introduction of new information and communication technologies, especially in relation to SMEs seeking new opportunities within a global marketplace,
 - the rapid diffusion of best practice in applying these technologies in the workplace through the support of information exchange networks between enterprises, and between the public and private sectors,
 - increasing the ability of workers to participate in the re-design of work and organizational structures in relation to information society,
 - new institutional approaches to the development of skills and competences, such as private-public cooperation in the design and delivery of new concepts for learning and continuing education (e.g. open and distance learning and re-training).

These priorities should be structured around the existing groups of measures.

To ensure the equal and full participation of both male and female employees in training, adequate childcare provision should be provided.

This list of priorities is not exhaustive and may need to be adapted in the light of the changing industrial situation.

III. ELIGIBLE MEASURES

7. The list of measures which follows presents all actions which may be financed under this initiative. When preparing their proposals for operational programmes or for global grants, Member States are invited to select, in cooperation with the Commission, a more limited list of measures on which to concentrate financial assistance.

The eligible measures should have some specific features:

- (a) demonstrate an overall transnational dimension, giving priority to transnational exchange, cooperation and dissemination of information, involving partners in Objective 1 and Objective 6 regions;
- (b) be innovative;
- (c) give priority to improving the efficiency of training and employment systems and services and the promotion of transparency of qualifications;
- (d) encourage a more active and coordinated approach at local level to obtain a greater employment impact by involving in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the measures all relevant actors designated by the Member States, including local and regional authorities, economic and social partners and training bodies;
- (e) reinforce Community policies as well as Community programmes especially in the field of employment, human resources and labour market integration;
- (f) provide for the necessary flexibility to accommodate needs which cannot be foreseen at the first planning stage, and which call for a special effort from the Community.

The following measures will be eligible:

(1) supply of training, counselling and guidance, including:

- support in the form of expertise for groups of firms designed to help them to identify the implications of changes to the industrial environment and to define and set up business plans and to implement the corresponding training plans and actions,
- support for the development and supply of training schemes related to new qualifications and skills of the workforce in firms concerned linked to change in production systems, by developing cooperation between training institutes, research centres, economic development agencies and firms,
- development and supply of guidance and counselling systems for workers affected by industrial change in different economic sectors, in particular those threatened by unemployment and those working within SMEs,
- assistance to SMEs for the setting-up and implementation of internal and external ongoing training programmes,
- training actions aimed at improving the capacity of entrepreneurs and managers to adapt to change and to design the relevant business plans; particular attention will need to be paid to improving management quality in SMEs;

(2) anticipation, promotion of networking and new employment opportunities including:

- anticipation of labour market trends and skill/qualification needs relating to the changing environment of industry and services through the creation or development at European level, of sectoral and regional networks set up to analyse trends in markets, production systems, enterprise organization, industrial relations, employment and related qualifications and the local development support structures and services offered to firms; these networks should work in close association with the economic and social partners, training providers and employment services,

- encouragement for cooperation and training in new fields of economic activities with a view to the creation of new employment opportunities,

- support for local employment development initiatives including public-private partnerships to combine economic development strategies with training activities for the affected workforce;

(3) adaptation of support structures and systems including:

- promotion of cooperation and exchange between companies and research in the field of technology transfer to local labour markets and economic sectors most affected by change in employment and training to firms and vocational training bodies,
- support for the development of schemes for the training of trainers of adaptation of workers to industrial change and change in production systems outlined for this initiative,
- support to actions promoting regional, inter-regional and transnational cooperation between enterprises; in particular training for the setting up of shared service provision (e.g. research, design, marketing);

(4) information, dissemination and awareness actions including:

- development of databases on employment and adaptation actions geared towards the adaptation of workers to change, and inter-linkage with databases on continuous training,
- promotion of the diffusion of best practice and exchange of experience based on an inter-regional and transnational approach stimulating the application of adequate training schemes and to enhance the multiplier effect,
- studies related to industrial change with particular reference to management, organization, technological innovation, new production systems and procedures, communication and information systems,

environmental factors and their impact on occupation and skill/qualifications of the workforce interlinked with the methods and results of training, training of trainers and vocational guidance activities,

- actions to raise awareness of the different economic sectors, training and employment services, research institutes, chambers of commerce and industry, employers and workers organizations and the public authorities, amongst other relevant actors in particular through specific exchange seminars and publication of examples of good practice; support for information services and support structures such as networks for the dissemination of this information.

IV. REGIONAL ELIGIBILITY AND CONCENTRATION

8. This initiative is applicable to the whole of the territory of the Union. However, particular emphasis will be placed on the needs and of the less favoured regions.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

9. Technical assistance will be available at the initiative of the Member States or of the Commission and will be supported during both the stage of preparation of proposals and the subsequent stage of implementation. Technical assistance may include:

- dissemination of information and other awareness actions,
- provision of consultancy and expert services,
- organization of bilateral or multilateral meetings between Member States and acting organizations to facilitate cooperation,
- development and sharing of databases on labour market, employment training and employment services and other aspects of labour market organization,
- carrying out of studies regarding innovative methods and the results of training, training of trainers and vocational guidance activities,
- assistance on evaluation procedures and practices,
- creation or development of Community-wide networks to facilitate innovation and transnational cooperation.

A coordinated and coherent approach in regard to related Community action programmes should be ensured in particular for databases, networks and information dissemination. When the Commission proposes to launch a new network, it will inform the Member States in due time.

VI. COMMUNITY FINANCING

10. The actions covered by this initiative shall be jointly financed by the Member States, the Community and by enterprises and other bodies where appropriate. Where employees of companies take part in the various operations, the enterprises concerned shall finance an appropriate part of their cost.
11. The total contribution from the Structural Funds for the period 1994 to 1999 is estimated at ECU 1,63 billion of which ECU 0,46 billion will be allocated to Objective 1 and Objective 6 regions. The total additional contribution from the Structural Funds in respect of Adapt-bis for the period 1996 to 1999 is estimated at ECU 162 million, of which ECU 51 million will be allocated to Objective 1 and Objective 6 regions.
12. The distribution of resources between Member States under this initiative will be based on the relative severity of structural problems, including in particular relevant unemployment levels, as well as the quality of the proposals submitted for operational programmes and global grants.
13. Rates of assistance will respect the provisions of the Structural Funds regulations. Under the technical assistance provisions, a maximum rate of assistance may be accorded for the transnational actions.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

14. Member States are invited to present proposals for support under Adapt-bis in the form of supplements to the existing Adapt operational programmes or of global grants within four months of the date of publication of this communication. In the latter case, Community assistance may be granted directly to decentralized organizations responsible for implementation, including organizations responsible for managing transnational actions and designated by the Member State concerned.

15. As far as the most remote regions are concerned, the measures laid down in this initiative should, as a priority, be implemented in the framework and within the financial resources of the Community initiative Regis.
 16. During the preparation of proposals. Member States are invited to discuss with the Commission the main priorities and eligible measures and the mechanisms of implementation.
 17. Use can be made of the provisions for transnational operational programmes whereby two or more Member States may, on their own initiative or at the invitation of the Commission, present a single application for assistance. In response to these applications the Commission may, in consultation with the Member States concerned, take a single decision granting financial support.
 18. Within the context of operational programmes or global grants measures should be identified by the main objectives of the Structural Funds. The proposals must include a general appreciation of the situation indicating the objectives to be attained and should include a timetable, criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment.
 19. A single monitoring committee in each Member State will be responsible for this initiative.
 20. It is proposed to develop special support structures for the initiative. Cooperation with other Community initiatives in the context of human resources and of industrial change, in particular the regional reconversion initiatives and the SMEs initiative, and Community action programmes concerned, in particular the action programmes of vocational training, will also be reinforced in terms of guidelines, technical assistance, joint operations and networks, follow-up of projects, evaluation, research and dissemination of information. The national authorities concerned with this initiative will make reciprocal arrangements with those concerned with other related Community programmes to ensure that in the selection of the projects, there is the maximum complementarity and minimum overlap between these programmes.
 21. The Commission will require Member States to formulate and implement programmes so as to optimize the conditions for transnational cooperation.
- #### VIII. EVALUATION
22. During and at the end of the planning period the Commission shall evaluate, in partnership with the Member States, the results of the programmes submitted. In order to carry out this evaluation the Commission will use the objectives specified by Member States according to the provisions laid down in Part VII, point 18 as the main benchmark against which to assess progress. As a function of the desired objectives and the implemented measures this evaluation will provide data related to the target groups including the final beneficiaries. The European Parliament, the management committee on the Community initiatives and the committee referred to in Part VII, point 19 of this communication shall be informed of the results of such evaluation measures and the action taken in response to them.
 23. Correspondence concerning this communication should be sent to:

Mr A. Larsson
Director-General
Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs,
European Commission
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels.

COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBER STATES

laying down amended guidelines for operational programmes or global grants which Member States are invited to propose within the framework of a Community initiative on employment and development of human resources aimed at promoting employment growth mainly through the development of human resources

(96/C 200/06)

1. At the meeting of 15 June 1994 the Commission of the European Communities decided to introduce a framework initiative on employment and development of human resources in the context of Article 11 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4235/88 as modified by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93. At its meeting on 8 May 1996 the Commission of the European Communities decided to introduce a further strand to this initiative entitled Employment — Integra covering the planning period 1996 to 1999.
 2. Within the framework of this initiative the Community may grant subsidies for measures which satisfy the guidelines laid down in this communication and which are included in proposals for operational programmes or global grants submitted by the Member States and approved by the European Commission. In addition, other Community financial instruments may make an appropriate contribution to this initiative.
- I. OBJECTIVES
3. This initiative aims to contribute to the development of human resources and to improve the workings of the labour market with a view to enhancing employment growth, to promoting social solidarity in the European Union and to promoting equal opportunities for women on the labour market. As such it is a direct follow-up to the Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and Employment, the main thrust of which is to put the highest possible premium on pro-active labour market measures to stimulate employment-intensive growth.
 4. The initiative has four interrelated objectives corresponding to four distinct but interconnected strands:
 - (a) to promote equal employment opportunities for women, in particular with regard to training measures, access to future-oriented occupations and to management positions ('Employment-NOW');
 - (b) to improve the employment prospects of the disabled ('Employment — Horizon');
 - (c) to promote labour market integration of young people, in particular those without basic qualifications or training ('Employment — Youthstart');
 - (d) to promote measures to improve the access to the labour market and the employability of vulnerable groups who find themselves excluded from it, or at risk of being excluded from it ('Employment — Integra').
 5. Positive benefits will accrue right across the initiative from the active cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences promoted within each strand. A coordinated response is called for in submitting requests for support under this initiative. Member States should ensure that the overall package of proposals is a well-balanced set of measures related to each of the strands of the initiative. The proposals should also ensure coherence of action between the four strands.

The Commission, in partnership with Member States, will aim to ensure complementarity between measures assisted under this initiative and those supported under other Community programmes, in particular in the field of vocational training.

II. PRIORITIES

6. Over and above the measures taken by Member States themselves and the other activities supported by the European Social Fund, this initiative is intended to serve as a catalyst for Community-wide innovation as well as for the organized transfer of expertise and the dissemination of good practice between Member States.

In order to achieve higher added value for the Community, Member States' proposals should, in particular:

- (a) demonstrate an overall transnational dimension, giving priority to transnational exchange, cooperation and dissemination of information, in particular involving partners in Objectives 1 and 6 regions;
- (b) consist of measures and actions which are innovative;
- (c) give priority to improving the efficiency of training and employment systems and services and the promotion of transparency of qualifications;
- (d) encourage a more active and coordinated approach at local level to obtain a greater employment impact by involving in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the measures all relevant actors designated by the Member States, including local and regional authorities, economic and social partners and voluntary bodies;
- (e) reinforce Community policies as well as Community programmes especially in the field of human resources and labour market integration;
- (f) provide for the necessary flexibility to accommodate needs which cannot be foreseen at the first planning stage and which call for a special effort from the Community.

III. REGIONAL ELIGIBILITY AND CONCENTRATION

- 7. This initiative is applicable to the whole of the territory of the Union. However, particular emphasis will to be placed on the needs of the less favoured regions. A number of measures will therefore apply only to priority regions (Objectives 1, 2, 5b and 6).

IV. ELIGIBLE MEASURES

- 8. The list of measures which follows presents all eligible measures which may be financed under this initiative. When preparing their proposals for operational programmes or for global grants. Member States are invited to select, in cooperation with the Commission, a more limited list of measures per strand on which to concentrate financial assistance.
- 9. **'Employment — NOW' (equal employment opportunities for women)**

This strand aims to help to reduce unemployment among women and to improve the position of those

already in the workforce, through the promotion of equal employment opportunities. It will support the development of innovative strategies to respond to changes in the organization of work and changing job requirements.

The transnational dimension of the initiative will permit a comparison of different experiences, as well as the transfer of know-how and experience and cooperation. It will also reinforce the development of innovative actions in favour of women, especially in Objectives 1 and 6 areas and in sectors where such actions are at present less developed. To ensure a maximum multiplier effect, particular attention will be given to the development of the training of trainers as well as the structure of training programmes, methodologies and tools.

The first NOW initiative demonstrated the need to develop strong and active partnerships at local, national and transnational level. These should involve enterprises, public and private bodies responsible for training and employment, bodies responsible for equality issues, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in such a way that best practice is gradually taken up and incorporated into mainstream training and employment systems. Priority should be given to actions in which the Social Partners and women's organizations are actively involved at all levels.

Within this strand the following measures will be eligible for assistance:

- (a) *the development, in particular through transnational cooperation, of appropriate training, guidance, counselling and employment systems, including:*
 - development of cooperation and networking between training bodies in order to promote equality of opportunities for women in the labour market, with particular emphasis on improving access to and promoting women's progress in, rapidly developing sectors and new areas of work, and to their access to management responsibilities,
 - the strengthening of links between training bodies, higher educational establishments and enterprises to improve the professional integration of women (Objectives 1 and 6 regions only),
 - support to educational establishments for the development of innovative educational

- material which improves equality of opportunity for women in the labour market (Objectives 1 and 6 regions only),
- support for the creation or development of guidance/counselling and pre-training services for women,
 - support for the creation or development at local level of advisory services to facilitate the start-up of SMEs and cooperatives,
 - support for the creation or development of relevant care services infrastructure, where they are less developed (Objectives 1 and 6 regions only);
- (b) *the delivery, in particular on a transnational basis, of training, including:*
- the provision of a comprehensive package of flexible training and other accompanying measures, including information, guidance, counselling, pre-training, personal development, upgrading of basic skills and qualifying training, re-training, job-search assistance, business traineeships and in-job support. Particular attention should be given to new job requirements, new qualifications and skills, notably in the area of R&TD and innovative technologies,
 - vocational training measures, including preparatory training, geared specifically to the needs of running businesses or cooperatives,
 - training for trainers, for those responsible for personnel or for negotiating training matters within enterprises, in order to make them more aware of and active in equality issues,
 - training in equality of opportunities for those responsible for personnel in the public sector, for educational personnel and for equality advisers in educational establishments (Objectives 1 and 6 regions only),
 - the development of innovatory assessment methods to integrate within career structures all the experiences and activities carried out by women, including those that are not formally recognized, in order to promote accreditation of prior learning,
- initial and continuing training especially in SMEs and in sectors subject to industrial change, to adapt the female workforce to the changing labour market and to improve their career development,
 - initial and continuing training for appropriate care services personnel with a view to improving the quality of these services;
- (c) *job creation and support, particularly through transnational cooperation, for the start up of small businesses and cooperatives by women, including:*
- development of networking and cooperation on local employment initiatives, aimed at mobilizing the capacities of women to build on local resources, in particular in areas such as tourism, culture, environment, care and for job creation in rural areas,
 - aid for the creation of self-employed activities, small enterprises and cooperatives including recruitment aid,
 - aid for setting-up of financial support instruments for enterprise creation by women.
- Within the framework of measures provided under (a), (b) and (c), the Commission will support the operating costs of care services for dependants in order to facilitate participation in training and employment of women with children and/or other dependants;
- (d) *information dissemination and awareness actions, particularly through transnational cooperation, including:*
- measures directed in particular at the Social Partners, personnel of education, training and employment services, local and regional authorities and the general public to heighten awareness about the need to act in favour of equal opportunities between men and women in the labour market,
 - the setting-up of networks, creation or improvement of databases and the carrying out of studies linked with the objectives of this strand and the dissemination of the results of best practice,

- gender-related monitoring and assessment of vocational training and employment actions.

10. 'Employment — Horizon' (improving the employment prospects of the disabled)

This strand will promote, with an important emphasis on the transnational dimension, measures to improve access to the labour market for disabled people who find themselves excluded from it or those at the risk of being excluded.

