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Information and Notices

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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

(Continued overleaf)

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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Ecu ⁽¹⁾

18 June 1998

(98/C 192/01)

Currency amount for one unit:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|----------------------|----------|
| Belgian and Luxembourg franc | 40,7616 | Finnish markka | 6,00581 |
| Danish krone | 7,52662 | Swedish krona | 8,73542 |
| German mark | 1,97612 | Pound sterling | 0,661041 |
| Greek drachma | 335,243 | United States dollar | 1,10645 |
| Spanish peseta | 167,682 | Canadian dollar | 1,62051 |
| French franc | 6,62553 | Japanese yen | 151,230 |
| Irish pound | 0,784549 | Swiss franc | 1,65082 |
| Italian lira | 1947,01 | Norwegian krone | 8,35204 |
| Dutch guilder | 2,22750 | Icelandic krona | 78,8456 |
| Austrian schilling | 13,9036 | Australian dollar | 1,80881 |
| Portuguese escudo | 202,359 | New Zealand dollar | 2,12126 |
| | | South African rand | 5,93610 |

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 fax answering service (No 296 10 97/296 60 11) 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 L 379, 30.12.1978, p. 1), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1971/89 (OJ L 189, 4.7.1989, p. 1).

Council Decision 80/1184/EEC of 18 December 1980 (Convention of Lomé) (OJ L 349, 23.12.1980, p. 34).

Commission Decision No 3334/80/ECSC of 19 December 1980 (OJ L 349, 23.12.1980, p. 27).

Financial Regulation of 16 December 1980 concerning the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 345, 20.12.1980, p. 23).

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3308/80 of 16 December 1980 (OJ L 345, 20.12.1980, p. 1).

Decision of the Council of Governors of the European Investment Bank of 13 May 1981 (OJ L 311, 30.10.1981, p. 1).

Composition of the Consultative Committee for cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations (CMAF)

(98/C 192/02)

By its Decision of 10 June 1998, the Commission decided to appoint the following persons as full members and alternate members of the Consultative Committee for cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations⁽¹⁾ for a term of three years:

| COOPERATIVES | MUTUAL SOCIETIES | ASSOCIATIONS/ FOUNDATIONS |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Full members</i> | <i>Full members</i> | <i>Full members</i> |
| BONELLA Alessandro | DINER Alexandre | ALIX Nicole |
| CORNELLY Marc-Henry | DURANTON Maurice | ASCANI Giovanni |
| FAURA Iñaki | HAMILTON Geert Jan | CABRA de la LUNA Miguel Ángel |
| MATHIS Agnès | LANDAU Dennis | de GRAAF Herbert |
| MATTSSON Elisabeth | MAZZOLI Enea | GAINES Adam |
| PAPAGIORJU Konstantinos | SANZ VALDÉS Jerónimo | IOVENE Nuccio |
| TYRELL John | SELLITSCH Siegfried | MELÍCIAS Vitor |
| WALKER Peter | WITHERS Stephen | SVENSSON Raymond |
| <i>Alternate members</i> | <i>Alternate members</i> | <i>Alternate members</i> |
| CANAVEIRA de CAMPOS Manuel | BAERENTSEN Jens | CHARHON Francis |
| GRACÍA ARELLANO Antonio | KRAUS Alexandros | DAVID Anne |
| KLEMMEN Josef | LINDSTRÖM Birgitta | DE SCHRYVER Daniel |
| KUISMA Jouko | MOREAU Hélène | FAURE Emmanuelle |
| PARPAIX Calixte | RETO Mariana | MANCINI Stefania |
| SCHLÜTER Rainer | SCHMEINCK Wolfgang | MECKING Christopher |
| TIXATOR Michèle | SCHMITZ Michel | MARTOS Fernando |
| WÜLKER Hans-Detlef | WOHLNER Ellis | WEIDEL Christiana |

⁽¹⁾ The CMAF Consultative Committee was set up by Decision of 13 March 1998.

