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I

(Information)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of 15 December 1998

on a forestry strategy for the European Union

(1999/C 56/01)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Acknowledging the benefits of a Forestry Strategy for the European Union as set out in this Resolution based primarily on the general analysis and guidelines of the Communication of the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament;

Having regard to the existing legislation of the Council concerning the forest sector, as well as the proposals on the support of forestry measures in the Member States made within the framework of the Agenda 2000;

Considering the activities and commitments made by the European Union and its Member States in all relevant international processes related to forests, in particular the UN Conference for Environment and Development in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro and its follow-up (¹), as well as the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe and its principles and recommendations for the forest sector;

- 1. EMPHASISES the importance of the multifunctional role of forests and sustainable forest management based on their social, economic, environmental, ecological and cultural functions for the development of society and, in particular, rural areas and emphasises the contribution forests and forestry can make to existing Community policies,
- 2. IDENTIFIES as substantial elements of this common Forestry Strategy
- (1) UNCED, Ungass, XI World Forestry Congress, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the first, second and third Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

- (a) sustainable forest management as defined by the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Helsinki 1993, and the multifunctional role of forests as overall principles for action;
- (b) the principle of subsidiarity, given the fact that the Treaty establishing the European Community makes no provision for a specific common forestry policy and that responsibility for forestry policy lies with the Member States, nevertheless taking into account that, pursuant to the principle of subsidiarity and the concept of shared responsibility, the Community can contribute positively to the implementation of sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests;
- (c) the contribution of existing and future measures at Community level for the implementation of a Forestry Strategy and for the support of the Member States with regard to sustainable forest management and the multifunctional role of forests, protection of forests, development and maintenance of rural areas, forest heritage, biological diversity, climate change, use of wood as a renewable source of energy etc., while avoiding market-distorting measures;
- (d) the implementation of international commitments, principles and recommendations through national or sub-national forest programmes or appropriate instruments developed by the Member States;
- (e) the active participation in all international processes related to the forest sector;
- (f) the need to improve coordination, communication and cooperation in all policy areas with relevance to the forest sector within the Commission, between the Commission and the Member States, as well as between the Member States;

- (g) the importance of sustainable forest management for the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity, for the living conditions for animals and plants, and the fact that this sustainable forest management is one of many measures to combat climate change;
- (h) the promotion of the use of wood and non-wood forest products from sustainably managed forests as environmentally friendly products in line with the rules of the open market;
- (i) the contribution of forestry and forest-based industries to income, employment and other elements affecting the quality of life, whilst recognising the close connection between these two areas which influences their competitiveness and economic viability;
- (j) the need for better integration of forests and forest products in all sectoral common policies, like the Common Agricultural Policy, the Environment, Energy, Trade, Industry, Research, Internal Market and Development Cooperation policies, in order to take into account both the contribution of forests and forest products to other policies and the impacts of other policies on forests and forest products, with the aim of guaranteeing the required consistency of a holistic approach towards sustainable forest management;
- (k) the need to encourage a participatory and transparent approach with all stakeholders recognising the wide variety of ownership regimes within the Community, which necessitates the involvement of forest owners;
- (l) the need for specific approaches and actions for the different types of forests, recognising the wide range of natural, social, economic and cultural conditions of the forests in the Community;
- (m) the fact that this strategy is a dynamic process which implies further discussions and activities along the lines described above,

COMMUNITY ACTIONS CONCERNING FORESTS AND FORESTRY

3. EMPHASISES the contribution forests have on the promotion of employment, well-being, and the environment, which fits in with the concept of

- sustainable forest management, based on the economic, ecological, social and cultural functions of forests,
- 4. AGREES that the Community take part actively in the implementation of the resolutions of the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe and participate pro-actively in international discussion and negotiations on forestry-related issues, in particular in the United Nations Intergovernmental Forum on Forests,
- 5. CALLS on the Commission to undertake a review of the measures in Council Regulation (EEC) No 3528/86 of 17 November 1986 on the protection of the Community's forests against atmospheric pollution (¹), in order to evaluate and improve continuously the effectiveness of the European monitoring system of forest health, taking into account all the potential impacts on forest ecosystems,
- 6. ADVOCATES the continuation and evaluation of, and consideration of a possible improvement to the Community scheme for the protection of forests against fire, introduced by Regulation (EEC) No 2158/92 (²), in view of the positive impact it has had on the effectiveness of prevention measures and of the importance of coherent arrangements to protect forests, and INVITES the Commission to pay special attention to the development of the Community forest-fire information system, which enables the effectiveness of the protection measures against fires to be better assessed,
- 7. EMPHASISES the importance of continued development of the European Forestry Information and Communication System established by Regulation (EEC) No 1615/89 (3), by improving the quality and reliability of data on forests and, UNDERLINES the value of cooperation with the relevant national and international institutions,
- 8. CONSIDERS that Community measures in the framework of cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe as well as in the framework of the Ministerial Conferences on the Protection of Forests in Europe should promote sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of forests;

⁽¹) OJ L 326, 21.11.1986, p. 2. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 307/97 (OJ L 51, 21.2.1997, p. 9).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 217, 31.7.1992, p. 3. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 308/97 (OJ L 51, 21.2.1997, p. 11).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 165, 15.6.1989, p. 12.