Overcoming the problems of disabled people has to be tackled through two main types of action. The first is the improvement of the quality of training especially the development of new employment skills and qualifications. The second includes job creation actions, in particular through new forms of work organization, through employment aids and support for work in the open labour market and through developments in relation to sheltered employment. Emphasis should be placed on a bottom-up approach.

The strand will reinforce in particular measures under Objective 3 of the Structural Funds to facilitate the occupational integration of those exposed to exclusion from the labour market. It will also draw on the previous experiences of relevant Community programmes and particularly on the lessons of the first Horizon programme.

The partners involved at national and transnational level will include enterprises, public and private bodies responsible for training and employment, universities and research institutes, regional and local authorities, and non-governmental organizations. Priority should be given to actions in which the social partners are actively involved at all levels.

Within the scope of this strand, the following measures will be eligible for assistance:

(a) *the development, in particular through transnational cooperation, of appropriate training, guidance, counselling and employment systems, including:*

- support for the creation or development of tailored advisory services and local development agencies to help to create jobs for

disabled people particularly in the sectors where potential employment growth appears high (Objectives 1, 2, 5b and 6 only),

- the adaptation of the workplace, in particular through the introduction of new technologies, and the development of conditions for distance work,

- support for the implementation of flexible training and learning systems such as distance and interactive computer learning,

- the improvement of access to training and work-related services through the adaptation of buildings and transport systems (Objectives 1 and 6 regions only);

(b) *the delivery, in particular through transnational cooperation, of training, including:*

- training for qualifications and skills related to the use by disabled people of technologies in the work or training place,

- training of disabled people, in new skills and qualifications, especially for sectors where employment growth appears high and in the areas of R&TD and innovative technologies,

- training of disabled people (functional, psychological and social rehabilitation, pre-training, upgrading of basic skills, retraining) preceded and accompanied by on-going assessment and counselling. This will include *inter alia* 'on the job' training modules linked to special courses for specific target groups to improve integration into the labour market,

- training schemes for experts and for human resources personnel in the field of reorganization of work and adaptation of the workplace,

- training or upgrading of skills and qualifications of advisers, local development agents, trainers, social workers, representatives of the social partners and those responsible for

personnel in the private sector in order to improve their understanding and awareness in matters concerning the integration of disabled people into sectors where employment growth appears high;

(c) *job creation and support, particularly on a trans-national basis, for the start-up of enterprises, co-operatives and public-private partnerships, including:*

- job creation measures designed to exploit local potential for developing new types of employment based on innovative approaches to work organization. Introduction of such approaches into enterprises in order to prevent job loss of disabled workers,
- innovative approaches to reducing the labour costs for employers of groups with lower productivity in the labour market,
- development of supported employment places and new employment schemes (through, for example, sheltered employment and co-operatives),
- job creation actions to facilitate integration into the labour market and to offset possible loss of benefits in the transition from a protected environment,
- support to local employment initiatives including public-private partnerships and involving local communities in particular in sectors where employment-intensive growth appears high;

(d) *information dissemination and awareness actions, including:*

- support for wide dissemination of information on employment and training opportunities in a format accessible to disabled people,
- actions to raise the awareness of the general public, the social partners and education, training and employment services personnel with regard to the employment potential of disabled people, in particular through the publication of codes of good practice,

- support for information services and support structures such as networks for the dissemination of this information.

11. **'Employment — Youthstart' (promoting labour market integration of young people)**

One of the main conclusions of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment is that more effort is required to enable, young people to participate effectively in the labour market. Young people who have left education without a qualification face particular problems of integration. They often cannot compete effectively in an already difficult labour market, and they face the danger of long-term unemployment and potential alienation from society.

In order to address this fundamental problem the Commission proposed in its White Paper, endorsed by the Heads of State or Government in December, a scheme called Youthstart. The aim of the scheme is to stimulate actions by Member States leading progressively in the longer term to the provision of a youth guarantee throughout the Union. The idea is that every young person under the age of 20 would eventually be guaranteed access either to full-time employment or to a recognized form of education or training, including apprenticeship or other forms of linked work and training. Special efforts would be targeted at young people leaving school with no diploma or basic qualifications. As far as possible, work experience would be industry- or service-based. However, the huge scope for employment in the fields of environment, urban regeneration and the care sector would also be exploited. Youthstart would guarantee each of its citizens a stake in the development of the Union. At the same time it would guarantee the Union the development of its greatest resource, namely its young people, who all too often and all too quickly can drift into unemployment, often long-term, and eventually exclusion.

The basis of Youthstart would be national programmes tailored to the requirements of each Member State receiving where appropriate support through the Community support frameworks. More limited but carefully targeted resources will be channelled through Employment — Youthstart mainly for pilot actions. Employment — Youthstart will act as a catalyst for the scheme as a whole. The scheme has as its long-term objective the progressive introduction of measures to ensure that all young people have access either to full-time employment or to a

recognized form of education or training. Employment — Youthstart will ensure the development of the innovative and transnational dimension of Youthstart. It will assert the development of structured networks of projects and programmes in order to ensure the exchange of good practice and experience. In exceptional and duly justified circumstances. Member States may include young persons over the age of 20 within the framework of Employment — Youthstart.

To maximize the value of Youthstart, it will be linked to the establishment of agreed standards and targets. These standards and targets, to which the initiative would make an essential contribution, would include a coherent link with the labour market, minimum training/qualification standards, independent counselling, adequate post-activity placement, remuneration, a full range of 'soft infrastructure' support (childcare, literacy, etc), role of social security and planned, structured transnational exchange opportunities.

Within this strand of the initiative the following measures, designed to complement the introduction or development of appropriate measures within national programmes, will be eligible for assistance:

(a) *the development, in the context of assuring the necessary complementarity with other related actions of the ESF and those supported under the Leonardo programme and in particular on a transnational basis, of appropriate training, guidance, counselling and employment systems, in the public and private sectors as appropriate, including:*

- the setting, of targets and standards in regard to careers guidance, pre-training, vocational training, apprenticeships, placement activity, supporting measures and evaluation,
- identification, adaptation and transfer of existing good practice models relating to labour market integration of young people,
- the conception, development and delivery of innovative approaches to labour market integration of young people especially through distance learning,
- facilitating a more active interaction between education, vocational training and the labour market to enhance job opportunities generally;

(b) *the provision, where appropriate on a transnational basis, mainly by building on pilot actions and experience gained in related Community programmes, especially under the proposed Leonardo programme, of training and placement, including:*

- structured training and placement programmes for young people, with a particular emphasis on enhancing and reinforcing vocational, personal, entrepreneurial and linguistic skills, to be coordinated effectively with local programmed training and placement activity,
- the training of trainers and placement personnel particularly those designing and delivering services at local level, in order to improve labour market integration of young people,
- facilitating special training and placement experience, particularly in the fields of the arts, cultural heritage, environmental protection, urban regeneration and care services,
- the application of innovative models which can support and enhance local activity;

(c) *assisting job creation, in particular through transnational cooperation, including:*

- measures aimed at young people wishing to become self-employed with particular emphasis on developing relationships with young entrepreneurs in other Member States, transnational trading agencies, and self help networks,
- transnational exchanges between local development agencies in order to identify and apply innovative support and development models,
- support for local employment initiatives aimed at the integration of young people, particularly in the fields of the arts, cultural heritage, environmental protection, urban regeneration and the care sector;

(d) *information dissemination and awareness actions, in particular on a transnational basis, including:*

- measures aimed at raising awareness, especially among the Social Partners and of

agencies concerned, of the particular integration problems facing young people and of possible responses,

- support for related information services at national, regional and local level,
- information activities aimed at promoting the Employment — Youthstart programme among young people.

12. 'Employment — Integra' (improving access to the labour market and employability of vulnerable groups)

This strand will promote measures to improve the access to the labour market and employability of those who find themselves excluded from it. It is aimed at the vulnerable groups who are at a severe disadvantage on the labour market due to a lack of education, training, or sufficient work experience and who require substantial support for their effective social and economic integration or reintegration.

Target groups will continue to include those disadvantaged groups previously covered by Employment-Horizon, such as the long-term unemployed, jobless single parents, the homeless, itinerants, gypsies and travellers, prisoners and ex-prisoners, substance abusers, etc.

However, a particular emphasis should be given to actions that focus on the special needs of migrants, refugees and other similarly vulnerable groups, who are likely to be faced with greater discrimination on the labour market, as a consequence of the rise in social tension, racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism that Europe is witnessing. The problem is European in scope, yet it is equally clear that it is essentially national and even local in nature. To be successful, strategies for the fight against discrimination need to be people-driven and based on broad cross-community partnerships. The Community initiatives, with their emphasis on bottom-up methods of implementation and on approaches that encourage cooperation and partnership in the pursuit of shared aims, are uniquely placed instruments to promote such a culture of civic responsibility.