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case No IV/M.1198 — British Aerospace plc/Saab)

(98/C 192/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 2 June 1998, the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ⁽²⁾, by which the undertakings British Aerospace plc (BAe) and Investor AB (Investor) acquire, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of the Saab AB undertaking by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- BAe: defence and aerospace industry,
- Investor: industrial holdings in companies operating in various sectors, including Saab and Ericsson,
- Saab: defence and aerospace industry.

3. On 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.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference IV/M.1198 — British Aerospace plc/Saab, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition (DG IV),
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Avenue de Cortenberg/Kortenberglaan 150,
B-1040 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; Corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; Corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration
(Case No IV/M.1170 — Dan Transport/Inter Forward)

(98/C 192/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 25 May 1998, 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. The full text of the decision is only available in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- as a paper version through the sales offices of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (see list on the last page),
- in electronic form in the 'CEN' version of the CELEX database, under document number 398M1170. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law; for more information concerning subscriptions please contact:

EUR-OP,
Information, Marketing and Public Relations (OP/4B),
2, rue Mercier,
L-2985 Luxembourg,
Tel. (352) 29 29-42455, fax (352) 29 29-42763.

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

Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(98/C 192/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Date of adoption: 4.3.1997

Member State: Portugal

Aid No: N 19/97

Title: PEDIP II — Increasing the budget for 3,3 measures ('innovation and internationalisation of business structures') and 4,4 measures ('innovation and technology transfer')

Objective: To stimulate sustained increase in the competitiveness of Portuguese industry

Legal basis: Decreto-lei n° 177/94 (PEDIP II)

Budget: ECU 194,04 million (of which 75 % to be borne by the ERDF). Compensatory reductions in the budget for certain other measures under PEDIP II; no change to the overall programme

Aid intensity: Variable. Limited to maximum 75 % gge (57 % nge)

Duration: Until end 1999

—————

Date of adoption: 28.10.1997

Member State: France

Aid No: N 606/97

Title: Amendment to the Decree introducing a parafiscal charge on mechanical engineering products

Objective: Financing of activities and improvements in production techniques

Legal basis: Décret n° 93-1370 du 29 décembre 1993 instituant une taxe parafiscale au profit du groupement d'intérêt économique dit 'Comité de coordination des centres de recherche en mécanique'

Aid intensity: 0,34 % of turnover exclusive of tax

Duration: 31.12.1998

—————

Date of adoption: 16.12.1997

Member State: Italy

Aid No: N 457/97

Title: Aid for biofuels derived from oilseed

Objective: To foster experimentation and to promote the technological development of biodiesel (chemical industry)

Legal basis: Progetto di regolamento del ministro delle Finanze di concerto con il ministro dell'Industria, del Commercio e dell'Artigianato e il Ministro delle risorse agricole, alimentari e forestali

Budget: ITL 106 billion per year (ECU 55 million)

Aid intensity: Not applicable

Duration: 3 years

Date of adoption: 4.2.1998

Member State: France

Aid No: N 672/97

Title: Renewal for 1998-2002 of the parafiscal charge levied on certain petroleum products for the benefit of the French Petroleum Institute (IFP)

Objective: Financing of some of IFP's research activities (refining, petrochemicals and other allied industries)

Legal basis: Projet de décret n° 97 abrogeant le décret n° 93-28 du 8 janvier 1993 modifié par le décret n° 96-912 du 10 octobre 1996

Budget: Approximately FRF 1,2 billion per year (forward budget 1997), or approximately ECU 181 million

Aid intensity: Not applicable

Duration: 5 years (1998-2002)

Date of adoption: 25.2.1998

Member State: Germany

Aid No: N 7/98

Title: Hagenuk Telecom GmbH

Objective: Rescue aid

Legal basis: Richtlinien für die Übernahme von Bürgschaften des Landes Schleswig-Holstein

Budget: Guarantee for 80 % of a loan of DEM 15 million (ECU 7,6 million)

Aid intensity: 100 %

Date of adoption: 25.3.1998

Member State: Spain (Andalusia)

Aid No: NN 83/97 (ex N 89/97)