NOTES that the Commission has presented a proposal for a Council Regulation on Community support for pre-accession measures for agriculture and rural development in the applicant countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the pre-accession period and that support for agricultural and rural development may cover forestry *inter alia*; CONSIDERS that the said proposal may contribute to management, conservation and sustainable development of forests in Central and Eastern Europe,

- 9. NOTES that research activities on forestry in Community RTD programmes help to promote the sustainable management and multifunctional role of forests and the sustainable and multipurpose utilisation of forest resources as well as to improve research potential and to encourage innovation,
- 10. EMPHASISES the benefits of effective coordination between different policy sectors which have an influence on forestry, and of coordination at Community level; EMPHASISES the important role the Standing Forestry Committee, the Advisory Committee on Forests and Cork and the Advisory Committee on Community policy regarding forestry and forestry-based industries, set up by Decision 89/367/EEC (1), Decision 98/235/EC (2), Decision 97/837/EC (3) respectively, have in this context, making use of these committees as ad hoc consultation for a providing expertise for all forestry-related activities in the framework of existing Community policies such as the Common and Rural Development, Agricultural Policy Environment, Trade, Research, Internal Market, Industry, Development Cooperation and Energy policies; and CALLS on the Commission to present a report to the Council as soon as possible on how to improve coordination,
- 11. CONSIDERS that the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in forests is essential to their sustainable management and that appropriate measures should be integrated in the forest programmes or equivalent instruments of the Member States in line with the pan-European 'Work Programme on the Conservation and Enhancement of Biological and Landscape Diversity in Forest Ecosystems 1997-2000'; NOTES the added value

that the Community's actions can provide through the forestry measures inside rural development and the forest protection measures as well as by specific actions such as research, conservation of genetic resources, pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1467/94 (4) and support for the application of the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management; CONSIDERS that these activities and this added value contribute to the response to the requested actionframe of the Community Biodiversity Strategy,

- 12. RECOGNISES additionally the need for the conservation and protection of areas representative of all types of forest ecosystems and of specific ecological interest; NOTES the Community contribution to the establishment, through the Natura 2000 ecological network, of protected areas consisting of 'Special Protection Areas' and 'Special Conservation Areas' set up under Directives 79/409/EEC (5) and 92/43/EEC (6) taking into account economic, social and cultural requirements, regional and local characteristics and the involvement of forest owners,
- 13. HOLDS that the role of forests as carbon sinks and reservoirs within the European Union can be best ensured through sustainable forest management and that the contribution to the European Union and Member States' climate change strategies, in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol, and can best be achieved through the protection and enhancement of existing carbon stocks, the establishment of new carbon stocks and encouragement of the use of biomass and wood-based products,
- 14. CONSIDERS that forestry and forest-based commercial activities fall within the open sector of the economy and that their commercial functions should be guided primarily by market forces; NOTES that the Community has established a number of instruments to ensure that competition functions effectively,
- 15. EMPHASISES that priority must be given to the improvement of public and consumer opinion

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 165, 15.6.1989, p. 14.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 88, 24.3.1998, p. 59.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 346, 17.12.1997, p. 95.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 159, 28.6.1994, p. 1.

^(*) OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1. Directive as last amended by Directive 97/49/EC (OJ L 223, 13.8.1997, p. 9).

^(*) OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7. Directive as last amended by Directive 97/62/EC (OJ L 305, 8.11.1997, p. 42).

about forestry and forest products, assuring them that forests are managed sustainably, noting that forest certification schemes are market-based instruments which seek to improve consumer awareness of the environmental qualities of sustainable forest management and to promote the use of wood and forest products as environmentally friendly and renewable raw materials, and that forest certification schemes should be comparable and the performance indicators should be compatible with internationally agreed principles of sustainable forest management principles and, furthermore, that they should comply with conditions regarding their voluntary nature, credibility, transparency, cost efficiency, open access and non-discriminatory character with respect to forest types and owners, and considering that one essential point in ensuring credibility should be the independent audit of forest management; INVITES the Commission to consider the possibility for further action at European Union level,

16. RECOGNISES that the existing forestry measures as well as a chapter specially dedicated to forestry inside the proposed Regulation on rural development in the Agenda 2000 (1) could provide a basis

to implement the guidelines of this Resolution; AGREES that all common measures affecting forests and forest products should be in line with the aims and recommendations of this Forestry Strategy,

- 17. NOTES that the Commission intends to present
 - a communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the competitiveness of the forest-based industries,
 - a proposal revising Council Directive 66/404/EEC of 14 June 1966 on the marketing of forest reproductive material (²);
 - a specific communication to the European Parliament and the Council shortly on forestry development cooperation,
- 18. INVITES the Commission to report to the Council on the implementation of this Forestry Strategy within five years.

⁽¹) OJ C 170, 4.6.1998, p. 67.

