

English edition

Information and Notices

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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Ecu ⁽¹⁾

8 May 1995

(95/C 115/01)

Currency amount for one unit:

Belgian and Luxembourg franc	38,1815	Finnish markka	5,70014
Danish krone	7,26463	Swedish krona	9,71732
German mark	1,85194	Pound sterling	0,844690
Greek drachma	301,959	United States dollar	1,35395
Spanish peseta	164,519	Canadian dollar	1,83501
French franc	6,56870	Japanese yen	112,825
Irish pound	0,825128	Swiss franc	1,52753
Italian lira	2199,28	Norwegian krone	8,34035
Dutch guilder	2,07344	Icelandic krona	84,7033
Austrian schilling	13,0223	Australian dollar	1,82572
Portuguese escudo	196,093	New Zealand dollar	2,00437
		South African rand	4,90713

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).

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FORWARDED BY THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL
DURING THE PERIOD 24 TO 28. 4. 1995**

(95/C 115/02)

*These documents may be obtained from the Sales Offices, the addresses of which are given on the
back cover*

Code	Catalogue No	Title	Date adopted by the Commission	Date forwarded to the Council	Number of pages
COM(95) 97	CB-CO-95-143-EN-C	The role of the Union in the field of tourism — Commission Green Paper	4. 4. 1995	24. 4. 1995	81
COM(95) 134	CB-CO-95-162-EN-C	Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the medium term social action programme 1995 to 1997 (*)	12. 4. 1995	24. 4. 1995	42
COM(95) 85	CB-CO-95-099-EN-C	Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the evaluation of the CEPT/ERC decision mechanism (*)	26. 4. 1995	26. 4. 1995	30
COM(95) 145	CB-CO-95-163-EN-C	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council adapting Decision No 94/1110/EC concerning the fourth framework programme of the European Community activities in the field of research and technological development and demonstration (1994 to 1998) following the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden Proposal for a Council Decision adapting Decision 94/268/Euratom concerning a framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and training for the European Atomic Energy Community (1994 to 1998) following the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden (*) (*)	12. 4. 1995	26. 4. 1995	15
COM(95) 107	CB-CO-95-128-EN-C	Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 92/50/EEC relating to the coordination of procedures for the award of public service contracts, Directive 93/36/EEC coordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts, and Directive 93/37/EEC concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public work contracts Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 93/38/EEC coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors (*) (*) (*)	29. 3. 1995	27. 4. 1995	106
COM(95) 125	CB-CO-95-181-EN-C	Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2965/94 of 28 November 1994 setting up a Translation Centre for bodies of the European Union (*)	27. 4. 1995	27. 4. 1995	7
COM(95) 132	CB-CO-95-141-EN-C	Draft Council Directive amending Directive 70/524/EEC concerning additives in feed-stuffs	26. 4. 1995	27. 4. 1995	8

Code	Catalogue No	Title	Date adopted by the Commission	Date forwarded to the Council	Number of pages
COM(95) 142	CB-CO-95-159-EN-C	XXIV Report of the Commission on competition policy (1994) (*)	28. 4. 1995	28. 4. 1995	712
COM(94) 612	CB-CO-95-006-EN-C	Proposal for a Council directive concerning the quality of water intended for human consumption (*) (*)	4. 1. 1995	28. 4. 1995	84

(*) This document contains an impact assessment on business, and in particular on SME's.

(*) This document will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

(*) Text with EEA relevance.

NB: COM documents are available by subscription, either for all editions or for specific subject areas, and by single copy, in which case the price is based pro rata on the number of pages.

Packaging of products to be delivered as Community food aid

(95/C 115/03)

The entry into force of Notice No 94/C 391/01 concerning the packaging of products to be delivered as Community food aid, published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 391 of 31 December 1994, with effect from 1 May 1995, has been postponed by the Commission until further notice. Pending a Commission decision on the matter, the provisions on packaging laid down in the Notice published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 114 of 29 April 1991 will continue to apply.

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case No IV/M.568 — Edison-EDF/ISE)

(95/C 115/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 28 April 1995, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89⁽¹⁾ by which the undertakings Edison SpA and EDF International SA acquire within the meaning of Article 3 (1) b of the Council Regulation control of the whole of Ilva Servizi Energie Srl (ISE) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— for Edison: production of electric energy and exploration, production and distribution of natural gas and crude oil;

— for EDF International: holding company which invests in the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy outside France;

— for ISE: production of electric energy in Italy.

