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Information and Notices

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(¹) Text with EEA relevance

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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Ecu ⁽¹⁾

22 January 1996

(96/C 19/01)

Currency amount for one unit:

Belgian and Luxembourg franc	38,8607	Finnish markka	5,76943
Danish krone	7,31454	Swedish krona	8,69181
German mark	1,89038	Pound sterling	0,843805
Greek drachma	311,064	United States dollar	1,27642
Spanish peseta	159,298	Canadian dollar	1,74589
French franc	6,45551	Japanese yen	135,275
Irish pound	0,813216	Swiss franc	1,52175
Italian lira	2030,96	Norwegian krone	8,27824
Dutch guilder	2,11695	Icelandic krona	85,1374
Austrian schilling	13,2927	Australian dollar	1,74494
Portuguese escudo	195,523	New Zealand dollar	1,92001
		South African rand	4,65607

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 8 TO 12. 1. 1996**

(96/C 19/02)

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(96) 2	CB-CO-96-002-EN-C	Opinion of the Commission pursuant to Article 189 b (2) (d) of the EC-Treaty, on the European Parliament's amendments to the Council's common position regarding the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on the legal protection of databases ^(?) ^(?)	10. 1. 1996	10. 1. 1996	10
COM(96) 1	CB-CO-96-001-EN-C	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2455/93 imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of monosodium glutamate originating in Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan and collecting definitively the provisional duties imposed and terminating the proceeding with regard to Thailand	11. 1. 1996	11. 1. 1996	28
COM(95) 542	CB-CO-95-582-EN-C	Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the signing and notification of the provisional application of the International Agreement on Tropical Timber 1994 on behalf of the European Community	10. 1. 1996	11. 1. 1996	59
COM(95) 624	CB-CO-95-655-EN-C	Progress report from the Commission on the implementation of the European Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development 'Towards sustainability' ^(?)	10. 1. 1996	11. 1. 1996	199
COM(95) 710	CB-CO-95-759-EN-C	Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation of European Investment Bank loans for projects in central and eastern European countries (Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Albania) (15. 3. 1993 to 31. 12. 1994)	10. 1. 1996	11. 1. 1996	9
COM(95) 713	CB-CO-95-760-EN-C	Report from the Commission on the implementation in 1991-1992 of Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport (17th report by the Commission on the implementation of the social legislation relating to road transport) ^(?)	10. 1. 1996	11. 1. 1996	30
COM(95) 733	CB-CO-95-769-EN-C	Proposal for a Council Decision designating the reference centre responsible for collaborating in the harmonization of the testing methods and of the assessment of the results for pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species	10. 1. 1996	11. 1. 1996	7

Code	Catalogue No	Title	Date adopted by the Commission	Date forwarded to the Council	Number of pages
COM(95) 499	CB-CO-95-541-EN-C	Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 94/80/EC laying down detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in municipal elections by citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals ⁽¹⁾	11. 1. 1996	12. 1. 1996	6
COM(95) 557	CB-CO-95-597-EN-C	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1883/78 laying down general rules for the financing of interventions by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guarantee Section	12. 1. 1996	12. 1. 1996	7
COM(95) 734	CB-CO-95-770-EN-C	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending, for the benefit of unemployed persons, Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to the members of their families moving within the Community and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾	10. 1. 1996	12. 1. 1996	18
COM(95) 735	CB-CO-95-771-EN-C	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending, for the benefit of beneficiaries of pre-retirement benefits, Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to the members of their families moving within the Community, and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾	10. 1. 1996	12. 1. 1996	13
COM(95) 748	CB-CO-95-791-EN-C	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2413/95 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ferro-silico-manganese originating in Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and South Africa	12. 1. 1996	12. 1. 1996	8

⁽¹⁾ This document contains an impact assessment on business, and in particular on SMEs.

⁽²⁾ This document will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

⁽³⁾ 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.

Commission opinion of 18 December 1995 on the intersection of the Peene Valley (Germany) by the planned A 20 motorway pursuant to Article 6 (4) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

(96/C 19/03)

1. The Motorway A 20

- 1.1. The Federal Republic of Germany plans to build, within the framework of the Deutsche Einheit transport projects the A 20 motorway linking Lübeck, Stralsund and Stettin.

According to the route plans, the motorway will intersect, in the territory of Mecklenburg Western-Pomerania, two special protection areas under Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979⁽¹⁾ on the conservation of wild birds. These areas host priority natural habitat types which could be affected by the motorway. The German Government raises imperative reasons of overriding public interest other than those relating to human health or public safety. Therefore, the Commission has to give an opinion pursuant to Article 6 (4) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992⁽²⁾ on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive).