⁽²) OJ 125, 11.7.1966, p. 2326. Directive as last amended by the 1994 Act of Accession.

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates (1)

25 February 1999

(1999/C 56/02)

| 1 euro | = | 7,4346 | Danish krone |
|--------|---|---------|------------------------|
| | = | 322,65 | Greek drachma |
| | = | 8,974 | Swedish krona |
| | = | 0,6888 | Pound sterling |
| | | | |
| | = | 1,1031 | United States dollar |
| | = | 1,6543 | Canadian dollar |
| | = | 132,87 | Japanese yen |
| | = | 1,5905 | Swiss franc |
| | = | 8,6965 | Norwegian krone |
| | = | 79,4851 | Icelandic króna (²) |
| | = | 1,7566 | Australian dollar |
| | = | 2,0902 | New Zealand dollar |
| | = | 6,82543 | South African rand (2) |
| | | | |

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

⁽²⁾ Source: Commission.

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

Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(1999/C 56/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Date of adoption: 20.5.1998

Member State: Germany (Saxony-Anhalt)

Aid No: NN 126/97

Title: SKET Maschinenbau EDV GmbH

Objective: Data processing, installation of software and

hardware

Legal basis:

— Treuhandgesetz vom 17.6.1990

 Gesetz zur abschließenden Erfüllung der verbleibenden Aufgaben der Treuhandanstalt vom 9.8.1994

Aid intensity: DEM 4,767 million (ECU 2,4 million)

Duration: 1997 to 1999

Date of adoption: 14.7.1998

Member State: Germany (Saxony)

Aid No: NN 6/98

Title: Additional financial measures (Vertragsmanagement) in support of Fortschritt Landmaschinen

GmbH, Neustadt

Objective: Agricultural machinery

Legal basis:

- Treuhandgesetz vom 17.6.1990

 Gesetz zur abschließenden Erfüllung der verbleibenden Aufgaben der Treuhandanstalt vom 9.8.1994

Aid intensity: DEM 12,6 million (approximately ECU

6 million)

Duration: 2001

Conditions: Submission of annual reports

Date of adoption: 29.7.1998

Member State: Germany (Saxony-Anhalt)

Aid No: N 228/98

Title: Privatisation of Island Polymer Industries GmbH

(IPI)

Objective: Chemicals/plastics

Legal basis:

- Treuhandgesetz vom 17.6.1990

 Gesetz zur abschließenden Erfüllung der verbleibenden Aufgaben der Treuhandanstalt vom 9.8.1994

Aid intensity: DEM 3,918 million

Duration: Three years

Date of adoption: 29.7.1998

Member State: Germany (Saxony)

Aid No: N 279/98

Title: Großenhainer Gesenk- und Freiformschmiede

GmbH

Objective: Restructuring

Legal basis:

— Treuhandgesetz vom 17.6.1990

— Gesetz zur abschließenden Erfüllung der verbleibenden Aufgaben der Treuhandanstalt vom 9.8.1994

Aid intensity: DEM 1600 000 (approximately ECU

800 000)

Duration: 2000

Date of adoption: 14.10.1998

Member State: Germany (Berlin)

Aid No: NN 51/98

Title: Financial measures (Auffanglösung) in support of

Niles Werkzeugmaschinen GmbH

Objective: Machine tools

Legal basis:

- Treuhandgesetz vom 17.6.1990

 Gesetz zur abschließenden Erfüllung der verbleibenden Aufgaben der Treuhandanstalt vom 9.8.1994

Aid intensity: DEM 13,4 million (approximately ECU

6,5 million)

Duration: 2000

Conditions: Submission of annual reports

Date of adoption: 11.11.1998

Member State: Germany (Thuringia)

Aid No: NN 104/96, NN 140/96

Title: Umformtechnik Erfurt GmbH (UTE)

Objective: Restructuring, metal presses for vehicles

(machine tool industry)

Legal basis:

- Treuhandgesetz vom 17.6.1990

— Treuhandnachfolgegesetz vom 9.8.1994

Treuhandunternehmensübertragungsverordnung vom 20.12.1994

— Thüringer Industriebeteiligungsfonds

Aid intensity:

(i) Silent holder's participation DEM 10 million (ECU 5 million)

(ii) Grants DEM 111 million (ECU 56 million)

(iii) Liquidity loan DEM 37,3 million (ECU 19 million)

Duration: 1995 to 1998

Date of adoption: 22.12.1998

Member State: The Netherlands

Aid No: N 65/98

Title: Subsidy scheme for energy supplies in the

non-profit and special sectors

Objective: To stimulate energy saving equipment in those sectors, which are not able to benefit from the fiscal

energy allowance

Legal basis: Ministerieel besluit op basis van de Kaderwet Verstrekking Financiële Middelen EZ

Budget: 1998: NLG 25 million (ECU 11,2 million) for equipment included in the 1998 energy list and NLG 12,5 million (ECU 5,6 million) for persons purchasing a wind turbine

Aid intensity: Between 18,5 % and 14,5 % for wind turbines 20 %, mamximum NLG 1,5 million (ECU 0,67 million) p.a.