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 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by telefax (telefax No (32 2) 296 43 01) or by post, under reference number IV/M.568 — Edison-EDF/ISE, to the following address:

Commission of the European Communities,
Directorate General for Competition (DG IV),
Merger Task Force,
Avenue de Cortenberg 150/Kortenberglaan 150,
B-1049 Brussels.

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

II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

Amended proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) laying down general rules for the procedure for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks ⁽¹⁾

(95/C 115/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

COM(95) 32 final — 94/0065(SYN)

(Submitted by the Commission pursuant to Article 189A (2) of the EC Treaty on 16 March 1995)

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 89, 26. 3. 1994, p. 8.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks

Whereas Article 129c provides that the Community may support the financial efforts of the Member States to establish trans-European networks;

Whereas under Article 129c Community aid should be granted to projects of common interest financed by the Member States which are identified in the framework of the guidelines;

Whereas, pending the adoption of all the guidelines referred to in Article 129c of the Treaty, it is necessary to be able to support priority projects of this kind, since they help to achieve the objectives of Article 129b of the Treaty;

AMENDED PROPOSAL

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) laying down general rules for the procedure for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks

Recital 3

Whereas Article 129b (2) of the Treaty establishing the European Community establishes as a priority for Community action the setting up of links between the island, landlocked and peripheral regions of the Community and the central regions;

Recital 4

Whereas Article 129c provides that the Community shall establish a series of guidelines covering the objectives, priorities and broad lines of measures envisaged in the sphere of trans-European networks and whereas the Community may support the financial efforts of the Member States to establish trans-European networks;

Recital 6

Whereas under Article 129c Community aid should be granted to projects of common interest which are identified in the framework of the guidelines;

Recital 8

Whereas, until such time as the guidelines referred to in Article 129c of the Treaty have been decided upon by the Council and the European Parliament, infrastructure projects which contribute to the achievement of the objectives of Article 129b of the Treaty concerning the establishment and development of trans-European networks may be supported;

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

Whereas Community aid may take the shape in particular of feasibility studies, loan guarantees or interest rate subsidies; whereas these subsidies and guarantees take the form in particular of aid from the EIB, the other Community loan instruments and the EIF; whereas in certain cases investment projects may be co-financed;

Whereas loan guarantees will be granted by the European Investment Fund on a commercial basis or, where appropriate, by other financial organizations; whereas Community financial aid may cover all or part of the premiums paid by the beneficiaries of these guarantees;

Whereas Community action must take account of the potential economic viability of the projects, as evaluated with the help of cost/benefit analysis and other appropriate criteria;

Whereas, with an eye to profitability, a detailed evaluation should be undertaken before Community resources are committed so as to guarantee that the resources mobilized generate the desired socio-economic benefits;

Whereas Community financial support under Article 129c (1) of the Treaty must be compatible with Community policies, in particular as regards environmental protection, competition and the award of public contracts; whereas environmental protection includes an environmental impact assessment;

AMENDED PROPOSAL

Recital 9

Whereas involvement of private capital in funding trans-European networks should be increased and the partnership between the public and private sectors extended;

Recital 10

Whereas Community aid may take the shape in particular of feasibility studies, loan guarantees or interest rate subsidies; whereas these subsidies and guarantees relate in particular to financial support from the EIB, the other Community loan instruments and the EIF; whereas in certain cases investment projects may be co-financed;

Recital 11

Whereas loan guarantees will be granted by the European Investment Fund on a commercial basis or by other financial organizations; whereas Community financial aid may cover all or part of the premiums paid by the beneficiaries of these guarantees;

Recital 13

Whereas Community action must take account of the sustainability and potential economic viability of the projects, as evaluated with the help of regional planning, cost/benefit analyses, appraisals of the amount of investment in relation to the number of jobs created, assessment of any remaining capacity of existing infrastructures and other appropriate criteria; whereas, with an eye to profitability, a detailed evaluation should be undertaken before Community resources are committed so as to guarantee that the resources mobilized generate the desired integral socio-economic benefits, particularly for the regions concerned;

Recital 14

Whereas Community financial support under Article 129c (1) of the Treaty must be compatible with Community policies, in particular as regards energy, a sustainable common transport policy, telecommunications, environmental protection, competition and the award of public contracts; whereas environmental protection includes an environmental impact assessment of projects;