- 1.2. As far as the intersection of the Trebel and Recknitz Valley is concerned, the Commission stated in its opinion of 27 April 1995⁽³⁾ that the deterioration of the protection area was justified by imperative reasons of overriding public interest. The intersection of the Peene Valley was not the subject of this Commission opinion, because the route plans for this section were reconsidered by the German authorities in order to evaluate less damaging routes.

In its letter of 3 August 1995, the Germany Ministry of Transport informed the Commission that the new route plans for the crossing of the Peene had been finished and asked for an opinion pursuant to Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive. At the Commission's request, further information and detailed vegetation and bird maps were transmitted with a letter dated 6 October 1995. On 24 October 1995, the Commission undertook an on-the-spot appraisal of the possible crossings of the protection area.

- 1.3. As the Commission has outlined in its opinion of 27 April 1995, two governmental decisions gave top priority to the A 20 motorway project on the ground that there needs to be significant improvement to the existing road network in order to give a boost to the economy in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania where there is a high level of unemployment. Through the law on road development of 15 November 1993, the Bundestag has stated the need for this motorway.

The unemployment rate in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, measured as a percentage of all working population, amounted in October 1995 to 15,2%⁽⁴⁾. The percentage in all of the new Länder amounted to 13,8%, whereas it amounted to 8,1% in the old Länder. The unemployment rate in the Federal Republic as a whole amounted to 9,2%. Therefore the unemployment rate in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is almost double that in the old Länder, and this since 1992.

With 2,3% of the German population, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania added approximately 1,1% to the gross national product (estimated figures for 1994)⁽⁵⁾. The gross national product created in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, as compared to the percentage of the population, is therefore significantly lower than the gross national product created on average.

Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania is an Objective 1 area within the meaning of the Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/93 on the Structural Funds⁽⁶⁾. These areas are areas whose development is 'lagging behind' and whose development and structural adjustment shall be promoted in order to strengthen the economic and social cohesion of the Community.

- 1.4. The motorway A 20 is part of the trans-European road network⁽⁷⁾. This network, as a part of the trans-European networks (Article 129b of the EC Treaty), shall be improved in order to ensure the functioning of the internal market and to enable

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 103, 25. 4. 1979, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 206, 22. 7. 1992, p. 7.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 178, 13. 7. 1995, p. 3.

⁽⁴⁾ Source: Bundesanstalt für Arbeit.

⁽⁵⁾ Source: Statistisches Bundesamt.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 193, 31. 7. 1993, p. 5.

⁽⁷⁾ Council Decision 93/629/EEC of October 1993, OJ No L 305, 10. 12. 1993, p. 11.

citizens of the Union, economic operators and regional and local communities to benefit from an area without internal frontiers. The road network particularly aims at linking peripheral or isolated regions to central Community regions in order to strengthen the economic and social cohesion in the Community.

2. The protection area

The planned motorway will cross the protection area 'Peenetal vom Kummerower See bis Schadefähre'. The area follows the valley of the river Peene for a length of 70 km; it forms a corridor with a width varying between 1 and 5 km, situated between the coast and the south-east of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. It hosts the biggest and, as far as fauna and flora is concerned, the richest alluvial alkaline fens in northern Germany. It is a breeding and resting place for a considerable number of rare and endangered birds including migratory species. The whole area hosts bog woodland and residual alluvial forests, both priority habitat types under the terms of the Habitats Directive (Annex I, No 44.A1 to 44.A4 and 44.3).

With the exception of four settlements located in the protection area (Anklam, Jarmen, Loitz, Demmin), large stretches of the valley are unused by man.

3. The route plans

For the Peene crossing, the Federal Republic examined as main alternative solutions the area west of Loitz and the areas east and west of Jarmen. For economic and structural reasons, in particular the time-saving linking of Grimmen and Greifswald with other economic centres, the Federal Republic favoured the crossing east of Jarmen.

On 20 January 1995 the Federal Ministry of Transport decided that the route should be east of Jarmen. The Ministry of Economic Affairs of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania was instructed to seek a solution for the Peene crossing which would ensure compliance with national and European environmental objectives.

Thus alternative routes located west of Jarmen or Loitz could no longer be considered by the authorities of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania. The Commission, however, has to ensure, pursuant to Article 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive, that adverse effects on a site are only accepted in the absence of alternative solutions. It has therefore to evaluate whether a solution less damaging than the route proposed for east of Jarmen exists.

3.1. *The crossing of the river Peene east of Jarmen as originally favoured*

According to the originally favoured route plans, the A 20 motorway was to cross the river Peene with a bridge located at about 1 000 m east of the existing crossing of the valley near Jarmen. Within this section of the protection area, the alluvial alkaline fens and the bog woodland, a priority habitat type, do not appear to have suffered adverse effects from existing uses. The number of species, using this section of the Peene as feeding and nesting habitat, is accordingly high. To mention but a few examples, the corncrake (*Crex crex*), the bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*) and the white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) are found here.