Duration: Indefinite

Conditions: Annual report

Date of adoption: 22.12.1998

Member State: France Aid No: N 264/98

Title: Recmes programme

Objective: To support a fundamental industrial research programme conducted in cooperation with several companies and public research laboratories. The programme is designed to develop the necessary know-how and technologies to manufacture new-generation electronic circuits on 300 mm silicon wafers

Legal basis: Régime d'aide à la filière électronique

Budget: FRF 1 450 million (approximately ECU 220 million)

Aid intensity: Variable according to recipient and type of research. Within the following range: 15 % to 28 % for companies, 50 % for public laboratories

Duration: 1998 to 2002

Date of adoption: 22.12.1998

Member State: Italy

Aid No: N 433/98

Title: Recovery of the economic activities affected by the earthquake in Umbria

Objective: To palliate the economic damage inflicted by the earthquake of 12 September 1997 on undertakings in Umbria in the following sectors: tourism; agri-tourism; craft industry; commerce; industry and agri-foodstuffs industry

Legal basis: Legge regionale adottata con deliberazioni della Giunta regionale dell'Umbria 1.7.1998 n. 3616 e 28.7.1998 n. 572 — Ordinanza n. 2719/97, articolo 6

Budget: ITL 20 billion (ECU 10 256 000)

Aid intensity: Upper limit of ITL 100 million (ECU 51 000) per undertaking (ITL 200 million, ECU 102 000, in case of complete unfitness for use of the premises without delocalisation)

Duration: Until October 1999

Conditions: Report

Date of adoption: 22.12.1998

Member State: United Kingdom

Aid No: N 576/98

Title: Channel Tunnel Rail Link (CTRL)

Objective: Introduction of revised incentives to ensure

deliverability of the existing CTRL scheme

Legal basis: Channel Tunnel Rail Link Act 1996

Aid intensity: Access charge support for a maximum amount of GBP 184 million; Reimbursement of the stamp duty for an amount of GBP 120 million; Government guarantee for bonds for an amount of up to GBP 3,75 billion; increase of lease facility from GBP 242 million to GBP 362 million

Date of adoption: 26.1.1999

Member State: The Netherlands

Aid No: N 185/98

Title: The province of Limburg Bottlenecks Fund Regu-

lation

Objective: Encouraging employment and training

Legal basis: Besluit van de Provinciale Staten van de

provincie Limburg van 31 oktober 1997

Budget: NLG 4,7 million (EUR 2,1 million)

Aid intensity:

- Employment aid 9,26 %

- Training aid 50 %

Duration: 1998 to 1999

Conditions: Annual report

Date of adoption: 8.2.1999

Member State: Spain Aid No: N 665/98

Title: R & D aid programme in the energy sector

Objective: To promote the development of efficient, clean and safe technologies ensuring compatibility between energy use, biospheric equilibrium and economic development in its various components

Legal basis: Disposición 'ad hoc' (en trámite de elaboración)

Budget: ESP 15 000 million (EUR 90,36 million) for the period 1999 to 2003

Aid intensity:

- 75 % for technical feasibility studies,
- 50 % for industrial research projects,
- 25 % for precompetitive development activities and industrial demonstration projects

Duration: 1999 to 2003, with possibility of renewal for a

similar period

Conditions: Annual report

Summary of Community decisions on marketing authorisations in respect of medicinal products from 15 August to 15 September 1998

(Published pursuant to Article 12 or Article 34 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2309/93 (1)) (1999/C 56/04)

- Issuing of a marketing authorisation (Article 12 of Regulation (EEC) No 2309/93)

| Date of the decision | Name of the medicinal product | Holder of the marketing authorisation | Number of entry in the Community Register | Date of notification |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|
| 20.8.1998 | Fortovase | Roche Registration Limited 40 Broadwater Road Welwyn Garden City Hertfordshire AL7 3AY United Kingdom | EU/1/98/075/001-002 | 24.8.1998 |

Anyone wishing to consult the public assessment report on the medicinal products in question and the decisions relating thereto is invited to contact:

The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products 7, Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf London E14 4HB United Kingdom

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 214, 24.8.1993, p. 1.

Summary of Community decisions on marketing authorisations in respect of medicinal products from 15 January to 15 February 1999

(Published pursuant to Article 12 or Article 34 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2309/93 (1)) (1999/C 56/05)

- Issuing of a marketing authorisation (Article 12 of Regulation (EEC) No 2309/93)

| Date of the decision | Name of the medicinal product | Holder of the marketing authorisation | Number of the entry in the Community Register | Date of notification |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|----------------------|
| 26.1.1999 | Temodal | Schering Plough Europe Rue de Stalle, 73 B-1180 Bruxelles | EU/1/98/096/001-008 | 28.1.1999 |
| 27.1.1999 | Emadine | Alcon Laboratories (UK) Ltd Boundary Way Hemel Hempstead Herts HP2 7UD United Kingdom | EU/1/98/095/001-002 | 29.1.1999 |
| 1.2.1999 | Infergen | Yamanouchi Europe BV Elisabethhof 19 2353 Ew Leiderdorp Nederland | EU/1/98/087/001-003 | 4.2.1999 |