Recital 15

Whereas it is necessary to clarify the respective powers and responsibilities of Member States and the Commission with regard to financial control;

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

Whereas the Commission must ensure proper coordination of all Community activities affecting trans-European networks;

Whereas there should be suitable information and publicity regarding the activities financed,

*Article 1***Definition and scope**

This Regulation defines the conditions and procedures for granting Community aid to projects of common interest in the field of trans-European networks for transport, energy and telecommunications infrastructures under Article 129c (1) of the Treaty ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Proposal for a Council Decision on a series of guidelines for trans-European data communications networks between administrations (IDA) COM(93) 69 final (OJ No C 105, 16. 4. 1993, p. 10).

*Article 2***Eligibility**

1. The Community aid granted in accordance with this Regulation shall concern projects of common interest financed by the Member States and identified within the framework of the guidelines referred to in Article 129c of the Treaty.

2. Projects financed by organizations working within an administrative or legal framework which makes them similar to public organizations shall also be eligible.

AMENDED PROPOSAL

Recital 16

Whereas the Commission must ensure proper coordination of all Community activities, especially TEN resources, the Structural and Cohesion Funds, the EIF and the EIB, affecting trans-European networks;

Recital 18

Whereas there should be suitable information, publicity and transparency regarding the activities financed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1***Definition and scope**

This Regulation defines the conditions and procedures for granting Community aid to projects of common interest in the field of trans-European networks for transport, energy and telecommunications infrastructures under Article 129c (1) of the Treaty.

(footnote deleted)

*Article 2***Eligibility**

1. The Community aid granted in accordance with this Regulation shall concern projects of common interest identified within the framework of the guidelines referred to in Article 129c of the Treaty.

2. Projects financed by the Member States or by regional or local authorities or by bodies working within an administrative or legal framework which makes them similar to public entities, in particular enterprises which hold franchises to run public services or which are entrusted with the operation of services of public interest, shall be eligible.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

3. Where the guidelines referred to in Article 129c, as proposed by the Commission, have not yet been adopted by the Council other infrastructure projects which contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out in Article 129b of the Treaty may be eligible.

4. Within the meaning of this Regulation the concept of 'project' shall include all the technically and financially separate stages of projects which form a whole designed to fulfil an economic and technical function.

*Article 3***Forms of aid**

Community aid may take one or several of the following forms:

- (a) co-financing of feasibility studies, including preparatory studies, evaluation studies and other technical support measures;
- (b) contribution to the premiums of loan guarantees;
- (c) interest rate subsidies;
- (d) where by way of exception these forms of financial aid provided for above are inappropriate, co-financing of investment projects.

*Article 5***Financial participation**

1. In general, Community aid to feasibility studies shall be subject to a substantial contribution from the public authorities.

2. The maximum amount of the interest-rate subsidy may not exceed 10 % of the total cost of the investment in net grant equivalent.

3. Community financial support may cover all or part of the loan guarantee premiums granted by the European Investment Fund or, where appropriate, by other organizations.

4. Where the aid takes the form of a direct subsidy within the meaning of Article 3 (1) (d), the Commission shall make the level of that subsidy such that it is sufficient to mobilize the requisite financial resources.

AMENDED PROPOSAL

3. Where the guidelines referred to in Article 129c, as proposed by the Commission, have not yet been adopted by the Council and the European Parliament other infrastructure projects which contribute to the achievement of the objectives set out in Article 129b of the Treaty concerning the establishment and development of trans-European networks may be eligible.

4. Within the meaning of this Regulation the concept of 'project' shall include all the technically and financially separate stages of projects which form a whole designed to fulfil an economic and technical function, including feasibility studies.

*Article 3***Forms of aid**

Community aid may take one or several of the following forms:

- (a) co-financing of feasibility studies, including preparatory studies, evaluation studies, technical studies and other technical support measures;
- (b) contribution to the premiums of loan guarantees;
- (c) interest rate subsidies;
- (d) where in specific cases these forms of financial aid provided for above are inappropriate, co-financing of investment projects or any other form of financial support which is appropriate to meet the objectives.

*Article 5***Financial participation**

1. In general, in the case of feasibility studies, the participation of the authorities or bodies referred to in Article 2 (2) shall be substantial.