Greater emphasis should also be placed on actions targeted at disadvantaged urban areas, where community-based approaches to the revitalization of neighbourhoods could be appropriately combined with job creation initiatives aimed at the potential new sources of jobs highlighted in the White Paper

on growth, competitiveness and employment. This clearly requires close coordination at local, regional and national level between the authorities responsible for this initiative and those responsible for Urban which is focused specifically on the problems of urban areas as a whole. This emphasis does not preclude actions targeted at disadvantaged rural areas.

All actions should be based on the principle of empowerment of the target groups and persons concerned, promoting their active participation in decision-making processes and offering structured pathways to inclusion into the labour market. In this context, integrated approaches should be promoted, which take into account the impact on the person of wider problems associated with exclusion from the labour market, such as housing, health, social protection, mobility, access to justice and public services, as well as training, in accordance with the national policies and priorities of each Member State. Where appropriate, host-country language training should be incorporated within actions targeted at migrants, refugees and other similarly vulnerable groups. Similarly, efforts should be made to promote the involvement and partnership of a wide range of actors, such as public authorities and their agencies, non-governmental organizations, semi-public bodies, the Social Partners, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives, associations, friendly societies and charitable trusts, consumer and resident organizations.

All actions should have defined objectives at local level, which are coherent with objectives at the regional and national level.

It is essential that sufficient time is given in programme-planning to allow for capacity-building among potential project promoters to establish themselves at the local level before developing transnational cooperation.

Within the scope of this strand, the following measures will be eligible for funding. In accordance with the principle of offering structured pathways to inclusion into the labour market, financing will be concentrated on projects which offer an integrated package of training and accompanying measures that address the global needs of the groups or persons targeted.

- (a) *the development of models, in particular on a transnational basis, for improving the accessibility and quality in the provision of the full range of public services for vulnerable groups and disadvantaged people and for developing grassroots capacities and community-based approaches to promoting the empowerment and full inclusion of these target groups, including:*

- support for the creation or development of tailored advisory services (particularly for career guidance and counselling) and local development agencies to help create jobs for disadvantaged people particularly in the sectors where employment growth appears high,
 - the occupational integration of disadvantaged people with the help of community infrastructure, information, advice and development of services,
 - support for the development and delivery of integrated community-based services targeted at vulnerable groups and disadvantaged people, perhaps on an outreach basis, or through the organization of 'one-stop-shops' providing information and advice,
 - support for labour market actions aimed at public services personnel and the social partners with a view to promoting tolerance and combating discrimination in access to the labour market in relation to vulnerable groups and disadvantaged people,
 - support for labour market focused actions to build confidence and empower local groups to play an active part in the decision-making-process related to training and support in project development and management, business and communication skills, organization of community activities; and other activities aiming at stimulating dialogue between key actors in the public, private and voluntary sectors,
 - support for the implementation of flexible training and learning systems such as distance and interactive computer learning,
 - strengthening the cooperation and interaction between vocational schools, vocational training and enterprises for the implementation of new forms of on- and off-the-job training,
 - setting up reception/guidance and employment centres, including places of transit, for multiple use, for the initial integration of refugees;
- (b) *the delivery, in particular through transnational cooperation, of training, including:*
- training of disadvantaged people in new skills and qualifications especially for sectors where employment growth appears high and in areas of R&TD and innovative technologies,
 - training of disadvantaged people (psychological and social rehabilitation, pre-training, upgrading of basic skills, retraining) preceded and accompanied by on-going assessment and counselling. This will include *inter alia* 'on-the-job' training modules linked to special courses for specific target groups and the development of mentoring approaches to improve integration into the labour market,
 - training or upgrading of skills and qualifications of advisers, local development agents, trainers, social workers, representatives of the Social Partners and those responsible for personnel in the private sector, in order to improve their understanding and awareness in matters concerning the integration of disadvantaged people into sectors where employment growth appears high;
- (c) *job creation and support, particularly on a transnational basis, for the start-up of enterprises, cooperatives and public-private partnerships, including:*
- job-creation measures designed to exploit local potential for developing new types of employment based on innovative approaches to the organization of work,
 - innovative approaches to reducing the labour costs for employers of groups with lower productivity in the labour market,
 - development of supported employment places and new employment schemes (through, for example, sheltered employment and cooperatives),
 - job-creation actions to facilitate integration into the labour market and to offset possible loss of benefits in the transition from a protected environment,
 - support to local employment initiatives including public-private partnerships and involving local communities in particular in sectors where employment intensive growth appears high;

(d) *information dissemination and awareness actions, including:*

- support for the wide dissemination of information on employment and training opportunities in a format accessible to disadvantaged groups,
- actions to raise the awareness of the general public, the Social Partners and education, training and employment services personnel with regard to the employment potential of vulnerable groups and disadvantaged people, in particular through the publication of codes of good practice,
- the development and promotion of networks for peer support and self-help activity among vulnerable groups and disadvantaged people.

V. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

13. Technical assistance will be available at the initiative of the Member States or of the Commission and will be supported during both the stage of preparation of proposals and the subsequent stage of implementation. Technical assistance may include:

- the dissemination of information and other awareness actions,
- the provision of consultancy and expert services,
- the organization of bilateral or multilateral meetings between Member States to facilitate cooperation,
- the development and sharing of databases on training and employment services and other aspects of labour market organization,
- the carrying-out of studies regarding innovative methods and the results of training, training of trainers and vocational guidance activities,
- assistance on evaluation procedures and practices,
- the creation or development of Community-wide networks to facilitate innovation and transnational cooperation.

A coordinated and coherent approach in regard to related Community action programmes should be ensured in particular for databases, networks and information dissemination. When the Commission proposes to launch a specific network, it will inform the Member States in due time.

VI. COMMUNITY FINANCING

14. The actions covered by this initiative shall be jointly financed by the Member States, the Community and by enterprises and other bodies where appropriate. Where employees of companies take part in the various operations, the enterprises concerned shall finance an appropriate part of their cost.
15. The total contribution from the Structural Funds for the period 1994 to 1999 is estimated at ECU 1,835 million of which ECU 900 million will be allocated to Objectives 1 and 6 regions.
16. The distribution of resources between Member States under this initiative will be based on the relative severity of structural problems, including in particular relevant unemployment levels, as well as the quality of the proposals submitted for operational programmes and global grants.

17. Amounts will be allocated to each strand as follows:

'Employment — NOW'	ECU 496 million
'Employment — Horizon'	ECU 513 million
'Employment — Youthstart'	ECU 441 million
'Employment — Integra'	ECU 385 million
Total	ECU 1 835 million

In the adoption of the respective operational programmes, a corresponding balance between the strands should be reflected.

18. Rates of assistance will respect the provisions of the Structural Funds regulations. Under the technical assistance provisions, a maximum rate of assistance may be accorded for transnational actions.

VII. IMPLEMENTATION

19. Member States are invited to present proposals for support in the form of operational programmes or of global grants within four months of the date of publication of this communication. In the latter case, Community assistance may be granted directly to decentralized organizations responsible for

implementation, including organizations responsible for managing transnational actions and designated by the Member State concerned.

20. As far as the most remote regions are concerned, the measures laid down in this initiative should, as a priority, be implemented in the framework and within the financial resources of the Community initiative Regis.
21. During the preparation of proposals, Member States are invited to discuss with the Commission the main priorities and eligible measures and the mechanisms of implementation.
22. Use can be made of the provisions for transnational operational programmes whereby two or more Member States may, on their own initiative or at the invitation of the Commission, present a single application for assistance. In response to these applications the Commission may, in consultation with the Member States concerned, take a single decision granting financial support.
23. Within the context of operational programmes or global grants measures should be identified by the main objectives of the Structural Funds. The proposals must include a general appreciation of the situation indicating the objectives to be attained and should include a timetable, criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment.
24. A single monitoring committee within each Member State will be responsible for the initiative as a whole.
25. It is proposed to develop special support structures under the various strands of the initiative. Cooperation with other Community action programmes concerned will also be reinforced in terms of guidelines, technical assistance, joint operations and

networks, follow-up of projects, evaluation, research and dissemination of information. The national authorities concerned with this initiative will make reciprocal arrangements with those concerned with other related Community programmes to ensure that, in the selection of the projects, there is the maximum complementarity and minimum overlap between these programmes.