- Modification of a marketing authorisation (Article 12 of Regulation (EEC) No 2309/93)

| Date of the decision | Name of the medicinal product | Holder of the marketing authorisation | Number of the entry in the Community Register | Date of notification |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| 26.1.1999 | Orlaam | Sipaco Internacional Ld. ^a Avenida 5 de Outubro, 267 —, 6° Dt.° PT-1600 Lisboa | EU/1/97/041/001 | 28.1.1999 |
| 26.1.1999 | Trovan | Pfizer Limited Sandwich Kent CT13 0NJ United Kingdom | EU/1/98/059/001-012 | 28.1.1999 |
| 26.1.1999 | Trovan IV | Pfizer Limited Sandwich Kent CT13 0NJ United Kingdom | EU/1/98/060/001-003 | 28.1.1999 |
| 26.1.1999 | Turvel | Roerig Farmaceutici Italiana SpA S.S. 156 — km 50 I-04010 Borgo San Michele (Latina) | EU/1/98/061/001-012 | 29.1.1999 |
| 26.1.1999 | Turvel IV | Roerig Farmaceutici Italiana SpA S.S. 156 — km 50 I-04010 Borgo San Michele (Latina) | EU/1/98/062/001-003 | 29.1.1999 |
| 26.1.1999 | Betaferon | Schering AG D-13342 Berlin | EU/1/95/003/001-002 | 28.1.1999 |
| 26.1.1999 | Twinrix Paediatric | SmithKline Beecham Biologicals SA Rue de l'Institut, 89 B-1330 Rixensart | EU/1/97/029/001-007 | 28.1.1999 |

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 214, 24.8.1993, p. 1.

| Date of the decision | Name of the medicinal product | Holder of the marketing authorisation | Number of the entry in the Community Register | Date of notification |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|----------------------|
| 26.1.1999 | Twinrix Adult | SmithKline Beecham Biologicals SA Rue de l'Institut, 89 B-1330 Rixensart | EU/1/96/020/001-009 | 28.1.1999 |
| 26.1.1999 | Revasc | Rhône-Poulence Rorer SA 20, avenue Raymond-Aron F-92165 Antony Cedex | EU/1/97/043/001-002 | 29.1.1999 |
| 26.1.1999 | Evotopin | Beecham Group plc Great West Road Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9BD United Kingdom | EU/1/96/028/001-003 | 2.2.1999 |
| 26.1.1999 | Humalog | Eli Lilly Nederland BV Krijtwal 17-23 3432 ZT Nieuwegein Nederland | EU/1/96/007/001-004 | 29.1.1999 |
| 26.1.1999 | Viramune | Boehringer Ingelheim KG Binger Straße 173 D-55216 Ingelheim am Rhein | EU/1/98/055/001 | 28.1.1999 |
| 27.1.1999 | Hycamtin | SmithKline Beecham plc Great West Road Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9BD United Kingdom | EU/1/96/027/001-003 | 29.1.1999 |
| 27.1.1999 | Humalog-Humaject | Eli Lilly Nederland BV Krijtwal 17-23 3432 ZT Nieuwegein Nederland | EU/1/97/036/001 | 29.1.1999 |
| 27.1.1999 | Humalog-Pen | Eli Lilly Nederland BV Krijtwal 17-23 3432 ZT Nieuwegein Nederland | EU/1/97/042/001 | 2.2.1999 |
| 1.2.1999 | Plavix | Sanofi Pharma Bristol-Myers Squibb SNC 174, avenue de France F-75013 Paris | EU/1/98/069/001-003 | 4.2.1999 |
| 1.2.1999 | Rebif | Ares Serono (Europe) Ltd 24 Gilbert Street London W1Y 1RJ United Kingdom | EU/1/98/063/001-003 | 4.2.1999 |
| 3.2.1999 | Avonex | Biogen France SA 55, avenue des Champs- Pierreux F-92012 Nanterre Cedex | EU/1/97/033/001 | 8.2.1999 |

Anyone wishing to consult the public assessment report on the medicinal products in question and the decisions relating thereto is invited to contact:

The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products 7, Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf London E14 4HB United Kingdom

Application for negative clearance or notification for exemption

Case No IV/37.272/D1 — Coredeal Ltd

(1999/C 56/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

- 1. On 16 October 1998 the Commission received from Coredeal Ltd (hereinafter Coredeal) an application for negative clearance or, alternatively, a notification of agreements pursuant to Articles 2 and 4 of Council Regulation No 17, relating to the creation and operation of an electronic order matching system for trading of international securities. The system is charcaterised by anonymous trading and separate clearing (by a trade guarantee organisation), thus ensuring matched transactions, and thereby reducing counterparty and systemic risk.
- 2. The application/notification includes Coredeal's Rule Book and some membership and clearing and settlement arrangements, which are ancillary to the notification and therefore considered being included therein. These arrangements include:
- (a) a *pro forma* membership agreement between Coredeal and its members;
- (b) a service agreement between Coredeal and the International Securities Market Association (ISMA);
- (c) TRAX (ISMA's real time (on-line) cross-border trade reporting, matching and confirmation system) subscription agreement relating to Coredeal;
- (d) TRAX general terms and conditions relating to Coredeal;
- (e) an agreement with a trade guarantee organisation;

