

## STATE AID

N 230/89

(Spain)

*(Articles 92 to 94 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community)*

(90/C 36/02)

Commission communication pursuant to Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty to other Member States and interested parties concerning aids which Spain has decided to grant for public transport by road in the Basque country.

By letter dated 19 June 1989 the Spanish Government informed the Commission, pursuant to Article 93 (3) of the EEC Treaty, of a proposed scheme of aid for public transport by road in the Basque country. The scheme comprises grants for carrying out viability studies and for the acquisition of fixed assets by the firms concerned.

The Commission takes the view that aids for replacing old vehicles by new vehicles are liable to be caught by the ban in Article 92 (1) of the Treaty. Whether these vehicles are or are not used for Community transport is a consideration that has no bearing in this context.

On the information it has received so far, the Commission considers that the planned aids would not qualify for any of the derogations provided for in Article 92 (3), since they are not part of a programme of market improvements in the interest of the Community involving, among other things, a reduction in transport capacity.

Under these circumstances, and in line with its approach in similar cases involving other Member States, the

Commission has decided to initiate the procedure provided for in Article 93 (2). It would remind the Spanish Government that, under Article 93 (3) of the EEC Treaty, the proposed measures must not be put into effect until the procedure provided for in paragraph 2 of that Article has resulted in a final decision.

The Commission draws the attention of the Spanish Government to the letter it sent to all Member States on 3 November 1983 concerning their obligations under Article 93 (3) of the EEC Treaty and to the communication published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 318 of 24 November 1983, page 3, in which they were reminded that any aid granted illegally, that is without waiting for the final decision under the procedure provided for in Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty, may have to be refunded.

The Commission hereby gives the other Member States and interested parties notice to submit their comments on the measures in question within one month from the date of publication of this notice to:

Commission of the European Communities,  
200 rue de la Loi,  
B-1049 Brussels.

*The comments will be communicated to Spain.*

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**Call for proposals for participation in Brite/Euram**

(Manufacturing technologies and advanced materials (1989 to 1992))

(90/C 36/03)

1. Proposals are now invited for the second call for proposals of the Brite/Euram programme. The final date for submission of proposals is 14 September 1990 at 5.00 pm.

2. This call covers the following fields:

- advanced materials technologies,
- design methodology and quality assurance for products and processes,

- application of manufacturing processes,
- technologies for manufacturing processes.

3. There will be three separate forms of support:

- (a) Industrial applied research will be implemented by cost-shared contracts, involving at least two legally independent industrial enterprises from two different Member States. Total project costs should fall in the

- range of ECU one to three million and cover at least 10 man-years of activity. Each party is expected to make a significant contribution to the project. The contracting parties shall bear a substantial part of the costs, up to 50 % of which shall, as a rule, be borne by the Community. Alternatively, in respect of universities and similar organizations carrying out projects, the Community may, within the abovementioned limits of its financial contribution, bear up to 100 % of the additional expenditure involved.
- (b) Between 7 and 10 % of the budget will be implemented by cost shared contracts for focused fundamental research in areas where industrial progress is hindered by weakness in basic science. Focused fundamental research projects shall involve at least two partners established in different Member States. To ensure a true industrial focus for this activity, which need not include an industrial partner, there will be a requirement for industrial endorsement by nominated individuals from industry. When the partners are universities or similar institutions, the Community could bear up to 100 % of marginal costs. Projects in the range of ECU 400 000 to ECU 1 million must cover at least 10 man-years of activity.
- (c) A small proportion of the total programme budget will be spent on coordinated activities.
4. The information package containing full details of the programme and how to apply can be obtained on written request from:
- Commission of the European Communities,  
Directorate-General for Science,  
Research and Development,  
Directorate for Technological Research Brite/Euram programme,  
200 rue de la Loi,  
B-1049 Brussels;  
telex COMEU B 21877,  
telefax (322) 235 80 46.

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**Commission communication pursuant to Article 115 of the EEC Treaty**

(90/C 36/04)

By Decision C(90) 262 dated 13 February 1990 the Commission has authorized the French Republic not to apply Community treatment to woven fabrics and sacks category 33 originating in China and in free circulation in the other Member States.

The said Decision is applicable from the 29 January 1990 until 31 August 1990.

The text of this Decision may be obtained from the Commission, Brussels: tel. 02/235 23 64, telefax (02) 235 01 20 or 235 01 21.

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