Title: Aid scheme for business development and promotion

Objective: To develop and improve the marketing structures of SMEs and to encourage them to attend trade fairs and exhibitions

Legal basis: Orden de la Junta de Andalucía

Budget: ECU 10,3 million

Aid intensity: Maximum 50 % gross (38,3 % nge)

Duration: 1995-1998

Date of adoption: 27.3.1998

Member State: Germany (North Rhine-Westphalia)

Aid No: N 367/97

Title: 'Rational use of energy and utilisation of renewable energy sources' — Promotion of demonstration projects (REN-Programm/D)

Objective: To promote demonstration projects in the field of renewable energy sources and contribution to energy savings

Legal basis:

— Programm der Landesregierung Nordrhein-Westfalen 'Rationelle Energieverwendung und Nutzung unerschöpflicher Energiequellen' (REN-Programm)

— Haushaltsgesetz Nordrhein-Westfalen

Budget: Until 2001, a total of DEM 97,5 million (ECU 49,5 million)

Aid intensity: For precompetitive development projects as well as feasibility studies, including bonuses not exceeding 50 % of project costs/study costs

Duration: Until 31.12.2001

Date of adoption: 31.3.1998

Member State: Denmark

Aid No: N 845/97

Title: Measures in favour of R & D within energy saving

Objective: To develop new energy-saving and energy-efficient products

Legal basis: Lov om statstilskud til produktrettede energibesparelser

Budget: 1998-2001: DKR 73,1 million (ECU 9,7 million)

Aid intensity:

— Industrial research: maximum 50 % gross

— Precompetitive development activities: maximum 25 % gross

— Feasibility studies preparatory to industrial research: maximum 75 % gross, and feasibility studies preparatory to precompetitive development activities: maximum 50 % gross

— Bonus in favour of SMEs: 10 % gross

Duration: Unlimited

Date of adoption: 7.4.1998

Member State: Netherlands

Aid No: N 506/97

Title: COMMEND (Eureka 1549)

Objective: Back-up activities in the R & D field for determining common standards and protocols for electronic digital infrastructure

Legal basis: Ministerieel decreet

Budget: NLG 30 million (ECU 13,4 million)

Aid intensity: 50 %

Duration: Until 2000

Date of adoption: 7.4.1998

Member State: France

Aid No: N 664/97

Title: COMMEND (Eureka 1549)

Objective: Back-up activities in the R & D field for determining common standards and protocols for electronic digital infrastructure

Legal basis: Régime d'aide à la filière électronique géré par le service des industries de la communication et des services (Serics) au ministère de l'économie, des finances et de l'industrie

Budget: FRF 177 million (ECU 26,7 million)

Aid intensity: 50 %

Duration: Until 2000

Date of adoption: 7.4.1998

Member State: Austria

Aid No: N 812/97

Title: Aid to employment

Objective: To promote employment

Legal basis: § 51 Absatz 3—5 Arbeitsmarktförderungsgesetz

Budget: ATS 400 million (ECU 29 million) per annum

Aid intensity: Investment aid will not exceed:

— in non-assisted areas: maximum 15/7,5 % respectively to SMEs

— in regionally assisted areas eligible under Article 92(3)(a) or Article 92(3)(c) of the EC Treaty: intensities according to regional aid map plus 15/10 % SME bonus respectively

Duration: 1998 to 31.12.1999

Date of adoption: 15.4.1998

Member State: Austria (Vienna)

Aid No: N 51/98

Title: Viennese structural improvement programme

Objective: Promoting investments by SMEs

Legal basis: Gemeinderatsbeschluss über die Wiener Strukturverbesserungsaktion

Budget: Maximum ATS 150 million (ECU 11 million) per annum

Aid intensity: 15 % for small and 7,5 % for medium-sized enterprises

Duration: Unlimited

Date of adoption: 14.5.1998

Member State: Italy (Abruzzi)

Aid No: N 825/97

Title: Aid for mollusc fishermen

Objective: To help mollusc fishermen in the Pescara coastal sector to overcome the losses suffered because of poor environmental conditions