- (f) settlement agreements between Coredeal and Cedel Bank/Euroclear/other settlement systems required by the market.
- 3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified arrangements could fall within the scope of Regulation 17.
- 4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the arrangements. The Commission is particularly interested in comments on the stipulation, contained in the Coredeal Rule Book (point 1.1.1.(b)), that applicants for membership of Coredeal must be members of the Council of Reporting Dealers of ISMA (this criterion should be seen in the context of the recent change in the definition of 'reporting dealer' in ISMA's Rule Book, which entered into force on 1 October 1998.). Coredeal has indicated that it is intended that this restriction will apply for a transitional period.
- 5. Observations must reach the Commission not later than one calendar month following the date of this publication. These can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 98 07) or by post, under reference IV/37.272/D1, to the following address:

European Commission, Directorate-General for Competition (DG IV), Directorate D, unit 1, Office 5/37, Avenue de Cortenberg/Kortenberglaan 100, B-1040 Brussels.

OPINION

of the Advisory committee on Concentrations given at the 54th meeting on 24 April 1998 concerning a preliminary draft decision relating to Case No IV/M.1016 — Price-Waterhouse/Coopers & Lybrand

(1999/C 56/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

- 1. The Advisory Committee agrees with the Commission that the notified operation constitutes a concentration within the meaning of Article 3(1)(a) of the Merger Regulation.
- 2. The Advisory Committee agrees with the Commission that the notified operation has a Community dimension according to Article 1(2) of the Merger Regulation.
- 3. The Advisory Committee agrees with the Commission that 'Large company/Big six' audit and accounting should be distinguished from other auditing and accounting for the purpose of defining the relevant product market.
- 4. A majority of the Advisory Committee agrees with the Commission that the provision of audit and accounting services to individual sectors, in particular the banking and insurance sectors, does not constitute separate product markets. A minority disagrees. Another minority abstains.
- 5. The Advisory Committee agrees with the Commission that the 'Large company/Big six' audit and accounting market is national in geographic scope.
- 6. (a) A majority of the Advisory Committee agrees with the Commission that the proposed concentration will not create or strengthen a position of single dominance within any of the affected markets as a result of which effective competition would be significantly impeded within the common market or the EEA area. A minority disagrees.
 - (b) Half of the Member States present at the meeting agree with the Commission that the proposed concentration will not create or strengthen a position of collective dominance within any of the national 'Large company/Big six' audit and accounting markets as a result of which effective competition would be significantly impeded within the common market or the EEA area. A minority disagrees. Another minority abstains.
- 7. The Advisory Committee agrees with the Commission as to the definition of the other affected product markets, their geographic scope and the assessment of the Commission as set out in the draft decision.
- 8. Half of the Member States present at the meeting agree with the Commission that the proposed concentration is compatible with the common market and the functioning of the EEA agreement. A minority considers that the draft decision contains insufficient information on national sectoral markets to enable to form a view. Another minority abstains.
- 9. The Advisory Committee invites the Commission to take into account all the other points made in the discussion.
- 10. The Advisory Committee recommends the publication of its opinion in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

(1999/C 56/08)

(Text with EEA relevance)

The annual average costs do not take into account the reduction of 20 % provided for in Articles 94(2) and 95(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72.

The net monthly average costs have been reduced by 20 %.

AVERAGE COSTS OF BENEFITS IN KIND — 1995 (1)

I. Application of Article 94 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to benefits in kind provided in 1995 to members of the family as referred to in Article 19(2) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 will be determined on the basis of the following average costs:

| | Annual | Net monthly |
|---------|---------------|-------------|
| Greece | GRD 159 117 | GRD 10 608 |
| Austria | ATS 19 169 | ATS 1 278 |
| Sweden | SEK 10 992,30 | SEK 732,82 |

II. Application of Article 95 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to benefits in kind provided in 1995 under Article 28 and 28(a) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 will be determined on the basis of the following average costs:

| | Annual | Net monthly |
|---------|---------------|--------------|
| Greece | GRD 260 980 | GRD 17 399 |
| Austria | ATS 45 395 | ATS 3 026 |
| Sweden | SEK 34 014,87 | SEK 2 267,66 |

AVERAGE COSTS OF BENEFITS IN KIND — 1996 (2)

I. Application of Article 94 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to benefits in kind provided in 1996 to members of the family as referred to in Article 19(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 will be determined on the basis of the following average costs:

⁽¹) Average costs: Spain, OJ C 170, 5.6.1997. Average costs: Luxembourg and the Netherlands, OJ C 300, 1.10.1997.

Average costs: Belgium, Ireland and the United Kingdom, OJ C 18, 21.1.1998.