2. The maximum amount of the interest-rate subsidy must not exceed 10 % of the total cost of the investment in net grant equivalent.

3. Community financial support may cover all or part of the loan guarantee premiums granted by the European Investment Fund or, where appropriate, by other public or private financial organizations.

4. Where the aid takes the form of a direct subsidy following the provisions of Article 3 (d), the Commission shall make the level of that subsidy such that it is sufficient to mobilize the requisite financial resources.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

*Article 6***Common project selection criteria**

1. The projects shall be of sufficient dimension to have a significant impact on the establishment and development of networks.

Community aid shall be granted on a priority basis to projects according to their degree of contribution:

- (a) to the establishment of trans-European networks;
- (b) to the harmonization of technical standards;
- (c) to the interconnection and interoperability of national networks;
- (d) to the improvement of access to the networks;
- (e) to the integration of the various networks;
- (f) to the reliability and safety of the networks.

2. Projects shall also be selected as a function of:

- (a) their contribution:
 - to the smooth running of the internal market,
 - to the Community's economic and social cohesion, with particular regard to the need to connect island, landlocked and peripheral regions with the central areas of the Community;
- (b) their importance to the development of trade at European level;
- (c) their contribution to increasing the competitiveness of the European economy;
- (d) their compliance with environmental considerations;
- (e) their consistency with Community regional planning.

3. Account shall be taken of:

- (a) their potential economic viability: extent of financial and socio-economic profitability, including direct or indirect effects on employment;
- (b) their readiness;
- (c) the soundness of the financial package;

AMENDED PROPOSAL

*Article 6***Common project selection criteria**

1. The projects presented shall have a significant impact on the establishment, development and interoperability of trans-European networks.

Community aid shall be granted on a priority basis to projects according to their degree of contribution:

- to the smooth running of the internal market,
- to the Community's economic and social cohesion, with particular regard to the need to connect island, landlocked and peripheral regions with the central areas of the Community.

The selection of the projects shall take account of the degree of contribution:

- (a) to the establishment of trans-European networks, in particular where the projects are of a transfrontier nature and complete 'missing links';
- (b) to the harmonization of technical standards;
- (c) to the interconnection and interoperability of national networks;
- (d) to the improvement of access to the networks;
- (e) to the integration of the various networks;
- (f) to the reliability and safety of the networks.

2. Projects shall be selected as a function of:

- (a) their importance to the development of trade at European level;
- (b) their contribution to increasing the competitiveness of the European economy;
- (c) their compliance with environmental considerations;
- (d) their consistency with regional planning in the Community.

3. Account shall be taken of:

- (a) their potential economic viability: extent of socio-economic and financial profitability, including direct or indirect effects on employment;
- (b) their readiness;
- (c) the solidity of the financial package;

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

*Article 7***Selection criteria concerning transport**

Without prejudice to the common criteria referred to in Article 6, Community financial aid in the transport sector shall be granted on a priority basis according to the contribution of the projects:

- (b) to sustainable development, in particular of traffic at European level, notably:
- transfrontier and long distance traffic, given its present and potential importance, within the Community and in neighbouring third countries;

*Article 8***Selection criteria concerning telecommunications**

Without prejudice to the common criteria referred to in Article 6, Community financial aid in the telecommunications sector shall be granted on a priority basis to projects according to their contribution:

- (a) to the establishment of trans-European networks, notably:
- transfrontier interconnection between physical networks,
 - interoperability of services;

*Article 9***Selection criteria concerning energy**

- (d) to increased transport capacity of natural gas supply, inlet and storage pipelines.

*Article 10***Compatibility**

The projects financed under this Regulation shall comply with the provisions of the Treaties, with the acts adopted on the basis thereof and Community policies, environmental protection, competition and the award of public contracts.

AMENDED PROPOSAL

*Article 7***Selection criteria concerning transport**

Without prejudice to the common criteria referred to in Article 6, Community financial aid in the transport sector shall be granted on a priority basis according to the contribution of the projects:

- (b) to sustainable development, in particular of traffic at European level, notably:
- transfrontier and long distance traffic, given its present and potential importance, within the Community and with neighbouring third countries;
- (c) to guaranteeing high safety standards for all means of transport;
- (d) priority shall be given to the less environmentally damaging infrastructure projects.