26. The Commission will require Member States to formulate and implement programmes so as to optimize the conditions for transnational cooperation.

VIII. EVALUATION

27. During and at the end of the planning period the Commission shall evaluate, in partnership with the Member States, the results of the programmes submitted. In order to carry out this evaluation the Commission will use the objectives specified by Member States according to the provisions laid down in Part VII, point 22 as the main benchmark against which to assess progress. As a function of the desired objectives and the implemented measures this evaluation will provide data related to the target groups including the final beneficiaries. The European Parliament, the management committee on the Community initiatives and the committee referred to in Part VII, point 23 of this communication shall be informed of the results of such evaluation measures and the action taken in response to them.
28. Correspondence concerning this communication should be sent to:

Mr A. Larsson
Director-General
Directorate-General for Employment, Industrial
Relations and Social Affairs
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200,
B-1049 Brussels.

COMMUNICATION TO THE MEMBER STATES

laying down guidelines for operational programmes which Member States are invited to establish in the framework of a Community Interreg initiative concerning transnational cooperation on spatial planning

(INTERREG II C)

(96/C 200/07)

1. At its meeting on 8 May 1996, the European Commission decided to develop the initiative concerning cross-border cooperation and selected energy networks to include a third strand (hereinafter referred to as Interreg II C) concerning transnational cooperation on spatial planning within the meaning of Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, last amended by Regulation (EC) No 3193/94, and Article 3 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88, amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93, and Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88, amended by Regulation (EEC) No 2085/93.

2. In the context of Interreg II, Community assistance in the form of loans and grants and technical assistance is made available for measures and in areas which respect the guidelines laid down in this notice, and which are included in operational programmes submitted singly or jointly by Member States and approved by the European Commission.

3. In terms of its objectives, as well as its programmes, Interreg II C is entirely distinct from strands A (transnational cooperation) and B (selected energy networks), as much by the extent of the area covered and the types of partnerships which it seeks to promote as by the emphasis it places on the development of a strategic vision for the spatial planning of the areas in question.

In effect, the concept of spatial planning was first introduced in the regulations on the Structural Funds with a view to undertaking exploratory studies (Article 10 of the ERDF). It then developed at the Community level through two Commission communications (Europe 2000 and Europe 2000+), the conclusions of eight successive informal ministerial meetings, in particular in Leipzig (September 1994) and Strasbourg (March 1995), as well as the interest shown in the matter by the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions.

4. The implementation of the Community Initiative Interreg II C is achieved within the framework of the competence of each Member State as regards

spatial planning. It will not prejudice other actions in this field which are the responsibility of the Member States.

I. DEVELOPMENT AIMS

5. The aims of this strand of the initiative are:

- to help restore the balance between different areas of the European Union through structuring measures that serve Community interests by contributing to the promotion of economic and social cohesion. What is involved is to seek an ordered and optimum allocation of activities in spatial terms, the development of adequate communication networks between these activities, and the correction of disparities and development differences, in a strategy for the sustainable development of the Union's territory, that it is desired to make balanced and competitive,

- to foster transnational cooperation initiated in this field by Member States and other authorities with responsibilities for spatial planning within a framework of common territorial development priorities adopted for continuous geographical entities covering areas in more than one Member State,

- to improve the impact of Community policies on spatial development,

- to help Member States and their regions take a preventive and cooperative approach to the problems of water resources management posed by floods and drought.

6. Interreg II C is thus made up of three elements:

- spatial planning and transnational cooperation measures,

- spatial planning and transnational cooperation against flooding,

- spatial planning and action against drought.

7. **Spatial planning and transnational cooperation measures**

Several Member States have signed transnational cooperation agreements covering wide geographical areas (e.g. the Alps, Mediterranean sea, Baltic sea) in relation to territorial development and more specifically spatial planning.

Over and above these agreements, what is involved is support for the joint development of other transnational groupings going beyond simple cross-border cooperation and forming groupings involving at least three States (at least two of which are Member States), taking account of the size of possible territories involved in cooperation.

8. **Spatial planning and transnational cooperation against flooding**

For several years now various Member States have been facing an increase in spatial development problems relating to flooding. The origin of these problems has at least in part been attributed to the lack of planning and development measures for river basins, in particular where the latter run through several Member States.

The objective of Community participation is to promote three types of measures:

- joint drafting and implementation of cooperative plans and programmes for the development of river basins,
- spatial planning measures that help prevent floods,
- cooperation between Member States and local and regional authorities aimed at developing the abovementioned measures, in particular through the pooling of know-how and experience.

9. **Spatial planning and action against drought**

The regions of the Mediterranean area have been particularly affected for several years by increasingly serious drought conditions.

Over and above climatic factors, the worsening consequences of this phenomenon are generally attributed, at least in part, to a series of inappropriate spatial planning practices, and a lack of

coordination between the partners concerned, in regard to the management of water resources,

The objective of Community participation is to promote two types of measure:

- actions contributing to sustainable territorial development, through the avoidance of excessive water consumption, while encouraging a rational and equitable distribution of water resources,
- cooperation between Member States and local and regional authorities on the abovementioned measures, in particular through the pooling of know-how and experience, including that of European and Mediterranean non-member countries.

II. PRESENTATION OF PROGRAMMES

10. When preparing operational programmes for submission under the Interreg II C initiative, Member States and regional and local authorities will present a joint strategy related to the area in question and proposals derived from it.

11. For each operational programme, a joint management structure will be competent for all the territory in question for implementing the joint strategy of the transnational programme and to facilitate the implementation of the joint projects between the Member States. Its functioning and the management methods should be defined taking into account the peculiarities of each situation, with a pragmatic approach.

Priority will be given to proposals made in cooperation with regional and local authorities which include the creation of development of shared institutional or administrative structures, where possible within existing cooperation frameworks, for implementing broader and deeper transnational cooperation, supported, where appropriate, not only by public institutions but also by private and voluntary organizations and agencies.

In addition, the Commission wishes to develop joint procedures for transnational cooperation where appropriate.

12. Measures assisted under this initiative should be designed to have a global impact so that one Member State can benefit from assistance provided on the territory of another State. Particular attention will be given to measures that

benefit the most remote regions, even if the measures are not implemented on the territory of those regions.

III. DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE AREAS

13. On the basis of proposals drawn up jointly by the Member States concerned, the Commission will adopt a list of a limited number of transnational groupings of geographically continuous areas involved in cooperation covering in principle at least three States (at least two of which are Member States). One Member State may participate in several transnational cooperation groupings. Within this group of States, cooperation between a smaller number of States on particular aspects will be possible.
14. The regions targeted by the flood mitigation actions are the drainage basins of the rivers in question.
15. In addition, a list of regions eligible for measures conducted at national level concerning the fight against drought will be drawn up by the Commission from the eligible regions, and especially from Objective I regions, on the basis of properly-documented proposals from the Member States concerned (Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece).
16. Special rules will be adopted by the Commission to promote the participation of European and Mediterranean non-member countries in these transnational cooperation groupings in the Union. In such cases, an application from a minimum of two Member States may suffice to establish the transnational cooperation area with those countries. However, it should be recalled that Community assistance under the Interreg II C initiative can only be granted to those parts of the area situated in the European Union.

IV. ELIGIBLE ACTIONS AND MEASURES

17. (a) *spatial planning and transnational cooperation*

The choice of measures selected for the purpose of preparing an operational programme from the eligibility list defined below will be carried out according to priorities and integrated strategies jointly established by the Member States. All measures should be consistent with a long-term sustainable development of the transnational region in question.

- Preparatory actions for the implementation of transnational strategies, notably the identification (through detailed studies, definition of common criteria and the development of planning methods) of environmentally sensitive areas or areas that may benefit from priority measures to assist spatial planning,
- measures for the improvement of the territorial impact of Community policies, excluding the financing of infrastructures, for example:
 - feasibility studies on the improvement of secondary land transport routes,
 - measures for the development of sea transport, in particular insofar as they are of interest to the peripheral regions,
 - actions for the development of multimodal transport,
 - promotion of air links between regional airports for the benefit of peripheral regions,
- with a view to promoting sustainable mobility,
- actions to improve the territorial management of the marine areas at the periphery of the Union, from the point of view both of economic development and environmental protection and improvement,
- measures to develop the coastal areas of the European Union, for example:
 - integrated coastal development,
 - prevention and control of sea pollution,
 - protection of the environment,
- development of transnational land administration systems and regulations as a basis for decisions on land-use, planning, economic development and management of land.

