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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾**13 January 2000**

(2000/C 11/01)

1 euro	=	7,445	Danish krone
	=	331,05	Greek drachma
	=	8,6475	Swedish krona
	=	0,6255	Pound sterling
	=	1,0276	United States dollar
	=	1,4897	Canadian dollar
	=	108,89	Japanese yen
	=	1,6111	Swiss franc
	=	8,1795	Norwegian krone
	=	73,82475	Icelandic króna ⁽²⁾
	=	1,545	Australian dollar
	=	1,9645	New Zealand dollar
	=	6,23034	South African rand ⁽²⁾

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

⁽²⁾ Source: Commission.

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.1794 — Deutsche Post/Air Express International)**

(2000/C 11/02)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 6 January 2000, 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 undertaking Deutsche Post AG (Germany) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation control of the whole of the undertaking Air Express International Corporation (United States of America) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— Deutsche Post: national and international letter and parcel delivery services, national and international express delivery services, logistics services, (international) freight forwarding and related services,

— Air Express International: international freight forwarding and related services.

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 COMP/M.1794 — Deutsche Post/Air Express International, to the following address:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
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 COMP/M.1623 — Allied Signal/MTU)**

(2000/C 11/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 20 September 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 399M1623. 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.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.1637 — DB Investments/SPP/Öhman)**

(2000/C 11/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 11 August 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 399M1637. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law; for more information concerning subscriptions please contact:

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2, rue Mercier,
L-2985 Luxembourg.
Tel. (352) 29 29-42455, fax (352) 29 29-42763.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.1711 — Tyco/Siemens)**

(2000/C 11/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 16 November 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 399M1711. 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.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/JV.17 — Mannesmann/Bell Atlantic/OPI)**

(2000/C 11/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 21 May 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 399J0017. 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.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.1681 — AKZO Nobel/Hoechst Roussel Vet)**

(2000/C 11/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 22 November 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 399M1681. 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.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.1553 — France Telecom/Editel/Lince)**

(2000/C 11/08)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 30 July 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 399M1553. 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.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.1768 — Schoyen/Goldman Sachs/Swebus)**

(2000/C 11/09)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 10 december 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 399M1768. 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)

COMMISSION

COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(DG EAC 25/99)

(2000/C 11/10)

Fifth call for proposals launching date: **14 January 2000**

On 23 October 1995, the Council adopted a decision concerning the conclusion of an agreement for cooperation in higher education and vocational education and training between the European Community and the United States of America.

This all for proposals refers to the major component of the programme which concerns joint European Community/United States consortia projects. This component will be administered on behalf of the European Community by the European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture and, on behalf of the United States Government, by the Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education (FIPSE) of the United States Department of Education.

Objectives

The Cooperation Programme aims to add a new European Community/United States dimension to student-centred cooperation and to bring balanced benefits to both the European Community and the United States.

The essential objectives are to:

- promote mutual understanding between the peoples of the European Community and the United States including broader knowledge of their languages, cultures and institutions,
- improve the quality of human resource development in both the European Community and the United States,
- improve the quality of transatlantic student mobility, including the promotion of mutual understanding, recognition and thus portability of academic credits,

- encourage the exchange of expertise in new developments in higher education and vocational education and training, for example, the use of new information technologies, for the mutual enrichment of practice in the European Community and the United States,
- form or enhance partnerships among higher education, vocational education or training institutions, professional associations, public authorities, business and other associations as appropriate in both the European Community and the United States,
- introduce and added-value dimension to transatlantic cooperation which complements bilateral cooperation between Member States of the European Community and the United States as well as other programmes and initiatives.

Scope of the Programme

The objectives of the Programme are to be achieved by promoting an innovative range of student-centred, higher education and training cooperative activities between the different regions of the European Community and the United States through the encouragement of joint projects undertaken by European Community/United States consortia.

The Programme is a small-scale initiative supporting a limited number of original projects which can only or best be carried out through multilateral groupings. It is not intended to duplicate activities which are or can be carried out on a bilateral basis between the United States and the individual Member States of the European Community.