*Article 8***Selection criteria concerning telecommunications**

Without prejudice to the common criteria referred to in Article 6, Community financial aid in the telecommunications sector shall be granted on a priority basis to projects according to their contribution:

- (a) to the establishment of trans-European networks, notably:
- transfrontier interconnection between physical networks,
 - interoperability of services and applications;

*Article 9***Selection criteria concerning energy**

- (d) to increased capacity of natural gas supply and pipelines, and of facilities for reception and storage of LNG (liquefied natural gas).

*Article 10***Compatibility**

The projects financed under this Regulation shall respect the provisions of the Treaty, with the acts adopted on the basis thereof and Community policies, in particular those relating to the common transport policy, energy, telecommunications, environmental protection, competition and the award of public contracts.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

*Article 11***Submission of applications for financial aid**

Applications for financial aid shall be submitted to the Commission through the intermediary of the Member State concerned or by the body directly concerned with the agreement of the Member State.

*Article 12***Information required for the assessment and identification of applications**

1. In addition to the information specified in Article 6, and, where appropriate, Articles 7, 8 and 9 above, each application for financial aid shall include the following information to identify the project and to enable the Commission to assess the application:

- (a) the body responsible for carrying out the project;
- (b) the type of assistance envisaged and a description of the project concerned;
- (d) If the application relates to a project:
 - the results of the cost/benefit analyses, including the results of the financial viability analysis;

*Article 13***Taking the decision**

The Commission shall decide to grant financial aid under this Regulation according to its assessment of the applications, in accordance with the selection criteria and the procedure specified in Article 19 (2). It shall notify its decision directly to the beneficiaries and the Member State concerned.

*Article 14***Financial provisions**

2. Aid may not be granted in respect of expenditure before the date on which the Commission received the application for financial aid.

AMENDED PROPOSAL

*Article 11***Submission of applications for financial aid**

Applications for financial aid shall be submitted to the Commission by the Member State concerned or, with the prior agreement of the Member State, by the authorities or bodies referred to in Article 2 (2).

*Article 12***Information required for the assessment and identification of applications**

1. In addition to the information specified in Article 6, and, where appropriate, Articles 7, 8 and 9 above, each application for financial aid shall include the following information to identify the project and to enable the Commission to assess the application:

- (a) the entity responsible for carrying out the project;
- (b) a description of the project concerned and the type of assistance envisaged;
- (d) If the application relates to a project:
 - the results of the cost/benefit analyses, including the results of the financial, economic and social viability analysis;

*Article 13***Taking the decision**

The Commission shall take a decision on the application for financial aid under this Regulation according to its assessment of the applications, following the selection criteria and the procedure specified in Article 19 (2) below, to the extent possible, within six months of receipt of the application submitted. It shall directly notify the beneficiaries and the Member States concerned of its decision.

The essential features of the Commission's decisions shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

*Article 14***Financial provisions**

2. Aid may not be granted in respect of expenditure incurred before the date on which the Commission received the application for financial aid.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

4. As a general rule, payments shall be made in the form of advances and a final payment. The first advance shall be paid once the application for aid has been approved. Subsequent payments shall be made on the basis of requests for payment, taking account of the progress made in implementing the project.

5. The Commission shall make the final payment after approval of the report on the project or study submitted by the beneficiary and itemizing all the expenditure actually incurred.

6. With regard to interest-rate subsidies and guarantee premium subsidies, the Commission shall determine the procedures and timetable for payments.

*Article 15***Financial control**

2. Without prejudice to any control measures carried out by the Member States in accordance with national laws, regulations and administrative provisions and without prejudice to the provisions of Article 188a of the Treaty and control measures carried out in accordance with Article 209c of the Treaty, Commission officials or staff may carry out spot checks on projects financed.

AMENDED PROPOSAL

4. The commitment appropriations entered in the budget shall be granted on the basis of the decisions approving the measures concerned.

5. Payments shall be made in the form of advances, intermediate payments and a final payment. The first advance shall be paid once the application for aid has been approved. Subsequent payments shall be made on the basis of requests for payment, taking into account, in a rigorous and transparent manner, the progress made in implementing the project.

6. The payment must take account of the fact that the infrastructure projects will be implemented over a period of years and that provision must therefore be made for multiannual financing.

7. The Commission shall make the final payment after approval of the report on the project or study submitted by the beneficiary and itemizing all the expenditure actually incurred.