This route would have directly affected bog woodland over a stretch of approximately 150 m. Indirect effects (noise, pollution, light, changing of diversity of species) would have been felt in an area of about 1 000 m of both sides of the motorway.

3.2. *The crossing of the river Peene at Loitz*

To the west of Loitz, adverse effects on the area are caused to some extent by a high voltage transmission line. Although the route would not directly affect priority habitats, remarkable alkaline fens would be destroyed within a considerable distance. More importantly, habitats of the little crane (*Porzana parva*), the bluethroat and the lesser spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*) would be damaged. The lesser spotted eagle, in particular, is extremely rare in Germany and does not breed elsewhere in middle and western Europe.

3.3. *The crossing of the Peene west of Jarmen*

This possible alternative route would be located 2,5 km west of the originally planned crossing at Jarmen east. As priority habitats, residual alluvial forests would be directly affected; bog woodland, another priority habitat type, is to be found at about 150 m from the proposed route and would therefore be affected indirectly. Breeding or feeding places for bluethroat and white stork would also be damaged.

3.4. *The crossing of the Peene east of Jarmen as currently planned*

According to the current route plans, the A 20 motorway is to cross the river Peene 300 m east of the existing crossing by the national road B 96 and close to a commercial distribution centre. Priority habitats would not be directly affected, the nearest being 300 m from the planned bridge. The route would, however, affect other species of Community interest such as otter (*Lutra lutra*), beaver (*Castor*

fiber), kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) and the large copper butterfly (*Lycaena dispar*). These species, however, occur in the whole protection area or, as far as the copper butterfly is concerned, at least in some other parts of the protection area.

4. Conclusions

4.1. Implications for the site

Among the four possible crossings inside the protection area, the one currently proposed is the least damaging. Priority habitats are not directly affected. No particularly rare birds, whose presence has been the reason for the designation of the valley as special protection area, will be directly affected. By situating the route close to the existing crossing, an intersection of an unspoiled part of the valley is avoided, new negative effects are being grouped with existing strain on the area coming from the nearby village, the existing bridge and industrial uses. For these reasons, the implications of the motorway on the site as a whole seem tolerable.

4.2. Imperative reasons of overriding public interest

As the Commission has outlined in its abovementioned opinion of 27 April 1995, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania suffers from an exceptionally high unemployment. Its unemployment rate almost doubles the one of the old Länder already since several years. The gross national product created in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, as compared to the percentage of the population, is significantly lower than the gross national product created on average.

The Community takes account of the special situation of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania by specially promoting its development through the Structural Funds. The A 20 is furthermore part of the trans-European road network. The Structural Funds as well as the trans-European networks have the aim of establishing the internal market and of strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the Community. In this respect, an east-west link has to be created in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in order to link it with central regions of the Community.

The special value of the A 20 as part of the Deutsche Einheit transport projects is reflected in the top priority given to it by the German Government as well as in the Bundestag's classification of this motorway link as a necessity.

An alternative solution has not been found. Due to its length and location, it is not possible to avoid an intersection of the protection area; the objectives pursued with the construction of the motorway as well as the desired grouping of traffic would not be achieved.

4.3. Mitigation and compensation measures

The intersection will, however, create a new artificial obstacle for the migration of species in the Peene valley and will create disturbances to other habitat types important for species listed under the Birds and the Habitats Directive. For this reason, sufficient compensation measures ensuring the global coherence of Natura 2000 have to be taken. The Commission has noted the compensatory measures described in the German Transport Ministry's letter of 30 October 1995 foreseeing and furthering the creation or restoration of seven different habitat types in an area of nearly 100 hectare in the Peene valley between Jarmen and Loitz. These measures have to be taken simultaneously with the construction works and the Commission requests that the Federal Government to keep it adequately informed on these measures.

The Commission has also noted the measures foreseen in order to reduce the impact from the motorway during and after its construction as last resumed in the Transport Ministry's letter of 30 October 1995. Construction will be made from pontoons in order to restrict, as far as possible, damage to the area, the number of pillars in the alluvial plane will be reduced to the necessary minimum. Furthermore, protective measures will be taken against emissions from the motorway such as noise barriers on both sides of the bridge. These barriers will also be used as barriers to mitigate the light attraction and disturbance of nocturnal animals by the headlights of cars passing over the bridge. Furthermore, additional appropriate measures have to be taken in order to retain potential oil run-offs, guaranteeing that, also in case of accidents, oil or other hazardous substances will not pollute the protection area.