Legal basis: Disegno di legge: 'Provvidenze a favore degli operatori che esercitano la pesca dei molluschi eduli lamellibranchi nel Compartimento marittimo di Pescara per le perdite subite in conseguenza delle avverse condizioni ambientali del mare'

Budget: ITL 1 000 000 000 (± ECU 515 291 at the January 1998 exchange rate)

Aid intensity:

— For the companies: ITL 3 400 000 (± ECU 1 751)

— For the fisherman: daily allowance of ITL 45 000 ITL (± ECU 23) for not more than 31 days

Duration: 1997

II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

Proposal for a Council Regulation (ECSC, EC, Euratom) amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities, and the other Regulations applicable to them with regard to the establishment of remuneration, pensions and other financial entitlements in euros

(98/C 192/06)

COM(1998) 324 final — 98/0190(CNS)

(Submitted by the Commission in accordance with Article 24 of the Treaty establishing a single Council and a single Commission of the European Communities on 20 May 1998)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the opinion of the Court of Auditors,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing a single Council and a single Commission of the European Communities, and in particular Article 24(1) thereof,

Whereas the euro will be the currency of the Member States adopting the euro as from 1 January 1999; whereas the monetary unit is the euro; whereas one euro will be divided into one hundred cents; whereas for a transitional period the euro will also be divided into national currency units,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular the third sentence of Article 1091(4) and Article 235 thereof,

Whereas, in the Member States which have adopted the euro, the remuneration, pensions and other financial entitlement of officials and other servants of the Communities should be established in euro as from 1 January 1999,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No .../98⁽²⁾ on the introduction of the euro,

Whereas the purchasing power of these financial entitlements must not be affected by this amending Regulation,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission presented after consulting the Staff Regulations Committee,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Article 1

Having regard to the opinion of the Court of Justice,

In the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities⁽³⁾ and the other Regulations applicable to them, the term 'Belgian francs' is replaced by the

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 162, 19.6.1997, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ European Council Resolution of 7 July 1997 (OJ C 236, 2.8.1997, p. 7).

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No .../98 (OJ L ..., ...).

term 'euro' and amounts expressed in Belgian francs are replaced by their equivalent in euro units at the conversion rate.

The rules relating to the rounding of amounts laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 shall apply.

Article 2

In Article 16(1) of Annex VII to the Staff Regulations the term 'Belgian franc' is replaced by 'cent'.

Article 3

For conversion of the basic monthly salaries set out in Article 66 of the Staff Regulations and Article 63 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, the first step and the difference between the first and second steps of each grade shall be calculated by straight application of the conversion rate. The other steps shall be obtained by adding this difference to the preceding step.

Article 4

With effect from 1 January 1999, the date referred to in the second paragraph of Article 63 of the Staff Regulations shall be replaced by '1 January 1999'.

The new weightings shall consequently be fixed on the basis of the ratio between the economic parities in force and the new exchange rates as referred to in Article 63 of the Staff Regulations, both expressed in euro.

At the time of the annual review of remuneration to take effect on 1 July 1999, the date specified in the second paragraph of Article 63 of the Staff Regulations shall be replaced by 1 July 1999.

Article 5

As from 1 January 1999, the weightings in force in non-Community countries shall also be recalculated on the basis of the ratio between the economic parities in force and the corresponding new exchange rates in force on 1 January 1999 expressed in euro. When weightings taking effect after 1 January 1999 are adjusted, the corresponding exchange rate shall be that for the month preceding the date of application.

Article 6

In Council Regulations (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 2530/72⁽⁴⁾, (ECSC, EEC, Euratom) Nos 1543/73⁽⁵⁾, 2150/82⁽⁶⁾, 1679/85⁽⁷⁾ and 3518/85⁽⁸⁾, (Euratom, ECSC, EEC) No 2274/87⁽⁹⁾, (EEC) No 1857/89⁽¹⁰⁾ and (EC, Euratom, ECSC) Nos 2688/95⁽¹¹⁾ and 2689/95⁽¹²⁾, the term 'Belgian francs' is replaced by the term 'euro' and amounts expressed in Belgian francs are replaced by their equivalent in euro units at the conversion rate.

