

**Commission communication concerning the prolongation of the application of the Communication on the follow-up to the Commission communication on certain legal aspects relating to cinematographic and other audiovisual works (cinema communication) of 26 September 2001**

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2007/C 134/03)

Point 2.5 of the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on certain legal aspects relating to cinematographic and other audiovisual works <sup>(1)</sup> states that 'The specific compatibility criteria for aid to cinema and TV programme production, set out above, will remain valid until June 2004, the time limit set in the decisions adopted so far'. In 2004 the Commission extended the validity of the specific compatibility criteria for aid to cinema and TV programme production until 30 June 2007 <sup>(2)</sup>.

The Commission announced that 'In advance of the next review of the Communication, the Commission intends, in addition to further analysing the arguments of the sector, to carry out an extensive study on the effects of the existing State aid systems. The study should examine in particular the economic and cultural impact of the territorialisation requirements imposed by Member States, in particular taking into account their impact on co-productions'.

The study was launched on 24 August 2006 <sup>(3)</sup>. The results of the study will be an essential input for taking a decision about the future compatibility criteria.

In order to allow time for completion of the study and the subsequent review of the Communication, the Commission has decided to continue to apply the current criteria until such time as new rules on State aid to cinematographic and other audiovisual works come into effect, or, at the latest, until 31 December 2009.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ C 43, 16.2.2002, p. 6.

<sup>(2)</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the follow-up of the Commission communication on certain legal aspects relating to cinematographic and other audiovisual works of 26 September 2001 OJ C 123, 30.4.2004, p. 1.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ S 173, 12.9.2006, reference 2006/S 173-183834.