Taking into account the foreseen compensation and mitigation measures and considering that the least damaging alternative solution has been chosen, the Commission, in accordance with Article 6 (4) of Directive 92/43/EEC, delivers the following opinion:

Adverse effects on the protection area 'Peenetal vom Kummerower See bis Schadfähre' through the planned A 20 motorway east of Jarmen are justified by imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

Notice of the impending expiry of certain anti-dumping measures

(96/C 19/04)

1. The Commission gives notice that, unless a review is initiated in accordance with the following procedure, the antidumping measures mentioned below will expire on the date mentioned in the table below, as provided in Article 11 (2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 3283/94 ⁽¹⁾ on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Community.

2. Procedure

Community producers may lodge a written request for a review. This request must contain sufficient evidence that the removal of the measures would be likely to result in a continuation or recurrence of dumping and injury.

Should the Commission decide to review the measures concerned, importers, exporters, representatives of the exporting country and Community producers will then be provided with the opportunity to amplify, rebut or comment on the matters set out in the review request.

3. Time limit

Community producers may submit a written request for a review pursuant to Article 11 (2), to reach the European Commission, Directorate-General I — External Relations: Commercial Policy and Relations with North America, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand (Division I-C-2) rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Brussels ⁽²⁾ at any time from the date of the publication of the present notice but no later than three months before the date mentioned in the table below.

If no request for a review is received in adequate form within the time limit specified above, the measures will expire in accordance with Article 11 (2) of the abovementioned Regulation.

4. This notice is published in accordance with Article 11 (2) of Regulation (EC) No 3283/94.

Product	Country of Origin or exportation	Measures	Reference	Date of expiry
Small-screen colour television receivers	Hong Kong	Duty	Regulation (EEC) No 2093/91 (OJ No L 195, 18. 7. 1991)	20. 7. 1996

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 349, 31. 12. 1994, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Telex COMEU B 21877. Telefax: (32 2) 295 65 05.

Authorization for State aid pursuant to Articles 92 and 93 of the EC Treaty

Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(96/C 19/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Date of adoption: 13 October 1995

Member State: Spain (País Vasco)

Aid No: N 564/95

Title: Aid for investment in the distribution sector in the Basque country

Objective: To support investment by small and medium-sized enterprises established in País Vasco

Legal basis: Decreto por el que se regula el Programa da Apoyo a la inversión en el sector de distribución comercial

Budget: Pta 143 million (ECU 0,9 million)

Aid intensity: 7,5 % gross

Duration: 1 year

Date of adoption: 18 October 1995

Member State: Spain

Aid No: N 378/95

Title: Aid to improve processing and marketing conditions for forestry products

Legal basis: Resolución de la Consejería de Medio Rural y Pesca del Principado de Asturias del 19 de enero de 1995: 'Ayudas para la adquisición de maquinaria, medios auxiliares e instalaciones en las labores de repoblación, manipulación, transformación y comercialización de productos forestales', relacionada con el Reglamento (CEE) nº 867/90 del Consejo

Budget: Pta 36 million (approximately ECU 0,22 million)

Duration: 1995

Date of adoption: 6 November 1995

Member State: Germany (Mecklenburg-Vorpommern)

Aid No: N 628/95

Title: Employment aid for young people taking up their first job

Objective: Promotion of the employment of young people being unemployed after having finished their first vocational education by means of creating an additional long-term job

Legal basis:

— § 44 der Landeshaushaltsordnung (LHO)

— Geltende Verwaltungsvorschriften: „Zuwendungen für die Schaffung von zusätzlichen unbefristeten Arbeitsverhältnissen für Berufsanfänger“

Budget: DM 8,5 million (ECU 4,25 million) per year

Aid intensity: DM 2 000 to DM 12 000 (ECU 1 000 to ECU 6 000) per job created

Duration: Two years (1995-1996)

Date of adoption: 14 November 1995

Member State: Italy

Aid No: N 903/95

Title: Regional aid in Italy exceeding the budgetary limit set by Article 5 of Commission Decision of 9 December 1992

Objective: Regional aid

Legal basis: Richiesta di superamento del limite di 10 000 Mrd di LIT di cui all'articolo 5 della decisione della Commissione del 9 dicembre 1992

Budget: Lit 276 billion (approximately ECU 133 million)

Aid intensity: Aid intensities laid down by Law 64/86, approved by Commission Decisions of 30 April 1987 and 2 March 1988

Duration: 31 December 1995

Conditions:

— Report before 31 December 1996

— Decisions to grant aid to be adopted before 31 December 1995

Date of adoption: 21 November 1995

Member State: Netherlands

Aid No: N 850/95

Title: Amendment of the Law reducing the costs of research staff

Objective: To promote research and development by small and medium-sized enterprises