The rules relating to the rounding of amounts laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 shall apply.

Article 7

On 1 January 1999, pursuant to this Regulation, the Commission shall effect the conversion into euro of the amounts of the different financial entitlements referred to in the Staff Regulations and the conditions of employment of other servants and the adjustment of the weightings to correct the effect of the change in exchange rates; these values shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* in January 1999.

Article 8

Amounts due under the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities and the other Regulations applicable to them in respect of entitlements arising from events or in respect of periods predating this Regulation shall continue to be determined in accordance with the rules applicable before this date.

Article 9

This Regulation shall enter into force on ...

It shall be applicable from 1 January 1999.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 272, 5.12.1972, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 155, 11.6.1973, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 228, 4.8.1982, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 162, 21.6.1985, p. 1.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 335, 13.12.1985, p. 56.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ L 209, 31.7.1987, p. 1.

⁽¹⁰⁾ OJ L 181, 28.6.1989, p. 2.

⁽¹¹⁾ OJ L 280, 23.11.1995, p. 1.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ L 280, 23.11.1995, p. 4.

Proposal for a Council Regulation (ECSC, EC, Euratom) amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 260/68 laying down the conditions and procedure for applying the tax for the benefit of the European Communities

(98/C 192/07)

COM(1998) 324 final — 98/0190(CNS)

(Submitted by the Commission in accordance with Article 13 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities on 20 May 1998)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing a single Council and a single Commission of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular the third sentence of Article 109(4) and Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 of 17 June 1997 on certain provisions relating to the introduction of the euro ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No .../98 ⁽²⁾ on the introduction of the euro,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas, having regard to Council Regulation No .../98 amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 ⁽³⁾ laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities and the other Regulations applicable to them with regard to the establishment of remuneration, pensions and other financial

entitlements in euro, Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 260/68 ⁽⁴⁾, as last amended by Regulation (ECSC, EEC, Euratom) No .../98, should be amended,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In Council Regulation No 260/68 the term 'Belgian francs' is replaced by the term 'euro' and amounts expressed in Belgian francs are replaced by their equivalent in euro units at the conversion rate.

The rules relating to the rounding of amounts laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 shall apply.

Article 2

Article 8 is amended to read: 'Tax shall be collected by means of deduction at source. The amount shall be rounded down to one 100th of a euro'.

Article 3

On 1 January 1999, pursuant to this Regulation, the Commission shall effect the conversion into euro of the amounts in Belgian francs in Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 260/68; these values shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* in January 1999.

Article 4

This Regulation shall enter into force on ...

It shall be applicable from 1 January 1999.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 162, 19.6.1997, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ European Council Resolution of 7 July 1997 (OJ C 236, 2.8.1997, p. 7).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 8.

Proposal for a Council Regulation (ECSC, EC, Euratom) amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 122/66 of the Councils laying down the list of places for which a transport allowance may be granted

(98/C 192/08)

COM(1998) 324 final — 98/0190(CNS)

(Submitted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 65(3) of the Staff Regulations on 20 May 1998)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing a single Council and a single Commission of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular the third sentence of Article 109l(4) and Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 of 17 June 1997 on certain provisions relating to the introduction of the euro ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No .../98 ⁽²⁾ on the introduction of the euro,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas, having regard to Council Regulation No .../98 amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 ⁽³⁾ laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities and the other Regulations applicable to them with regard to the establishment of remuneration, pensions and other financial entitlements in euro, Regulation No 122/66/EEC

of the Councils ⁽⁴⁾ laying down the list of places for which a transport allowance may be granted should be amended,

Whereas it is for the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 63(3) of the Staff Regulations, to lay down the list of places for which a transport allowance may be granted, the maximum amount of that allowance and the rules for granting it,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

In the Staff Regulations the term 'Belgian francs' is replaced by the term 'euro' and amounts expressed in Belgian francs are replaced by their equivalent in euro units at the conversion rate.