The Consortia partnerships

Each joint consortium must involve **a minimum total of six partners. There must be at least three active in the EU and three in the US.** This combination must include at least **two** partner higher education or vocational education and training institutions in **different** Member States of the European Community (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria,

Portugal, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom), and in **different** States of the United States. (For the purposes of this competition, US territories and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico may be considered States). Third and subsequent partners may be other education and training institutions or other relevant organisations (e.g. businesses, NGOs, publishers, government departments, chambers of commerce, research institutes) in the same or other Member States and States. Programme funding, however, is intended only for academic/training institutions in each consortium and it is vital that all academic/training institutions participate fully in the consortium activities. In exceptional circumstances, in the case of the United States of America, two of the institutional partners may be autonomous campuses of a large State university with a third institutional partner from another State.

Partnerships may be newly formed or may build on existing links between two or more partners. Projects, however, must be new and innovative: not duplicating or simply extending existing activities.

Since one of the Programme objectives is to draw on and amplify the experience of the intra-Community cooperation networks, previous experience as a partner in a European Community Education/Training Programme (Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci) is an award criterion for the European Community lead partner in an European Community/United States consortium. Details, including reference numbers, should be given regarding all such involvement(s).

Proposals developing links between different types of higher education and training institution are particularly welcomed as are proposals establishing business/industry and other links through partnerships with relevant organisations.

Consortia involving institutional partners in regions with fewer traditional transatlantic cooperation links will be especially welcomed.

The cooperative activities

Consortia may seek Programme support for one or more types of activity as an integrated element of the project. Consortia should thus aim to pursue a coherent strategy rather than engage in diverse activities. A major component of each consortium (with rare and justified exceptions) will be student mobility.

Transatlantic cooperative activities eligible for support are:

- development of organisational frameworks for transatlantic student mobility, including work-placements, which will provide adequate language preparation and full academic recognition,

- structured exchanges of students, teachers, trainers and administrators in higher education institutions and vocational education and training establishments, including work placements as appropriate,
- joint development of innovative curricula, teaching materials, methods and modules including those exploiting the new education technologies,
- research internships at university, industry or government laboratories for graduate or undergraduate students in science and engineering, provided that students are also enrolled in courses which require class attendance,
- short intensive programmes of a minimum of three weeks,
- teaching assignments forming an integral part of the curriculum in a partner institution,
- other innovative projects, including the use of new technologies and distance learning, which aim to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of transatlantic cooperation in higher education and vocational education and training.

Consortia activities should be student-centred. This requirement is intended to emphasize that the joint consortia projects should be concerned with teaching and learning activities and **not** with faculty research cooperation between the partners.

It should also be remembered that this is a transatlantic cooperation programme and that the main focus of activities should therefore be on transatlantic rather than intra-European or intra-American interactions.

The students

Students should benefit from the project through the introduction of an appropriate international (European Community/United States) perspective into their studies:

- for mobile students, this should include the development of a structured framework for transatlantic student exchanges between consortium partners;
- for non-mobile students, this may include providing some kind of 'virtual-mobility' through the use of the new educational technologies for students who do not have the opportunity to study abroad.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, there should be student mobility between each Transatlantic partner institution during the life of the project, whether or not directly funded by the Programme.

The objective of the student mobility component of the projects should be to develop structured opportunities designed to increase in the longer term the number of students studying abroad where full recognition is given by the home institution for studies successfully undertaken. Arrangements to be developed should aim at the full integration of students into the normal academic and cultural milieu of the host institution and community. The study period abroad may include, as appropriate, a supervised, practical work placement where this is recognised as fulfilling part of the degree requirement. The content of the study programme must be agreed in writing by the home and host institution and the individual student concerned before his/her departure. This should indicate the home institution's assurance that the study abroad, if successfully completed, will be recognised as replacing a comparable period of study in the home institution.

A main objective of this Programme is to encourage and enable students to spend transatlantic study periods in a country or region in which they can experience a different academic, cultural and linguistic milieu from their home region. It is important, therefore, that measures to be taken by the partner institutions for the cultural and linguistic preparation of students be clearly addressed in the proposal. **All students should receive cultural preparation for their foreign stay and all students spending a study period in a country whose official language is not their own should receive preparation in the host country's language both before and after departure.**

Financial considerations

Financial support will be awarded to successful consortia for up to a maximum of three years. Awards are intended to provide seed-funding for carrying out joint innovative projects which can be accomplished within three years or which can, once established, be continued without on-going Programme support. It is essential that proposals which focus on the establishment of on-going cooperation indicate how activities will be sustained beyond the funding period.