Legal basis: Wetsontwerp van de Raad van State

Budget: Fl 450 million (ECU 214 million) for 1996

Aid intensity: Maximum 13 % net, 20 % gross

Duration: 1996

Date of adoption: 29 November 1995

Member State: Finland

Aid No: N 857/95 — measure 1 No (ex ESA 93-007)

Title: Small business aid

Objective: Small and medium-sized enterprises

Legal basis:

- Laki yritystuesta 1136/1993
- Valtioneuvoston päätös yritystuesta N:o 1689/1993, 1017/1994, 32/1995

Budget: Some Fmk 75 million (ECU 13 million)

Aid intensity:

- Type I and II areas: 37 % (gross)
- Type III areas: 30 % (gross)
- Structural change areas: 30 % (gross)

Duration: Indefinite

Date of adoption: 29 November 1995

Member State: Finland

Aid No: N 857/95 — measure No 2 (ex ESA 93-008)

Title: Development aid for small and medium-sized enterprises

Objective: R&D, small and medium-sized enterprises and regional

Legal basis:

- Laki yritystuesta 1136/1993
- Valtioneuvoston päätös yritystuesta N:o 1689/1993, 1017/1994, 32/1995

Budget: Some Fmk 145 million (ECU 25 million)

Aid intensity:

- Aid to R&D in assisted area: 40 % (gross)
- Aid to R&D in non-assisted area: 35 % (gross)
- Consultancy aid: 50 % (gross)

Duration: Indefinite

Date of adoption: 4 December 1995

Member State: United Kingdom (Cleveland County)

Aid No: N 144/95

Objective: Regional

Legal basis:

For financial assistance for on-site infrastructure:

— Local Authorities Land Act 1963 Section 3-12 A/3

For job subsidies:

— Local Government and Housing Act 1989 Section 33

Budget:

- for infrastructure grants — maximum £1,75 million p.a. (ECU 2,16 million)
- for job subsidy grants — maximum £1 million p.a. (ECU 1,23 million)

Aid intensity: 30 % net grant equivalent (NGE) (ceiling of the region)

Duration: Indefinitely, but subject to regular reviews

Conditions: None

Date of adoption: 6 December 1995

Member State: Austria

Aid No: N 105/95

Title: TOP tourism promotion scheme

Objective: Promotion of investment projects of small and medium-sized enterprises in the field of tourism

Legal basis:

— Bundeshaushaltsgesetz 1995

— Allgemeine Leitlinien für die Gewährung von Beihilfen aus Bundesfonds, GZ 01 3301/7-II/3/79 des Finanzministeriums

Budget: ÖS 110 million (ECU 8,3 million) with additional ÖS 40 million (ECU 3,0 million) reserved for small and medium-sized enterprises in national assisted areas for 1995 (budgets for 1996 and 1997 will be increased by not more than 20 % of the original budget)

Aid intensity:

- Interest grant: actual 4,47 % gross in case of new building projects and 6,26 % gross in case of improvements; in national assisted areas 7,77 % gross in case of new building projects and 10,88 % gross in case of improvements
- TOP-grant (additional): at maximum 3,5 % gross
- It is excluded that the aid intensity (also in case of cumulation) will be higher than the maximum allowed intensity by the Community guidelines on State aid for small and medium-sized enterprises

Duration: Three years (1995-1997)

Date of adoption: 6 December 1995

Member State: Austria

Aid No: N 104/95

Title: Tourism infrastructure promotion scheme

Objective: Promotion of investment projects of small and medium-sized enterprises

Legal basis:

— Bundeshaushaltsgesetz 1995

— Allgemeine Leitlinien für die Gewährung von Beihilfen aus Bundesfonds, GZ 01 3301/7-II/3/79 des Finanzministeriums

Budget: ÖS 60 million (ECU 4,5 million) with additional ÖS 8 million (ECU 0,6 million) reserved for small and medium-sized enterprises in national assisted areas for 1995

Aid intensity:

— Interest grant: actual 7,13 % gross, in national assisted areas 9,95 % gross (excluded to be higher than the maximum allowed intensity by the Community guidelines on State aid for small and medium-sized enterprises)

— Innovation grant (not additional): 7 % gross

Duration: Three years (1995 to 1997)

Date of adoption: 6 December 1995

Member State: Portugal (Madeira)

Aid No: N 823/95

Title: Sideram — Business aid scheme for Madeira

Objective: To strengthen the region's economic fabric by exploiting its endogenous potential

Legal basis: Decreto Legislativo Regional

Budget:

— State: ECU 1,4 million

— EC (ERDF): ECU 7,9 million

Aid intensity: 59 % (NGE)

Duration: 1995 to 1999

Non-opposition to a notified concentration

(Case No IV/M.676 — Ericsson/Ascom II)

(96/C 19/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 22 December 1995, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the common market. This decision is based on Article 6 (1) (b) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89⁽¹⁾. Third parties showing a sufficient interest can obtain a copy of the decision by making a written request to:

Commission of the European Communities,
Directorate-General for Competition (DG IV),
Merger Task Force,
Avenue de Cortenberg 150/Kortenberglaan 150,
B-1049 Brussels,
fax number: (32 2) 296 43 01.