The rules relating to the rounding of amounts laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 shall apply.

Article 2

On 1 January 1999, pursuant to this Regulation, the Commission shall effect the conversion to euro of the amounts in Belgian francs in Regulation No 122/66/EEC of the Councils; these values shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* in January 1999.

Article 3

This Regulation shall enter into force on ...

It shall be applicable from 1 January 1999.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 162, 19.6.1997, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ European Council Resolution of 7 July 1997 (OJ C 236, 2.8.1997, p. 7).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ 150, 12.8.1966, p. 2751/66.

Proposal for a Council Regulation (ECSC, EC, Euratom) amending Regulation (ECSC, EEC, Euratom) No 300/76 determining the categories of officials entitled to allowances for shiftwork, and the rates and conditions thereof

(98/C 192/09)

COM(1998) 324 final — 98/0190(CNS)

(Submitted by the Commission in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 56a of the Staff Regulations on 20 May 1998)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

(ECSC, EEC, Euratom) No 300/76⁽⁴⁾ should be amended,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing a single Council and a single Commission of the European Communities,

Whereas it is for the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission presented after consulting the Staff Regulations Committee, to determine the categories of officials entitled to allowances for shiftwork, and the rates and conditions thereof,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular the third sentence of Articles 109(4) and Article 235 thereof,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 of 17 June 1997 on certain provisions relating to the introduction of the euro⁽¹⁾,

In Regulation (ECSC, EEC, Euratom) No 300/76 the term 'Belgian francs' is replaced by the term 'euro' and amounts expressed in Belgian francs are replaced by their equivalent in euro units at the conversion rate.

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No .../98⁽²⁾ on the introduction of the euro,

The rules relating to the rounding of amounts laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 shall apply.

Article 2

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission presented after consulting the Staff Regulations Committee,

On 1 January 1999, pursuant to this Regulation, the Commission shall effect the conversion to euro of the amounts expressed in Belgian francs in Regulation No 300/76; these values shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* in January 1999.

Article 3

Whereas, having regard to Council Regulation No .../98 amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68⁽³⁾ laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities and the other Regulations applicable to them with regard to the establishment of remuneration, pensions and other financial entitlements in euro, Council Regulation

This Regulation shall enter into force on ...

It shall be applicable from 1 January 1999.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 162, 19.6.1997, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ European Council Resolution of 7 July 1997 (OJ C 236, 2.8.1997, p. 1).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 38, 13.2.1976, p. 1.

Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 97/256/EC so as to extend the Community guarantee granted to the European Investment Bank to cover loans for projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina

(98/C 192/10)

COM(1998) 315 final — 98/0175(CNS)

(Submitted by the Commission on 18 May 1998)

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,

Whereas it is necessary to increase efforts to ensure a stable political environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina; whereas, within the regional approach defined by the Council, it is desirable to consider an exceptional action aimed at rebuilding infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina; whereas, in order to finance this action, it is appropriate to call on the European Investment Bank, hereinafter referred to as 'the EIB'; whereas the Council has invited the Commission to present a proposal concerning the extension to Bank lending in Bosnia and Herzegovina of the arrangements laid down by Council Decision 97/256/EC of 14 April 1997 granting a Community guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under loans for projects outside the Community (Central and Eastern European countries, Mediterranean countries, Latin American and Asian countries and South Africa)⁽¹⁾,

Whereas the involvement of the EIB in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be consistent with the policy of the Community in this country; whereas the EIB should operate within the framework of the reconstruction programme agreed at the various donors' conferences and should finance projects which are of interest to the Community and to Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Whereas the loans granted by the EIB, from its own resources under conditions laid down by it in accordance with its Statute, would need to be combined with a grant element from the Community budget for the EIB to intervene effectively; whereas, on a case-by-case basis,

this grant could take the form of interest-rate subsidies and/or outright grants as project co-financing; whereas, in the case of interest-rate subsidies, it is appropriate that the subsidy rate should be the same as that already granted under the protocols on financial cooperation to other ex-Yugoslav republics,