8. With regard to interest-rate subsidies and guarantee premium subsidies, the Commission shall determine the procedures and timetable for payments.

*Article 15***Financial control**

2. Without prejudice to any control measures carried out by the Member States in accordance with national laws, regulations and administrative provisions and without prejudice to the provisions of Article 188a of the Treaty and control measures carried out in accordance with Article 209c of the Treaty, Commission officials or staff may carry out on-the-spot checks on projects financed.

3. Before carrying out an on-the-spot check, the Commission shall give notice to the Member State concerned with a view to obtaining all the assistance necessary. On-the-spot checks carried out by the Commission without notice shall be subject to agreements reached in accordance with the Financial Regulation. Officials of the Member State concerned may take part in checks.

The Commission may require the Member State concerned to carry out an on-the-spot check to verify the correctness of payment applications. Commission staff may take part in such checks, and must do so if the Member State concerned so requests.

The responsible body and authorities shall keep available for the Commission all the supporting documents regarding expenditure on any project for a period of three years following the last payment in respect of the project.

ORIGINAL PROPOSAL

*Article 16***Coordination**

1. The Commission shall be responsible for coordination between the projects undertaken under this Regulation and projects undertaken with the help of contributions from the Community budget, the European Investment Bank and other Community financial instruments, and for ensuring they are compatible.

*Article 17***Evaluation**

1. In order to ensure that Community aid is used efficiently, the Commission and the Member States concerned shall systematically evaluate progress with projects, if necessary with the cooperation of the European Investment Bank. To this end, Member States shall inform the Commission each year on the progress of projects approved.

2. Before the end of 1997, the Commission shall verify the results achieved with Community assistance in the different fields of application in terms of the original objectives.

This will entail defining appropriate indicators as a means of measuring the extent to which the original objectives have been achieved.

*Article 19***Committees**

1. In implementing this Regulation, the Commission shall be assisted, depending on the sector concerned ...

The decision required by this Regulation shall be taken in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 2 of this Article.

AMENDED PROPOSAL

*Article 16***Coordination**

1. The Commission shall be responsible for coordination between the projects undertaken under this Regulation and projects undertaken with the help of contributions from the Community budget (such as TEN resources, the Structural and Cohesion Funds, etc.), the European Investment Fund, the European Investment Bank and other Community financial instruments, and for ensuring they are coherent.

*Article 17***Evaluation**

1. In order to ensure that Community aid is used efficiently, the Commission and the Member States concerned shall systematically evaluate progress with projects, if necessary with the cooperation of the European Investment Bank. To this end, Member States shall inform the Commission each year on the progress of projects approved.

This will entail defining indicators, to the extent possible, as a means of measuring the extent to which the original objectives have been achieved.

2. Before the end of 1997, the Commission shall verify the results achieved with Community assistance in the different fields of application in terms of the original objectives.

*Article 19***Committees**

1. In implementing this Regulation, the Commission shall be assisted, depending on the sector concerned ...

The decisions required by this Regulation shall be taken in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph 2 of this Article.

Proposal for a Council Decision on Community support for actions in favour of older people

(95/C 115/06)

COM(95) 53 final — 95/0062(CNS)

(Submitted by the Commission on 3 March 1995)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas the constant improvement of living and working conditions and the harmonious development of economies are an aim of the European Community;

Whereas the Economic and Social Committee adopted its opinion on older people in society on 25 November 1993 ⁽¹⁾;

Whereas the Council adopted its declaration of 6 December 1993 to mark the end of the European Year of the elderly and of solidarity between generations, in which note was taken of the Commission's intention to present a proposal in this field ⁽²⁾;

Whereas the European Parliament adopted its resolution of 24 February 1994 on measures for older people in the European Community ⁽³⁾;

Whereas the declaration on cooperation with charitable associations annexed to the Treaty on European Union stresses the importance of cooperation with charitable associations and foundations as institutions responsible for social welfare establishments and services;

Whereas current demographic developments tend towards a major increase in the numbers of older people in the population, whereas this trend will have considerable economic and social implications, in particular for the employment market, social security and social expenditure;

Whereas cooperation and consultation on measures affecting older people between the Commission, the Member States and representatives of older people are important for the development of solidarity within the European Union;

Whereas the measures to be carried out at European level are intended to make known and to complement the different types of measures carried out in Member States at various levels;

Whereas the European year of older people and solidarity between generations, 1993, served to show in a practical way the value of exchange of information and experience in the matter of ageing in Europe;

Whereas the conditions created by the European year of older people and solidarity between generations justify a special, one-off follow-up initiative at European level to build on the achievements of the year;

Whereas the Treaty does not provide, for the measure concerned, powers others than those of Article 235,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

A framework for Community support for actions in Member States aiming at meeting the challenges of an ageing population in the European Union is hereby established for the period 1 September 1995 to 31 December 1999.

