

**Communication from the Minister for Economic Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the basis of Article 3(2) of Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions for granting and using authorisations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons**

(2007/C 277/12)

The Minister for Economic Affairs hereby gives notice that an application has been received for authorisation to prospect for hydrocarbons in block P3 as indicated on the map appended as Annex 3 to the Mining Regulation (*Mijnbouwregeling*) (Government Gazette (*Staatscourant*) 2002, No 245).

With reference to the Directive 94/22/EC mentioned in the introduction and Article 15 of the Mining Act (*Mijnbouwwet*) (Bulletin of Acts and Decrees (*Staatsblad*) 2002, No 542), the Minister for Economic Affairs hereby invites interested parties to submit a competing application for authorisation to prospect for hydrocarbons in block P3 of the Dutch continental shelf.

The Minister for Economic Affairs is the competent authority for the granting of authorisations. The criteria, conditions and requirements referred to in Articles 5(1), 5(2) and 6(2) of the above-mentioned Directive are set out in the Mining Act (Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 2002, No 542).

Applications may be submitted during the 13 weeks following the publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Union* and should be sent to: The Minister for Economic Affairs, For the attention of J.C. De Groot, Director for the Energy Market, ALP/562, P.O. Box 20101, 2500 EC Den Haag, the Netherlands.

Applications submitted after the expiry of this period will not be considered.

A decision on the applications will be taken not later than twelve months after this period has expired.

Further information can be obtained from the following telephone number: (31-70) 379 77 62 (contact person: E.J. Hoppel).

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