Where it is demonstrated that transnational cooperation contributes to their effectiveness and their territorial impact is substantial:

- measures to restore, develop and protect areas affected by permanent geographical

- handicaps (e.g. mountains, Arctic areas) and to manage the countryside,
- integrated measures preparing, promoting or accompanying sustainable economic development and the integrated management of resources in given categories of zones (e.g. wetlands, coastal areas, tourist areas) belonging to the same transnational geographical area,
 - economic development measures with a view to sustainable development, for example:
 - promotion of high-quality tourism,
 - development of networks of medium-sized towns,
 - diversification in rural areas,
 - cooperation using information and communication technologies, e.g. in tourism,
 - measures for sustainable development of the mountainous regions of the Union as living areas, economic areas and natural areas,
 - measures for improving transnational cooperation in the field of spatial planning with the non-Member States,
 - the promotion of technology transfer and cooperation networks, research and higher education and technology transfer centres, and the creation of information systems benefiting in particular remote areas. This could include ERDF and ESF support for studies, pilot projects and the development of human resources;
- (b) *spatial development planning and transnational cooperation against flooding*
- and
- (c) *spatial development planning and action against drought*
- measures concerning:
 - the identification of sensitive areas or areas that may benefit from priority measures to assist spatial planning [b + c],
 - studies on the hydraulic and ecological balance of major river basins, on the cause of flooding, in particular in relation to land use policies and practices, preparation of joint plans feasibility studies, application of expertise, experience and techniques relating to water conservation [b + c],
 - drawing up guidelines and measures concerning the definition of priorities and strategies on the use of land and spatial planning for sustainable hydrological management [b + c],
 - preparation of joint integrated plans for the sustainable development and improved use of available resources, with a view to avoiding overuse (between relevant authorities, e.g. authorities responsible for spatial planning or water resource management) [c],
 - improvement of measures relating to the prevention of flooding in drainage basins (such as improvement of dykes and water management measures), especially when these are attributable to poor physical planning, including [b]:
 - measures aimed at lowering water levels through the restoration of natural overflows and the reduction of intensive land use having a negative effect on water retention levels,
 - a coherent set of environmentally friendly measures for undyked river systems,
 - studies on the water resource and ecological balance in areas with low rainfall [c];
 - improvement of irrigation techniques, careful choice of crops and cultivation methods, reduction of consumption, reduction of losses from supply systems, management of seasonal peaks, reuse of used water, identification of measures with quantifiable economic objectives and value as examples, in particular in the agricultural sector [b + c];

- promotion of good practice:
 - systems of supervision, coordination and exchange of information (in particular using computer systems), as well as emergency intervention planning,
 - protection and preparation of the sustainable restoration of sensitive areas,
 - measures to raise the awareness of the groups particularly concerned,
 - joint definition of basic training requirements,
 - promotion of implementation that can be used for demonstration purposes,
 - incentive measures.

18. With regard to technical assistance for all the eligible measures, the Commission will:

- help the Member States and regional and local authorities, particularly in Objectives 1 and 6 regions, to prepare and implement programmes,
- encourage and facilitate the exchange of information and experience on transnational cooperation,
- organize multilateral meeting between Member States to facilitate cooperation.

V. COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TO THE FINANCING OF INTERREG II C

19. Interreg II C operational programmes and projects will be jointly financed by Member States and the Community. The total contribution of the Community Structural Funds to strand C of the Interreg II initiative for 1995 to 1999 is estimated at ECU 415 million. Community expenditure in regions not classified as eligible under Objectives 1, 2, 5b and 6 must represent a minority share of the Community contribution. In the case of the countries of Central Eastern and Europe, the CIS and the Mediterranean, transnational activities may be financed under the Phare, Tacis and MEDA programmes respectively.

20. The Commission decision on the amount of Community assistance to be allocated to the various operational programmes will be made on the basis of the population and level of development of the areas concerned, as well as the quality of the programmes submitted. The amounts allocated will be decided in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations governing the Structural Funds and depending on the financial capacity of the national and regional authorities concerned. In evaluating the quality of the programmes, the Commission will consider the following factors in particular:

- the existence of a joint structure covering the whole of the territory concerned and evidence of joint cooperation and financing procedures as well as common modalities for the implementation of the programme,
- the existence of a coherent strategy for the area concerned, considered as an integrated geographical unit, with an appropriate combination of measures and a clear definition of the development objectives, quantified where appropriate, in which the objectives of the operational programmes have been properly integrated,
- the forecast impact of the measures proposed within the areas under Interreg II C, taking account of the problems to be solved and the objectives set for this strand,
- the complementarity of the assistance requested from the Community with the contributions granted by the national and regional authorities to support the operational programme,
- the forecast efficiency of the arrangements for the implementation, monitoring and assessment of the programmes and the degree of involvement of local and regional authorities in that implementation.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

21. Member States wishing to benefit from assistance under this strand of Interreg II are invited to submit detailed operational programme proposals within six months of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Operational programme proposals submitted after that date will not necessarily be

considered by the Commission. The C strand of the Interreg II initiative will be administered separately from the other two strands of the initiative.

22. The costs relating to zones covered by Objective I will be indicated separately in the programme. Where appropriate, expenditure relating to areas not eligible under Objectives 1, 2, 5b and 6 should also be indicated separately.
23. Third countries cooperating in the implementation of a programme and receiving funding under other Community programmes, in particular Phare, Tacis and MEDA, should submit their applications for assistance under the latter following the procedures governing them. To facilitate the implementation of the transnational or cross-border projects or measures the Member States and third countries involved should adopt appropriate coordination procedures in association with the Commission.
24. The proposals should include an assessment of the situation and indicate their objectives. They should

be accompanied by a schedule and a statement of the criteria and procedures for implementation, monitoring and assessment. During and after the programming period, the Commission will assess, in partnership with the Member States, the results of the programmes submitted. The European Parliament, the Management Committee for Community initiatives and the monitoring committees will be informed of the results of the assessment and the measures taken as a consequence.

25. All correspondence relating to this notice should be addressed to:

Mr E. Landáburu
Director-General
Directorate-General for Regional Policy
and Cohesion
European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels.

Recapitulation of current tenders, published in the *Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Communities*, financed by the European Community under the European Development Fund (EDF) or the European Communities budget

(week: 2 to 6 July 1996)

(96/C 200/08)

Invitation to tender No	Number and date of 'S' Journal	Country	Subject	Final date for submission of bids
4128	S 125, 2. 7. 1996	Egypt	EG-Cairo: cutter-suction dredger (additional information)	24. 7. 1996
I/1	S 126, 3. 7. 1996	China	CN-Beijing: office and teaching equipment	19. 9. 1996

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INTEREST GROUPING

Notices published pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2137/85 of 25 July 1985 ⁽¹⁾ —
Formation

(96/C 200/09)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Name of grouping: AEIE para el desarrollo de los servicios de transporte de viajeros por ferrocarril entre Francia y España | 1. Name of grouping: Gruppo europeo d'interesse economico per la gestione dei treni diurni di qualità tra l'Italia e la Francia |
| 2. Date of registration of grouping: 11. 6. 1996 | 2. Date of registration of grouping: 31. 5. 1996 |
| 3. Place of registration of grouping:
(a) Member State: E
(b) Place: E-Madrid | 3. Place of registration of grouping:
(a) Member State: I
(b) Place: I-10100 Torino |
| 4. | 4. Registration number of grouping: 511039/1996 |
| 5. Publication(s):
(a) Full title of publication: Boletín Oficial del Estado
(b) Name and address of publisher: Boletín Oficial del Estado, C/ Trafalgar, 27, E-Madrid
(c) Date of publication: 27. 6. 1996 | 5. Publication(s):
(a) Full title of publication: Gazzetta ufficiale della Repubblica Italiana, parte II
(b) Name and address of publisher: Istituto poligrafico e zecca dello Stato
(c) Date of publication: 29. 6. 1996 |

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 199, 31. 7. 1985, p. 1.

Phare — freight wagons washing stand

Notice of invitation to tender issued by the Commission of European Communities on behalf of the Government of Poland financed in the framework of the Phare programme

(96/C 200/10)

Project title: Transport programme Phare PL 9308 - Tender No 9308/8/95.

1. Participation and origin

Participation is open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons of the Member States of the European Community and of Albania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.

2. Subject

Supply, assembly and installation of freight wagons washing stand with wastewater-treatment plant at Mataszewicze railway border crossing.