Whereas Council Regulation (EC) No 1628/96 of 25 July 1996 relating to aid for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia⁽²⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 851/98⁽³⁾, provides for aid measures; whereas Article 8 of that Regulation states that operations referred to in it may cover expenditure relating to interest-rate subsidies for loans granted by the EIB; whereas the procedures of that Regulation for the financing decisions relating to operations covered by it should apply to these new arrangements,

Whereas the provision of interest-rate subsidies is of an exceptional nature and should not set a precedent for Community financial assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Whereas the capacity of Bosnia and Herzegovina to service its external financial obligations should be secured by the implementation of macroeconomic reform programmes supported by the international financial institutions,

Whereas EIB lending should be conditional upon the discharge of all due and outstanding financial obligations of all public entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina towards the EIB and the Community and upon the acceptance by Bosnia and Herzegovina of responsibility by way of guarantee for such of those obligations as are not yet due,

Whereas Decision 97/256/EC should therefore be amended accordingly,

Whereas, the Treaty does not provide, for the adoption of this Decision, powers other than those set out in Article 235,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 102, 19.4.1997, p. 33.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 204, 14.8.1996, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 122, 24.4.1998, p. 1.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Council Decision 97/256/EC is hereby amended as follows:

1. In the title, '... Asian countries and South Africa' is replaced by '... Asian countries, South Africa and Bosnia and Herzegovina'.

2. Article 1 is replaced by the following:

(a) paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. The Community shall grant the European Investment Bank a global guarantee in respect of all payments not received by it but due in respect of credits opened, in accordance with its usual criteria for investment projects carried out in the Central and Eastern European countries, in the Mediterranean countries, in the Latin American and Asian countries, in the Republic of South Africa and in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This guarantee shall be restricted to 70 % of the guarantee amount of the credits opened, plus all related sums. The overall ceiling of the credits opened shall be equivalent to ECU 7 205 million, broken down as follows:

- Central and Eastern European countries: ECU 3 520 million,
- Mediterranean countries: ECU 2 310 million,
- Latin American and Asian countries: ECU 900 million,
- Republic of South Africa: ECU 375 million,
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: ECU 100 million.

That ceiling shall cover a period of three years beginning on 31 January 1997 for Central and Eastern European, Mediterranean and Latin American and Asian countries, and on 1 July 1997 for the Republic of South Africa. For Bosnia and Herzegovina it shall cover a period of two years beginning on [... (date of publication of amending decision) ...]. If, on the expiry of each of these periods, the loans granted by the EIB have not attained the overall amounts referred to above, the relevant period shall be automatically extended by six months.'

(b) the following sixth indent is added to paragraph 2:

'— Bosnia and Herzegovina.'

3. The following Article 1a is inserted:

'Article 1a

1. The provisions of paragraphs 2 to 7 shall apply to EIB lending in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. The Community guarantee shall be conditional upon clearance in full by Bosnia and Herzegovina of its outstanding financial obligations towards the EIB and the Community and upon the acceptance by Bosnia and Herzegovina of responsibility by way of guarantee for such of those obligations as are not yet due.

3. EIB lending in Bosnia and Herzegovina shall be consistent with the policy of the Community in this country. The Bank shall operate within the framework of the reconstruction programme agreed at the various donors' conferences and shall finance projects of mutual interest in general infrastructure, including transport, energy and the environment, with the focus on the water, waste-water and sanitation projects designed to speed up the reconstruction process.

4. The Commission shall ensure appropriate coordination and consistency between operations undertaken pursuant to this Decision and those undertaken pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 1628/96 (*).

5. Contributions from the Community budget for projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina covered by this Decision shall also take the form of interest-rate subsidies for loans granted by the Bank and/or outright grants intended as project co-financing. The subsidy rate shall be 2 %.

Financial decisions relating to interest-rate subsidies on EIB loans and/or project co-financing shall be adopted in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Regulation (EC) No 1628/96.