Consortium projects should be cost-effective. Activities benefiting, in the longer term, a substantial number of students

will be highly competitive, whether these are in partner institutions or whether there is potential for spin-off effects beyond the institutions directly involved.

The European Commission will provide funding for the direct use of the European Community partners, the United States Department of Education (FIPSE) will provide funding for the direct use of the United States partners. (Additional support for the US partners' activities may come from other US agencies). Funds will be provided via the EC and US lead partners respectively.

For a three-year project, the average level of funding for each consortium is envisaged to be in the region of EUR 100 000 for the European Community group and USD 130 000 for the United States group. The actual amount awarded in each case will depend on the number of consortium partners and their preexisting cooperation links, as well as the type and level of activities which are to be undertaken.

In addition to the grant for consortium activities, the EC partners in each consortium may receive a sum designated for student mobility grants. For institutions on the EC side, it is envisaged that this sum will be calculated on the basis of up to EUR 10 000 per partner institution, spread over the life of the project.

Further information

The guidelines for applicants and application forms are available:

- at the Europa Server Internet address, downloadable at <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/dg22/dg22.html>
- at the main Commission Informatikon Offices in the Member States,
- at the National Agencies for Socrates/Erasmus and the National Coordination Units for Leonardo (one in each Member State),

In both the European Community and the United States, proposals should be sent by registered post or delivered by hand at the latest by **17 March 2000**.

Media II — Development and distribution (1996 to 2000)**Implementation of a programme encouraging the development and distribution of European audiovisual works****Call for proposals 7/2000****Support for the development of production projects and production companies**

(2000/C 11/11)

1. Introduction

This call for proposals is based on Council Decision 95/563/EC on the implementation of a programme encouraging the development and distribution of European audiovisual works (Media II — Development and distribution 1996 to 2000), published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* L 321, 30.12.1995, p. 5.

The measures covered by the Decision include:

- promoting the development of production projects aimed in particular at the European market,
- encouraging the development of production companies.

2. Purpose

This notice is intended for independent European production companies whose activities contribute to the attainment of the above objectives. It explains how to obtain the necessary documents in order to apply for financial support from the Community for their proposal.

The Commission department responsible for administering this call for proposals is the Unit for 'Measures to develop the audiovisual industry' in Directorate-General X Information, Communication, Culture and Audiovisual Media.

European companies wishing to respond to this call for proposals and receive the document, Guidelines for the submission of proposals to obtain Community financial support in the development sector — State funding, should send their request by post or fax to:

European Commission, Mr Jacques Delmoly, Head of Unit, DG EAC/C3, T 120, 01/02, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Brussels, Fax (32-2) 299 92 14.

The final date for the dispatch of proposals to the aforementioned address is 14 April 2000.

The Commission promises to send the above document within two days of receiving the request.

Amendment to notice of invitation to tender for the refund for the export of milled long-grain rice to certain third countries

(2000/C 11/12)

(Official Journal of the European Communities C 295 of 15 October 1999)

On page 15 the text of paragraph 2 under heading I 'Subject', is amended as follows:

- '2. The total quantity in respect of which there may be fixed a maximum export refund as provided in Article 1(2), of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 584/75 ⁽³⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 299/95 ⁽⁴⁾, is approximately 20 000 tonnes.'

Amendment to the notice of invitation to tender for the subsidy for the export of husked long grain rice to Réunion

(2000/C 11/13)

(Official Journal of the European Communities C 295 of 15 October 1999)

On page 11, the text of paragraph 2 under heading I 'Subject', is amended as follows:

- '2. The total quantity in respect of which a maximum export subsidy may be fixed, in accordance with Article 6(3) of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2692/89 ⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1453/1999 ⁽²⁾, is approximately 30 000 tonnes.'

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 261, 7.9.1989, p. 8.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 167, 2.7.1999, p. 19.