3. Invitation to tender dossier:

The complete tender dossier may be obtained from:

a) Polish State Railways - CBZiS PKP 'FERPOL', room No 228, ul. Grójecka 17, PL-00973 Warszawa, tel. (48 22) 22 14 30, facsimile (48 22) 22 26 28.

upon payment of a non-refundable fee of 100 ECU or equivalent plus 40 ECU for courier delivery charges, if requested, paid by cash, cheque or bank transfer into PKP CBZiS 'FERPOL' account No 400002-262806-2511-1 in BREI O/Warszawa S.A.

4. Tenders

Should arrive, at the latest, on 9. 9. 1996 (12.00), local time, at the:

Polish State Railways - CBZiS 'FERPOL', ul Grójecka 17, PL-00973 Warszawa.

Each tender must be accompanied by a bid bond in the amount not less than 2 % of the tender price in a form specified in the tender dossier.

They will be opened in public session on 9. 9. 1996 (12.30), local time, at the above address.

Training of first aid team mates

Restricted procedure

(96/C 200/11)

1. **Name, address, telephone, telegraphic, telex, and facsimile numbers of the awarding authority:** European Commission, Directorate-General for Personnel and Administration, IX.C.1., 'Buildings policy - options and contracts', Orban 1/69, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel.

Tel. 295 21 00. Facsimile 295 23 72.

The practical training will comprise: a demonstration of the operation of different methods of extinction; exercises to evaluate danger, and individual and team exercises.

CPC reference No: 92.

Single overall contract.

2. **Category of service and description:** Service category 24: organization and execution of a series of training sessions for first aid team mates and first aid team leaders of the Commission of the European Union. The theoretical training must comprise the following topics: danger awareness and prevention, evacuation and firefighting.

3. **Place of delivery:** To easily accessible locations in B-Brussels.

4. a) **Indication of whether the execution of the service is reserved by law, regulation or administrative provision to a particular profession:**

- b) **Reference of the law, regulation or administrative provision:**

- c) *Indication of whether legal persons should indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff to be responsible for the execution of the service:* Yes.
5. *Indication of whether service providers can tender for a part of the services concerned:* Service providers must tender for the entire contract.
6. *Envisaged number or range of service providers which will be invited to tender:*
7. *Where applicable, non-acceptance of variants:*
8. *Duration of contract, or time limit for completion of the service:* Contract for a maximum duration of 5 years, due to take effect beginning 1997.
9. *Where applicable, the legal form to be assumed by the grouping of service providers winning the contract:*
10. a) *Where applicable, justification for the use of the accelerated procedure:*
- b) *Deadline for the receipt of requests to participate:* 8. 8. 1996.
- c) *Address to which they must be sent:* As in 1, indicating reference 96/16/IX.C.1. Requests must be accompanied by the documents listed in 13.
- d) *Language(s) in which they must be drawn up:* 1 of the 11 official languages of the European Community.
11. *Deadline for the dispatch of invitations to tender:* 31. 10. 1996.
12. *Where applicable, deposits and guarantees required:*
13. *Information concerning the service provider's own position, and the information and formalities necessary for an appraisal of the minimum economic and technical standards required of him:* Tenderers must produce the following documents with their requests to participate, indicating reference 96/16/IX.C.1:
- a statement indicating the overall annual turnover and the annual turnover in relation to services to which this contract refers, or similar contracts carried out during the past 3 financial years, accompanied by balance sheets and profit and loss accounts or other documentary evidence,
 - a statement indicating the number of employees,
 - solid references, notably covering the execution of similar operations over the past 3 years indicating the quantity, the date and the recipients, public or private, involved,
 - a description of the premises proposed for the training (location, building, fittings, facilities, etc.).
14. *Contract award criteria and, if possible, their order of importance. Criteria other than that of lowest price shall be mentioned if they do not appear in the tender documents:* The contract will be awarded to the economically most advantageous tender having regard to:
- the quality of the services offered with respect to the different requirements which are specified in the tender documents,
 - the price.
15. *Other information.*
16. *Date(s) of publication of the pre-information notice in the Official Journal of the European Communities, or reference to its non-publication:* Not published, as this category of service is mentioned in Annex I.B of Directive 92/50/EEC.
17. *Date of dispatch of the notice:* 28. 6. 1996.
18. *Date of receipt by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities:* 28. 6. 1996.
19. *Indicate whether the contract is covered by the GATT Agreement:* No.

'Pest control': rats, mice and cockroaches and replacement of hygienic containers**Open procedure**

(96/C 200/12)

1. **Name, address, telephone, telegraphic, telex and facsimile numbers of the awarding authority:** European Commission, Directorate-General for Personnel and administration, IX.C.1., 'Buildings policy - options and contracts', Orban 1/69, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel.

Tel. 295 21 00. Facsimile 295 23 72.
2. **Category of service and description:** 'Pest control': rats, mice and cockroaches, and replacement of the hygienic containers in the Commission buildings.

The treating and substances used in the pest control process must guarantee the non-proliferation of rats, mice and cockroaches in the Commission buildings.

Number of buildings: approximately 60, situated in Brussels and surrounding areas.

Number of containers: approximately 1 350.

CPC reference No: 87.401 and 94.
3. **Place of delivery:** Services to be performed in the buildings of the Commission.
4. a) **Indication of whether the execution of the service is reserved by law, regulation or administrative provision to a particular profession:**

b) **Reference of the law, regulation or administrative provision:**

c) **Indication of whether legal persons should indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff to be responsible for the execution of the service:**
5. **Indication of whether service providers can tender for a part of the services concerned:** The tenderers must tender for 1 or both lots.
6. **Where applicable, non-acceptance of variants:**
7. **Duration of contract or time limit for the completion of the service:** Contract with a maximum 5-year duration.
8. a) **Name and address of the service from which the necessary documents may be requested:** The tender documents may be requested from the address in 1.

All such requests must be submitted in writing, indicating reference 96/04/IX.C.1.

b) **Deadline for submitting requests:** 19. 8. 1996.
- c) **Where applicable, cost and conditions of payment for obtaining the documents:** Free of charge.
9. a) **Persons authorized to be present at the opening of tenders:** 1 person per tenderer will be admitted. The name and position of the participant must be notified, in writing (if possible by facsimile on 295 23 72 in Brussels) at the latest by the deadline for the submission of tenders.

b) **Date, time and place of the opening:** 20. 9. 1996 (10.00), in meeting room 1/55 of the bâtiment Orban (Square Frère Orban n° 8, B-1040 Bruxelles).
10. **Where applicable, deposits and guarantees required:** The due performance of the services will be guaranteed by a deposit of 5 000 ECUs per lot awarded.
11. **Main terms concerning financing and payment and/or reference to the relevant provisions:** Payments will be effected 60 days after receipt of the invoice for payment, and this condition will lapse on the day of debit from the Commission's bank account.
12. **Where applicable, the legal form to be taken by the grouping of service providers to whom the contract is awarded:**
13. **Information concerning the service provider's own position, and information and formalities necessary for an appraisal of the minimum economic and technical standards required of him:** Tenderers must enclose the following in their tender:
 - a statement indicating the overall annual turnover and the annual turnover in relation to the service to which this contract relates, or similar contracts carried out during the past 3 financial years, accompanied by balance sheets and profit and loss accounts or other documentary evidence,
 - a statement indicating the average number of employees over the past 3 financial years,
 - solid references, notably covering the execution of similar operations, supported by corresponding certificates of due performance or a statement to show the tenderer's experience in the different areas covered in the tender documents.
14. **Period during which the tenderer is bound to keep open his tender:** 9 months from the 13. 9. 1996.

15. **Contract award criteria and, if possible, their order of importance. Criteria other than that of lowest price shall be mentioned if they do not appear in the tender documents:** The contract will be awarded to the economically most advantageous tender in terms of the price and quality of the service offered.
16. **Other information:** Deadline for the receipt of tenders: 13. 9. 1996.
17. **Date of dispatch of the notice:** 28. 6. 1996.
18. **Date of receipt by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities:** 28. 6. 1996.
19. **Indicate whether the contract is covered by the GATT Agreement:** The contract is covered by the WTO (ex-GATT) Agreement governing public service contracts.