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

Communication from The Netherlands pursuant to Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 1994 on the conditions for granting and using authorizations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons⁽¹⁾

(96/C 19/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Call for applications for a hydrocarbon-prospecting licence for the F 16 sector

The Minister for Economic Affairs, in The Netherlands, advises receipt of a request for a hydrocarbon-prospecting licence for part of the F 16 sector shown on the map in Annex I of the Royal Decree of 6 February 1976 (Stb. 102), last amended by the Royal Decree of 4 July 1988 (Stb. 374), in accordance with Article 12 of the Continental Shelf Mining Act (Stb. 428, 1965) designated F 16.

In accordance with Article 3 (2) (b) of Directive 94/22/EEC of the European Parliament and the Council dated 30 May 1994 concerning conditions governing the granting and use of prospecting, exploration and hydrocarbon production licences, and the publication of applications (ninth time) for hydrocarbon-prospecting licences (Stert. 33, 1995), the Minister for Economic Affairs is putting out a call for applications for a hydrocarbon-prospecting licence for the F 16 sector.

Requests may be sent over 13 weeks from the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and are to be addressed to the Minister van Economische Zaken 'ter attentie van de directeur Olie en Gas', Be Zuidenhoutseweg 6, NL-2594 AV 's-Gravenhage, and marked 'persoonlijk in handen'. Applications sent after this date will not be considered.

The granting of any authorizations will be made within 9 months of this notice.

Any additional information can be obtained by telephoning (31 70) 379 66 85.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 164, 30. 6. 1994, p. 3.

Communication from The Netherlands pursuant to Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 1994 on the conditions for granting and using authorizations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons⁽¹⁾

(96/C 19/08)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Call for applications for a hydrocarbon-prospecting licence for the L 5d subsector

The Minister for Economic Affairs, in The Netherlands, advises receipt of a request for a hydrocarbon-prospecting licence for part of the L 5 sector shown on the map in Annex I of the Royal Decree of 6 February 1976 (Stb. 102), last amended by the Royal Decree of 4 July 1988 (Stb. 374), in accordance with Article 12 of the Continental Shelf Mining Act (Stb. 428, 1965) designated L 5d.

In accordance with Article 3 (2) (b) of Directive 94/22/EEC of the European Parliament and the Council dated 30 May 1994 concerning conditions governing the granting and use of prospecting, exploration and hydrocarbon production licences, and the publication of applications (ninth time) for hydrocarbon-prospecting licences (Stert. 33, 1995), the Minister for Economic Affairs is putting out a call for applications for a hydrocarbon-prospecting licence for the L 5d subsector.

Requests may be sent over 13 weeks from the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and are to be addressed to the Minister van Economische Zaken 'ter attentie van de directeur Olie en Gas', Bezuidenhoutseweg 6, NL-2594 AV 's-Gravenhage, and marked 'persoonlijk in handen'. Applications sent after this date will not be considered.

The granting of any authorizations will be made within nine months of this notice.

Any additional information can be obtained by telephoning (31 70) 379 66 85.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 164, 30. 6. 1994, p. 3.

II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

Amended proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution from emissions from motor vehicles ⁽¹⁾

*(96/C 19/09)**(Text with EEA relevance)**COM(95) 540 final — 94/0286(COD)**(Submitted by the Commission pursuant to Article 189a (2) of the EC-Treaty on 10 November 1995)*

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 390, 31. 12. 1994, p. 26.

COMMISSION TEXT

AMENDMENTS

Fourth recital

Whereas it is recognized that the development of transport in the Community has entailed significant constraints for the environment; whereas a certain number of official estimates of the increase in traffic density have proved to be lower than the actual figures; whereas for that reason stringent emission standards should be laid down for all motor vehicles;

Whereas it is recognized that the development of transport in the Community has entailed significant constraints for the environment and it is also agreed that the future development of transport will cause a further increase in constraints for the environment; whereas official estimates of the increase in traffic density in the Community have so far proved to be lower than the actual trend; whereas for that reason very stringent emission standards should be laid down for all motor vehicles;