Average costs: Italy and Portugal, OJ C 303, 2.10.1998.

⁽²⁾ Average costs: Spain and Luxembourg, OJ C 303, 2.10.1998.

| | Annual | Net monthly |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Belgium | | |
| employed persons: | BEF 39 011 | BEF 2 601 |
| self-employed persons: | BEF 27 418 | BEF 1828 |
| Ireland | IEP 1 448,32 | IEF 96,55 |
| Netherlands | NLG 2 137,21 | NLG 142,48 |
| Portugal | PTE 86 489 | PTE 5766 |

II. Application of Article 95 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

The amounts to be refunded with regard to benefits in kind provided in 1996 under Article 28 and 28(a) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 will be determined on the basis of the following average costs:

| | Annual | Net monthly |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Belgium | | |
| employed persons: | BEF 161 518 | BEF 10 768 |
| self-employed persons: | BEF 91 076 | BEF 6 072 |
| Ireland | IEP 2 353,29 | IEP 156,87 |
| Netherlands | | |
| pensioners aged under 65: | NLG 2 137,21 | NLG 142,48 |
| pensioners aged 65 and over: | NLG 8 643,98 | NLG 576,27 |
| Portugal | PTE 165 044 | PTE 11 003 |

Non-opposition to a notified concentration

(Case No IV/M.1379 — Valmet/Rauma)

(1999/C 56/09)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 8 February 1999, 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 399M1379. 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.

III

(Notices)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

NOTICE OF OPEN COMPETITIONS

(1999/C 56/10)

The European Parliament Secretariat is holding the following open competitions (1):

EUR/A/149/98 — Dutch-language ADMINISTRATORS (career bracket A 7/A 6)

(in cooperation with the Council of the European Union)

EUR/A/150/98 — ADMINISTRATORS with training in Dutch law (career bracket A 7/A 6)

(in cooperation with the Court of Justice of the European Communities)

PE/88/A — Dutch-language ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATORS (Grade A 8)

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 56 A, 26.2.1999 (Dutch edition).

COMMISSION

Call for scientific documentation required for risk assessment of oestradiol-176, progesterone, testosterone, zeranol, trenbolone acetate and melengestrol acetate used for animal growth promotion purposes

(1999/C 56/11)

1. Organising authority:

European Commission, GD XXIV — Consumer Policy and Consumer Health Protection.

2. Object of the call:

Open call to all companies inside and outside the EU. The European Commission requests scientific documentation on oestradiol-176, progesterone, testosterone, zeranol, trenbolone acetate and melengestrol acetate, that is available to the companies selling or distributing the substances, but is not in the open literature, in the context of a risk assessment related to the use of these substances for animal growth promotion purposes.

3. Summary description:

Following the report of 16 January 1998 of the WTO Appellate Body on EC — measures concerning meat and meat products (hormones), Complaints by the United States and Canada (WT/DS26/12 and WT/DS48/10, respectively, of 16.1.1998), the European Commission has decided to conduct a complementary risk assessment of oestradiol-176, testosterone, progesterone, zeranol, trenbolone acetate and melengestrol acetate.

In this context, the European Commission intends to re-examine previous assessments regarding the potential adverse effects on human health of these substances, when used for animal growth promotion, taking into account the most recent scientific knowledge and assessment techniques and focusing specifically on the effects arising from the presence in meat of residues of these substances and their metabolites.

In order to ensure that the European Commission's scientific basis for the risk assessment is as complete and up-to-date as possible, interested companies are offered the possibility to contribute relevant scientific

data and studies not available in the open literature in the following areas:

- (i) pharmacokinetic, metabolic and pharmacodynamic studies in experimental and foodproducing animals, and in humans;
- (ii) short-term toxicity, long-term toxicity/carcinogenicity, reproductive toxicity and developmental toxicity studies in experimental animals and genotoxicity studies;
- (iii) special studies designed to investigate specific effects, such as those on mechanisms of toxicity, no-hormonal-effect levels, immune responses or macromolecular binding;
- (iv) studies providing relevant data on the use of and exposure to the substance by humans, including studies of effects observed after occupational exposure and epidemiological data following clinical use in humans;
- (v) residue-depletion studies with radiolabelled substances in target animals from zero withdrawal time to periods extending beyond the recommended withdrawal time (these studies should provide information on total residues, including free and bound residues, and major residue components to permit selection of a marker residue and target tissue);
- (vi) residue-depletion studies with unlabelled substances for the analysis of marker residues in target animals (these should include studies with appropriate formulations, routes of application and species, at doses up to the maximum recommended);
- (vii) a description of the analytical procedures used by the sponsor for the detection and determination of parent drug residues with information on validation and performance characteristics;
- (viii) a review of routine analytical methods that may be used by regulatory authorities for the detection of residues in target tissue; and

(ix) reports on side-effects in humans which are suspected of being or which are clearly due to the consumption of products derived from animals which were treated with the substances in question.

The scientific documentation submitted will be made available to the Commission's Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health, which is assisting the Commission in carrying out the risk assessment.