6. Article 1(3) shall not apply.

7. The Commission and the EIB shall cooperate whenever appropriate with all international financial institutions active in fields similar to its own in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

(*) OJ L 204, 14.8.1996, p. 1.'

4. The following paragraph is added to Article 2:

‘The Commission shall submit to the Council and the European Parliament, at the latest by the end of 1999, a report on the implementation of this Decision. This report shall in particular take into account the evolution of the economic and financial situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the commitment level of

EIB loans and shall make appropriate recommendations. To this end, the EIB shall transmit to the Commission the appropriate information.’

Article 2

This Decision shall take effect on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Call for proposals in the form of projects to promote exports to Japan

(98/C 192/11)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Since 1979, in the framework of the Export Promotion Programme to Japan, the European Commission has been encouraging European enterprises to penetrate the Japanese market. To this end it has put in place and taken forward various promotional activities to further European exports to Japan and to maximise business opportunities there. The European programme complements initiatives taken nationally by Member States and reflects Japan's importance as an export market.

Within this programme, an overall budget of up to ECU 700 000 is potentially available in 1998 for aiding different ad hoc projects (any particular project falling under this scheme must be approved before 31 December 1998). Through this mechanism, the European Commission partly finances a wide range of activities (for example participation in trade fairs, trade missions, market studies, business conferences, etc.) organised by non-profit organisations, intended to promote European exports to Japan.

Ad hoc activities are designed to reinforce and supplement the Gateway to Japan campaigns and the Executive Training Programme (ETP) through assisting EU industry to promote particular products and sectors with a particular focus upon those not presently assisted or not assisted in the past via the Gateway to Japan campaign. The sectors currently under promotion are material handling equipment, medical equipment, construction materials, marine equipment, packaging machinery, waste management technologies, food, drinks, information technologies and outdoor life and entertainment equipment.

The Commission welcomes high-quality initiatives which can be independently implemented by the proposing body or trade association on a stand-alone basis. Technical assistance to ad hoc projects is not envisaged, consequently proposals should clearly demonstrate the capacity of the proposing body to fully implement the proposed action.

Selection criteria to be applied to ad hoc projects

Projects potentially eligible for support must:

1. fall within the regular business activities of the beneficiary (e.g. trade fair participation organised by trade associations, business network organisations organising conferences and seminars relaying successful business experiences in penetrating Japanese markets, etc.);
2. be complementary to the existing activities of Member States' actions in the area of export promotion of Japan;
3. contain a clear European dimension (i.e. assisting an industrial sector or group of products in at least five Member States) (NB: the participation of any one Member State should not exceed 40 % of either the total budget or the total number of participants for the planned action);
4. concern the promotion of an export opportunity which could not otherwise be undertaken without EU assistance;
5. be soundly organised, especially in terms of the respective roles of the participating organisations, having real and transparent management structures, clearly defined coordination procedures, work schedules and a precise and detailed budget.

Award criteria applied

Within the limits of the budget available, projects will be judged on the basis of cost effectiveness, quality and expected results in terms of increased business by EU companies in Japan.

Evaluation of projects

Projects will be evaluated on the basis of the results obtained against the objectives set out in the proposal. For example, the number of EU companies recruited to participate in the project; levels of publicity obtained both before and during the project; potential and actual sales achieved by participants; levels of interest raised in Japan for EU products in a given sector.

Financial assistance

The Commission envisages only part funding, EU aid being complementary to and subsidiary to own contributions and/or national, regional or local aids.

Selected projects may be grant aided by means of a subsidy with an upper limit of usually 35 % of total eligible expenditure.

How to apply

If you wish to submit a proposal to be considered for support under the ad hoc projects scheme, please contact:

Mr Richard Wright (Head of Unit),
DG I/F/1,
European Commission,
Charlemagne 15/110,
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 170,
B-1040 Brussels;
Fax (32-2) 299 10 33.

The deadline for expressions of interest is 22 July 1998.

Application forms will be sent to all registering interest.

The deadline for submission of final projects is 15 October 1998.