Fifth recital

Whereas the Commission has adopted a European programme on emissions, fuels and engine technologies (Epefe); whereas that programme was established to ensure that proposals for future directives on pollutant emissions seek the best solutions both for the consumer and for the economy; whereas that programme deals with the pollution emitted by vehicles and the fuels which propel them;

Whereas the Commission has adopted a European programme on emissions, fuels and engine technologies (Epefe); whereas that programme was established to ensure that proposals for future directives on pollutant emissions seek the best solutions for the environment, for the consumer and for the economy; whereas that programme deals with the pollution emitted by motor vehicles and the fuels which propel them;

Seventh recital, last clause

Whereas it is necessary to align the standards for light commercial vehicles with those for passenger cars so as to make them once again at least as stringent as those for passenger cars;

Whereas it is necessary to harmonize the standards for light commercial vehicles with those for passenger cars so as to make them at least as stringent as those for passenger cars;

COMMISSION TEXT

AMENDMENTS

Eighth recital

Whereas the work undertaken by the Commission in this field has shown that the best technology currently available to the Community industry can be further improved in order to allow light commercial vehicles to comply with considerably reduced emission limits; whereas the proposed standards will apply both to the approval of new vehicle types and to the check on conformity of production, since the amended method of sampling and statistical evaluation removes the tolerances allowed for the limit values set under previous stages of Directive 70/220/EEC;

Whereas the work undertaken by the Commission in this field has shown that the best technology currently available to the Community industry can be further improved in order to allow light commercial vehicles to comply with considerably reduced emission limits; whereas the same is true of other, new technologies which are emerging; whereas the proposed standards will apply both to the approval of new vehicle types and to the check on conformity of production, since the amended method of sampling and statistical evaluation removes the tolerances allowed for the limit values set under previous stages of Directive 70/220/EEC;

**Amended proposal for a Council Directive introducing minimum Community measures
necessary for the control of diseases affecting bivalve molluscs ⁽¹⁾**

(96/C 19/10)

COM(95) 514 final — 94/0213(CNS)

(Submitted by the Commission pursuant to Article 189a (2) of the EC Treaty on 13 November 1995)

On 26 September 1994 the Commission submitted the aforementioned proposal to the Council.

As a result of the opinion of the European Parliament delivered on 7 April 1995, the original proposal is amended as follows:

1. Article 3 (2) (c) is replaced by the following:

‘(c) observed abnormal mortality, abnormal mortality being sudden mortality affecting approximately 15 % of stocks and occurring over a short period between two inspections (approximately 15 days).’

2. The final sentence of Article 3 is replaced by the following:

‘This record, which shall be open to scrutiny by the official service on demand, shall be updated regularly and kept for four years.’

3. The first subparagraph of Article 4 (1) is replaced by the following:

‘1. Member States shall ensure that a permanent monitoring and sampling programme is applied in bivalve mollusc farming areas and farmed natural beds.’

4. The following indent is added to the second subparagraph of Article 4 (1):

‘— establishing, in addition to a list of sites where the diseases referred to in Annex A, list II of Directive 91/67/EEC are present, a list of sites where abnormal mortality occurs and a list of the pathogens recorded at such sites, particularly in host species other than those specified in Annex A, list II of Directive 91/67/EEC.’

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 285, 13. 10. 1994, p. 9.

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Study on the impact of Internal Market integration

Contract notice

Reference No: XV/96/02/A

Study on the impact of Internal Market integration on the access of third-country economic operators to the EU market

Restricted accelerated procedure

(96/C 19/11)

1. **Name and address of the awarding authority:** European Commission, DG XV, Internal Market and Financial Services, Unit A/1, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel.

Tel. (32-2) 295 08 09. Facsimile (32-2) 296 09 50.
2. **Category of service and description:** As part of its overall analysis on the impact and effectiveness of the Internal Market programme, the Commission proposes to finance an analysis of the impact of Internal Market integration on conditions of access of third-country products to the EU market.