Technical assistance for the 16/9 Action Plan

Open procedure

(96/C 200/13)

1. **Awarding authority:** European Commission, Directorate-General X - Audiovisual Media, Information, Communication and Culture, Mr Costas Daskalakis, 16/9 Action Plan, bureau L 102 6/25, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel.
- Tel. (32-2) 296 35 96. Facsimile (32-2) 296 69 92.
2. **Category of service and description:** The 16/9 Action Plan (Council Decision 93/424/EEC) aims at promoting the 16/9 television format. It is currently providing the European audiovisual sector with 228 000 000 ECUs in aid over a 4-year period (from 1. 7. 1993), divided into 2 parts:
- part 1: aid for the broadcasting and distribution of programmes in the 16/9 format,
 - part 2: aid for the production of programmes in the 16/9 format.
- Concerning part 2, an external organization is currently providing technical assistance to the Commission for:
- 1) — the evaluation of projects received pursuant to calls for proposals,
 - the drafting and dispatching of notifications of aid awarded,
 - technical verification,
 - 2) — the preparation and execution of payment documents,
 - financial auditing.
- The above 2 service categories will henceforth be divided into 2 separate contracts.
- The services in question correspond to categories 9 and 27, CPC reference No 862.
- Invitation to tender No PO/96-47/D3.
3. **Place of execution:** The contractors premises.
4. a), b), c)
5. The contract is divided into 2 lots, corresponding to both the service categories 1) and 2) specified in paragraph 2 of this notice.
- Applicants may tender for 1 or both lots, but the Commission will award the 2 lots to 2 separate tenderers. Each tenderer must be prepared to cover all the services involved in the lot(s) for which he is tendering.
- 6.
7. The contracts are for a 1-year period, renewable 4 times.
8. a) **Name and address of the service from which the necessary documents may be requested:** As in 1.
- b) **Deadline for submitting such requests:** 9. 8. 1996.
- c)
9. a) **Deadline for the receipt of tenders:** 22. 8. 1996.
- b) **Address to which they must be sent:** As in 1.

- c) **Languages in which they must be drawn up:** 1 of the 11 official languages of the European Community.
10. a) **Persons authorized to be present at the opening of tenders:** Commission officials responsible for the contract award and tendering organization representatives.
- b) Opening will take place on 3. 9. 1996 (11.00), at the following address: rue de la Loi 102, Eighth Floor, meeting room, B-1040 Bruxelles.
- 11.
12. **Terms of payment:**
- Instalments will be paid to contractors according to the following terms:
- 40 % within 60 days of contract signature,
 - 30 %, 6 months after contract signature,
 - 30 % at end of the annual period, after submission of a full activity report and a certified financial status, which will be approved by the Commission.
13. In the case of a grouping, 1 legal entity only will be responsible for the contract.
14. **Selection criteria:** Applicants must give evidence of their professional, economic, financial and technical capacity by providing the following documents:
- certificate of enrolment on the trade register,
 - object of the company, or nomenclature of activities for the self-employed,
 - names and positions of the managerial staff,
 - balance sheet for the past 2 years, or ban statement for the self-employed,
- and evidence of:
- their competence in the field of management information, including database processing,
 - their language proficiency, at least in French, English and German,
- and also, for lot 1:
- their knowledge of the audiovisual programme industry,
- and for lot 2:
- their competence in relation to financial management.
- The professional qualifications of staff to be responsible for the project must be mentioned.
- Tenderers who are involved either legally or economically with agents in the sector in question will be excluded from participation.
15. Tenderers are bound to keep open their tender until 22. 2. 1997.
16. **Award criteria:** The contract will be awarded to the economically most advantageous tender having regard to:
- the quality of the work plan and the methodology put forward,
 - the availability of the supervisory staff,
 - the quality of the option proposed in the case of a work overload,
 - the financial conditions.
- 17.
18. A pre-information notice has not been published.
19. **Date of dispatch of the notice:** 28. 6. 1996.
20. **Date of receipt by the OOEPEC:** 28. 6. 1996.
21. The contract is covered by the GATT Agreement.

Building cleaning**Controlled and non-controlled zones****Open procedure**

(96/C 200/14)

1. **Name, address, telephone, telegraphic, telex and facsimile number of the awarding authority:** Commission of the European Communities, Joint Research Centre, Institute for Reference Materials and Measurement (IRMM), Aankoopbureau, Retieseweg, B-2440 Geel.

Tel. (014) 57 12 11. Telex 33589 EURAT B.
Facsimile (014) 58 42 73.

2. **Category of service and description. CPC reference No:** Category 14, CPC reference No 874.

Building cleaning:

- a) Interior cleaning of buildings including controlled zones (approximately 15 600 m²);
b) window cleaning (approximately 6 300 m²).

3. **Place of execution:** As in 1.

4. a) **Indication of whether the execution of the service is reserved by law, regulation or administrative provision to a particular profession:**

- b) **Reference of the law, regulation or administrative provision:**

- c) **Indication of whether legal persons should indicate the names and professional qualifications of the staff to be responsible for the execution of the service:**

5. **Indication of whether service providers can tender for a part of the services concerned:** All the services must be tendered for.

6. **Where applicable, non-acceptance of variants:** Variants are not accepted.

7. **Duration of contract or time limit for the completion of the service:** 1-year contract period, starting 1.1.1997. Annual extension possible for a maximum of 4 years, on written presentation.

8. a) **Name and address of the service from which the necessary documents may be requested:** As in 1.

- b) **Final date for making such requests:** 29. 7. 1996.

- c) **Where applicable, the amount and terms of payment of any sum payable for such documents:**

9. a) **Final date for the receipt of tenders:** 26. 8. 1996.

- b) **Address to which they must be sent:** As in 1.

- c) **Language in which they must be drawn up:** In an official language of the Community.

10. a) **Persons authorized to be present at the opening of tenders:** Tenderers or any person duly authorized by them.

- b) **Date, time and place of the opening:** 29. 8. 1996 (11.00).

As in 1.

11. **Where applicable any deposits and guarantees required:** Will be specified in the tender documents.

12. **Main terms concerning financing and payment, and/or reference to the relevant provisions:** Will be specified in the tender documents.

13. **Where applicable, the legal form to be taken by the grouping of successful tenderers:**

14. **Information concerning the service provider's own position, and information and formalities necessary for an appraisal of the minimum economic and technical standards required of him:** Evidence of economic and financial capacity will be furnished on the basis of the following:

— a statement concerning turnover and the number of persons employed in the field of building cleaning, in relation to the company as a whole, and also concerning the sub office to be responsible for the execution of the service,

— the tenderer will be required to state that this contract does not exceed:

20 % of his overall turnover,

50 % of personnel of the sub office to be responsible for the execution of the service.

The candidate's technical capacity will be shown as follows:

- each tenderer must have experience of at least 3 years in the field of building cleaning,
- each tenderer must comply with legislation in matters relating to building cleaning applicable in the Member State in which he is established.

The following documents must be submitted:

1. a list of principal services executed in the past 3 years in the field of building cleaning,
 2. a description of measures taken by the tenderer to guarantee the quality of services provided,
 3. a copy of a statement drawn up by an independent body in compliance with European standard EN 45000, indicating that the subsidiary company responsible for the services concerned satisfies the quality control standards; it is advisable to make reference, where possible, to the provisions concerning quality control based on standard EN 29000,
 4. a separate statement indicating the percentage of technical personnel and supervisory staff in possession of an approved diploma for surface maintenance and particulars of these diplomas,
 5. an overview of possible associations, in compliance with company law, with other companies (e.g. within a holding company or other grouping).
15. Period during which the tenderer is required to keep open his tender: 9 months from 26. 8. 1996.
16. **Contract award criteria and if possible their order of importance. Criteria other than lowest price shall be mentioned if they do not appear in the contract documents:** The contract will be awarded to the economically and technically most advantageous tender having regard to the terms of the tender documents and the following criteria:

1. quality of the organization (mandatory description of means to be employed: professional qualifications of the personnel and numbers, equipment, work organization, etc.),

2. price.

The first criterion is twice as important as the second.

17. **Other information:**

1. To enable candidates to become aware of all the elements required for this contract, a site visit is anticipated on 12. 8. 1996 (09.00).
2. To facilitate access to the establishment, the representatives (maximum of 1 per tenderer) are requested to forward details of their civil status (photocopy of identity card) to the purchasing office at the address in 1:

— 8. 8. 1996 for the site visit,

— 26. 8. 1996 for the opening of tenders.

18. **Date of publication of a pre-information notice in the OJ, or reference to its non-publication:** Not published as amount inferior to 750 000 ECU.

19. **Date of dispatch of the notice:** 28. 6. 1996.

20. **Date of receipt of the notice by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities:** 28. 6. 1996.

21. **Incation of whether the contract is covered by the GATT Agreement:** The contract is covered by the WTO (ex-GATT Agreement).