4. Confidentiality

The European Commission is prepared to meet legitimate and justified concerns related to the confidentiality of the documents. Sections of the data, which the company considers confidential, should be clearly marked 'confidential' and detailed justifications should be given.

5. Submission of scientific documentation

(a) Scientific documentation should be sent to:

European Commission, Directorate-General XXIV — Consumer Policy and Consumer Health Protection, Directorate B: Scientific Opinions on Health Matters — Unit B.3/Scientific Opinions II, For the attention of Mr R. Vanhoorde, Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 232, B-1049 Brussels; Fax (32-2) 299 48 91.

- (b) The documentation should be submitted in duplicate (one copy of which should be unbound) and, preferably, in English. However, documentation in any other official language of the European Community is also acceptable.
- (c) The documentation should be accompanied by an executive summary describing the contents of the principal sections and their relevance for the risk assessment as described in this notice.
- (d) Deadline for submission: 30 calendar days following the publication of this call for scientific documentation.

6. Reimbursement

The European Commission is asking the companies to submit scientific documentation on a voluntary basis. The European Commission is not able to reimburse any costs related to the submission of data.

Call for Proposals for projects of common interest in the field of trans-European telecommunications networks — Generic Services and Applications

(1999/C 56/12)

Title XII of the Treaty establishing the European Community provides that the European Community contributes to the establishment and development of trans-European networks, including the field of telecommunications.

A Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks was adopted on 17 June 1997 (OJ L 183, 11.7.1997, p. 12) and identifies in its Annex I projects of common interest.

On the basis of Annex I, the Commission adopted a work programme on 7 January 1998, which specifies the content of such projects.

The Commission of the European Communities is launching a call for proposals aiming at the implementation of projects of common interest related to generic services and applications supported by trans-European telecommunications networks.

Individual organisations or consortia (¹) responding to the conditions defined for the present call are invited to submit their proposals concerning the projects as defined below.

The project proposals should demonstrate the commitment of the organisations or consortia to ultimately deploy the applications or services in a real market environment. They should include as necessary, a feasibility study phase (commercial validation), or a market deployment phase (construction and start-up) as defined in the information package.

Proposals must refer to one or more of the following projects for this call for proposals:

TI 1. Trans-European telecommunications generic services

⁽¹⁾ In the case of consortis one organisation must be designated as the lead contractor and agent responsible.

- TI 2.1. Trans-European telecommunications networks for education and training
- TI 2.2. Trans-European telecommunications networks for access to Europe's cultural heritage
- TI 2.3. Trans-European telecommunications applications and services for SMEs
- TI 2.4. Trans-European telecommunications networks for transport and mobility
- TI 2.5. Trans-European telecommunications networks for the environment and emergency management
- TI 2.6. Trans-European telecommunications networks for health
- TI 2.7. Trans-European city and regional information networks (as the combination of previous projects)

The selected projects must be specified in all correspondence.

The projects retained will be financed according to the Council Regulation (EC) No 2236/95 of 18 September 1995 (OJ L 228, 23.9.1995, p. 1) which lays down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks. Projects selection criteria are defined in Article 6 of this Regulation and further specified in the information package.

Community financial aid may take the form:

- either of co-financing of the feasibility study phase of the project as defined above,
- or, where complementary intervention is justified for innovative applications of public interest, subsidies of the interest on loans, contributions towards fees for

guarantees for loans, and direct grants in duly justified cases. The maximum level of Community financial aid is defined in the information package.

The indicative Community budget allocation for this call is EUR 14 million.

The proposal must be sent by registered mail to the Commission or delivered by hand or by courier before 4 June 1999, 4 p.m. local time, Brussels, to the address indicated below.

The Commission services will provide, upon request, an information package describing in detail the projects and containing further information on the procedures and on the rules for the submission of proposals. The text of this call and the information package are also available on the Internet at the TEN-Telecom Web site: http://www.echo.lu/tentelecom

The administrative correspondence related to this call for proposals should be addressed to:

European Commission, Directorate-General XIII, Directorate G, BU29 7/30, ref. TEN-Telecom 99/1, Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Brussels; e-mail: ten@dg13.ccc.be; Fax (32-2) 296 17 40.

An 'information day' will take place in Brussels on 16 March 1999.

CORRIGENDA

Corrigendum to Euro exchange rates

(Official Journal of the European Communities C 52 of 23 February 1999) (1999/C 56/13)

Page 3 is replaced by the following page:

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates (1)
22 February 1999

(1999/C 52/02)

| 000.00 | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| = 322,05 Greek drachma | |
| = 8,9075 Swedish krona | |
| = 0,6789 Pound sterling | |
| | |
| = 1,0992 United States dolla | • |
| = 1,6351 Canadian dollar | |
| = 133,61 Japanese yen | |
| = 1,5986 Swiss franc | |
| = 8,6885 Norwegian krone | |
| = 79,5672 Icelandic króna (²) | |
| = 1,7237 Australian dollar | |
| = 2,0397 New Zealand dolla | r |
| = 6,85104 South African rand | (²) |

⁽¹⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

⁽²⁾ Source: Commission.