The analysis shall be organized in 2 lots:
 - a) legal and descriptive analysis: the aim of this particular analysis is to provide a thorough and systematic description of all relevant changes in the market-access regime for third-country products/services to the markets of Member States. The objective is to identify, describe and prioritize adjustments to the market access regime without quantifying the changes in trade and/or investment flows which might arise;
 - b) quantitative assessment: the core of this analysis requires the use of partial equilibrium models to simulate the consequences of abolition of national quotas and their replacement by restrictions at Community level or their non-replacement.
CPC reference No: 864.
3. **Place of delivery of the final report referred to in 7:** The awarding authority, the address of which is indicated in 1.
4. **Provisions reserving execution of the service to a particular profession:** Not applicable.
5. **Division into lots:** The work is divided into 2 lots. While tenderers are entitled to tender for both lots, the submissions should be presented as separate documents and allow the Commission to establish unambiguously the scope of work and fees sought for work under each lot. In the case of tenders for both lots, the Commission reserves the right to restrict its interest to 1 lot.
6. **Number of candidates to be invited to tender:** All candidates meeting the selection criteria will be invited to tender.
7. **Variants:** No variants will be accepted.
8. **Time limits for the completion of the study:** All work must be completed within a period not exceeding 4 months.
9. **Legal form in the case of group bidders:** No specific legal form is required, but each service provider will be required to become jointly and severally responsible under the contract.
10. a) **Justification for use of accelerated procedure:** Following failure of a previous open invitation to tender to elicit appropriate tenders, the period of time available for completion of this work has been considerably reduced if the Commission is to respect deadlines for the presentation of its report on the effectiveness and impact of the Internal Market programme to the Council and Parliament. The present study constitutes an important element in this overall analysis. Recourse to an accelerated procedure is necessary to ensure that completion of this work coincides with completion of work in respect of 37 other study contracts launched in the framework of this exercise, for which work is already under way.

- b) **Final date for requests to participate:** All interested parties are invited to submit an expression of interest containing sufficient information as to allow the Commission to assess compliance with the selection criteria presented below. The final date for submission of expressions of interest is 30. 1. 1996 (17.00).
- c) **Address to which requests to participate must be sent:** As in 1.
- d) All documents submitted during the tender procedure must be submitted in 1 of the official languages of the EU.
11. **Final date for dispatch of invitations to tender:** 2. 2. 1996.
12. **Deposits and guarantees:** The Commission reserves the right, prior to the conclusion of a contract, to require the proposed contractor to furnish a bank guarantee/performance bond for a sum up to the value of the proposed contract.
13. **Information necessary for an appraisal of the minimum economic and technical standards required of the services provider:** The tenderer must provide information about the natural persons who will carry out the work, whether these be the tenderer himself, his employees, subcontractors or other agents, which will be used by the Commission in the process of selecting the successful candidate, concerning each of the following points:
- for lots 1 and 2:
- a) postgraduate qualifications in the fields of international trade law and/or international trade,
- b) itemized description of previous research, publications and project work in the fields of Member State and Community trade policy instruments and regulatory measures influencing access to the EU market,
- c) itemized presentation of previous research, publications and/or project work on relevant aspects of the Internal Market programme;
- for lot 2 only:
- d) expertise in quantitative analysis of effects of policy changes using relevant simulation techniques, as evidenced by full description of this work and the models employed.
14. **Award criteria:** The contract will be awarded to the economically most advantageous offer. The award criteria are specified fully in the separate terms of reference for each of the lots.
15. **Other information:** This notice contains all the information on the basis of which interested service providers are invited to submit their request for documents in accordance with the procedure described in 8.
- 16.
17. **Date of dispatch of the notice to the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities:** 11. 1. 1996.
18. **Date of receipt by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities:** 12. 1. 1996.
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Financial aid for projects relating to consumer protection in 1996

The projects to which the Commission will give priority in granting subsidies in 1996 must have the following objectives.

1. Consumer representation

- Develop structures for representing and protecting consumers, notably in southern Europe and Ireland,
- develop consumer representation in the field of standardization.

2. Consumer safety

Prevent:

- home and leisure accidents affecting young children, in particular burns, falls and drownings,
- accidents in the field of nautical sports, in particular rafting and canoeing,
- accidents in public and private swimming pools;
- beach accidents.

3. Consumers' economic interests

Encourage the effective enforcement of consumer law by improving access to justice for consumers and the settlement of consumer disputes (in particular intra-Community disputes) or by providing specialist advice on problems concerning consumers' economic interests (for example in the field of financial services).

4. Consumer information and education

- Create new cross-border information centres or outstations linked to existing centres,
- use new communication technologies to inform consumers (CD-ROM, Internet, etc.),
- use new channels (stores, airports) for the distribution of traditional 'printed' information material to consumers,
- create radio and TV programmes on consumer issues (the request must be accompanied by the broadcaster's agreement to transmit the programme),
- instruct teachers or trainee teachers in the field of consumer education, taking into account experience to date,
- expose dubious advertising techniques or promotions targeting children and adolescents,
- actions designed to promote environmental awareness among consumers, and to encourage the development of consumer habits which are less damaging to the environment.

The proposed actions must be down-to-earth and, where possible, have a European dimension. Except in particular, duly argued cases, projects for conferences or colloquiums will not be given priority.

The deadline for submission of subsidy requests is 31 January 1996.

Special forms and explanatory notes may be obtained from:

European Commission,
DG XXIV,
rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200,
B-1049 Brussels.
Fax: (32 2) 296 32 79.