Article 2

The actions referred to in Article 1 shall have the following objectives:

1. to identify ways to develop the role and potential of the active retired population;
2. to promote best practice in relation to:
 - (a) improving the situation of older women;
 - (b) management of an ageing workforce;
 - (c) transition from work to retirement;
 - (d) care and access to care for dependent older people;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 34, 2. 2. 1994, p. 61.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 343, 21. 12. 1993, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 77, 14. 3. 1994, p. 24.

3. to strengthen solidarity between generations and the integration of older people in danger of isolation.

Article 3

The measures designed to attain the objectives referred to in Article 2 shall be as follows:

- (a) specific projects which fulfil the criteria in the Annex to this Decision;
- (b) comparative studies and transnational initiatives designed to exchange information and experience and to promote best practice in relation to the priority themes of the action, in partnerships involving the public or private sectors, professional or voluntary organizations;
- (c) the drawing up of regular comparative reports on the socio-economic situation of older people throughout the European Union by a team of independent scientific experts (to be known as the 'European observatory on ageing and older people').

Article 4

1. The Commission shall be responsible for the implementation of this Decision.
2. Decisions on the funding of specific actions shall be taken by the Commission following consultation of the committee provided for in Article 6.
3. The Commission may also consult the committee provided for in Article 6 in relation to other practical aspects of the implementation of the Decision.

Article 5

1. Applications for the funding of actions may be made by organizations and individual persons. Applications shall be addressed to the Commission.
2. The level of Community contribution towards actions approved for support under this Decision shall

not exceed 75 % of the total cost, except in the case of studies which are especially commissioned by the Commission in pursuit of the objectives of this Decision.

Article 6

The Commission shall be assisted by a committee of an advisory nature, hereinafter referred to as 'the committee', composed of two representatives of the Government of each Member State and chaired by a representative of the Commission.

The representative of the Commission shall submit to the committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The committee shall deliver its opinion on the draft, within a time limit which the chairman may lay down according to the urgency of the matter, if necessary by taking a vote.

The opinion shall be recorded in the minutes, in addition, each Member State shall have the right to ask to have its position recorded in the minutes.

The Commission shall take the utmost account of the opinion delivered by the committee. It shall inform the committee of the manner in which its opinion has been taken into account.

The committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article 7

The dissemination and exchange of information and knowledge concerning the programme shall be organized under the responsibility of the Commission.

Article 8

Before 31 December 2000 the Commission shall present to the Council and the European Parliament a report on the implementation and results of the actions.

Article 9

This decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

ANNEX

BASIC CRITERIA FOR FUNDING OF ACTIVITIES

I. PRIORITY THEMES

At least one of the following themes should be addressed:

- i) the role and potential of the active retired;
- ii) improving the situation of older women;
- iii) management of an ageing workforce;
- iv) transition from work to retirement;
- v) care and access to care for dependent older people.

II. KEY PRINCIPLES

Priority should be given to activities which are based on one or more of the following principles:

1. the promotion of solidarity between generations;
2. the enhancement of the capacity of older people to participate in society;
3. the integration of older people in danger of isolation, especially older migrants, older people in remote areas and disabled older people, as well as older women.

III. GENERAL

In selecting activities for funding, account should be taken of the following general criteria:

1. they should be innovative or experimental, compared to what is already being done;
2. they should have as objective the promotion of best practice in the area concerned;
3. they should involve organizations and individuals recognized as leaders in the field concerned;
4. they should include arrangements for informing non-participating interests of the outcome; activities with a high 'multiplier effect' will have greater priority;
5. they should be transnational in scope.

In the case of comparative studies and transnational initiatives (referred to in Article 3), the Commission reserves the right to invite the European foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions and/or the European observatory on ageing and older people to become associated in the work involved.
