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Information and Notices

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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾**14 February 2001**

(2001/C 49/01)

| | | | |
|---------------|---|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 euro | = | 7,4617 | Danish krone |
| | = | 9,0355 | Swedish krona |
| | = | 0,6306 | Pound sterling |
| | = | 0,9178 | United States dollar |
| | = | 1,3969 | Canadian dollar |
| | = | 106,61 | Japanese yen |
| | = | 1,5355 | Swiss franc |
| | = | 8,219 | Norwegian krone |
| | = | 79,03 | Icelandic króna ⁽²⁾ |
| | = | 1,7326 | Australian dollar |
| | = | 2,1277 | New Zealand dollar |
| | = | 7,2529 | South African rand ⁽²⁾ |

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

⁽²⁾ Source: Commission.

Amendment made by Italy to the public service obligations for scheduled air services between Cagliari/Olbia/Alghero and Rome/Milan

(2001/C 49/02)

Pursuant to Article 4(1)(a) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 of 23 July 1992, on access for Community air carriers to intra-Community air routes, and taking into account the deliberations of the Inter-services Conference held in Cagliari on 19 December 2000, the Italian Government has decided to amend the public service obligations for scheduled air services between Cagliari, Olbia and Alghero on the one hand, and Rome and Milan on the other, published on page 16 of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* C 284 of 7 October 2000. The amendment concerns point 1(3), which deals with fares, and shall henceforth be replaced by the following text:

1.3. FARES

The fare structure for all routes concerned must include an unrestricted full economy class fare and an unrestricted concessionary fare. Neither of these fares shall exceed the following single-ticket prices, including VAT and airport taxes:

| Route | Full fare (ITL) | Concessionary fare (ITL) |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Cagliari-Rome | 164 350 | 65 800 |
| Cagliari-Milan | 214 400 | 82 400 |
| Olbia-Rome | 138 900 | 65 800 |
| Olbia-Milan | 214 400 | 82 400 |
| Alghero-Rome | 164 350 | 65 800 |
| Alghero-Milan | 214 400 | 82 400 |

Each year, the competent bodies shall revise these maximum fares in line with the rate of inflation for the previous year, calculated using the ISTAT general index of consumer prices. Revised fares shall be notified to all carriers operating these routes and to the European Commission, so that they may be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Should the Italian lira/US dollar exchange rate and/or the price of oil vary by more than 5 % on average over the

preceding six months, the maximum fares shall be altered proportionately.

Any increase or reduction shall apply exclusively to the total price of the full fares in question.

The fares shall be amended, where necessary, every six months by the Ministry of Transport and Navigation, in cooperation with the autonomous region of Sardinia, on the basis of investigations carried out by a joint committee composed of two representatives, one nominated by the ENAC and the other by the autonomous region of Sardinia, who shall consult with the carriers operating the routes in question.

Any adjustments made shall take effect as of the subsequent six-month period.

Revised fares shall be notified to all carriers operating these routes and to the European Commission, so that they may be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

The concessionary fares mentioned above must apply, at the very least, to the following categories of passenger:

- persons domiciled in Sardinia and residing there,
- Sardinian *émigrés*,
- persons domiciled in Sardinia and residing outside the island,
- the disabled,
- young people between the ages of 2 and 25,
- the over-70s, and
- university students of less than 27 years of age.

All other details of the obligations as specified in the other points of the communication published on page 16 of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* C 284 of 7 October 2000 remain unchanged.

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.2340 — EDP/Cajastur/Cáser/Hidroeléctrica del Cantábrico)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2001/C 49/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 2 February 2001 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 Portuguese undertaking EDP-Electricidade de Portugal SA (EDP) and the Spanish undertakings Caja de Ahorros de Asturias (Cajastur) and Caja de Seguros Reunidos, Compañía de Seguros y Reaseguros SA (Cáser) acquire, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of the Spanish undertaking Hidroeléctrica del Cantábrico SA (Hidrocantábrico) by way of public bid announced on 25 January 2001 and contract of management.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- EDP: production and distribution of electricity mainly in Portugal, telecommunications in Portugal,
- Cajastur: retail banking,
- Cáser: insurance and pension funds,
- Hidrocantábrico: generation, distribution and supply of electricity in Spain. Distribution and supply of gas and telecommunications in Asturias (Spain).

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. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽³⁾, it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the notice.

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.2340 — EDP/Cajastur/Cáser/Hidroeléctrica del Cantábrico, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
Rue Joseph II/Jozef II-straat 70,
B-1000 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.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 217, 29.7.2000, p. 32.

Notification of a cooperation agreement

**(Case COMP/38.064/F2 — DaimlerChrysler AG/Ford Motor Company/General Motors Corporation/
Nissan Motor Co. Ltd/Renault SA — Covisint)**

(2001/C 49/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 19 January 2001 the Commission received a notification of agreements pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation No 17 ⁽¹⁾, by which DaimlerChrysler AG, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation, Nissan Motor Co. Ltd, Renault SA establish a joint venture named Covisint, an electronic market place which will be active in the automotive industry.
2. The joint venture will operate a comprehensive on-line market place for the procurement of parts, supplies and services by the automotive industry, for the management of automotive supply chains, and for the more efficient collaboration in the design and development of automotive products. Covisint will be open to the entire automotive industry, including automotive manufacturers and suppliers of all tiers. Commerce One and Oracle will provide the technology to operate the on-line market place.
3. Upon preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified cooperation agreement could fall within the scope of Regulation No 17.
4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit any observations they may have on the proposed operation.
5. Observations must reach the Commission not later than 15 working days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (No (32-2) 295 01 28) or by post under reference number COMP/38.064/F2 to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition (DG Competition),
Antitrust Registry,
Ru Joseph II/Jozef II-straat 70,
B-1049 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ 13, 21.2.1962, p. 204/62.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration
(Case COMP/M.2243 — Stora Enso/Assidomän/JV)

(2001/C 49/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 22 December 2000 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 No 300M2243. 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/A/4-B),
2, rue Mercier,
L-2985 Luxembourg.
Tel. (352) 29 29 424 55, fax (352) 29 29 427 63.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration
(Case COMP/M.2285 — Schroder Ventures Limited/Homebase)

(2001/C 49/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 5 February 2001 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 No 301M2285. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law.

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Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.2255 — Telefonica Intercontinental/Sonera 3G Holding/Consortium IPSE 2000)**

(2001/C 49/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 9 January 2001 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),
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Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.2248 — CVC/Advent/Carlyle/Lafarge Matériaux de Spécialités)**

(2001/C 49/08)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 5 January 2001 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 French 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),
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L-2985 Luxembourg,
Tel. (352) 29 29 424 55, fax (352) 29 29 427 63.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.2259 — Terra/Amadeus/1Travel.com)**

(2001/C 49/09)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 17 January 2001 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 No 301M2259. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law.

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Tel. (352) 29 29 424 55, fax (352) 29 29 427 63.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration**(Case COMP/M.2246 — Sofinim/KBC Invest/Mercator & Noordstar/VIV/Tournesoleon/De Clerck/FOC)**

(2001/C 49/10)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 11 January 2001 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),
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EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
EFTA COURT

Request for an Advisory Opinion from the EFTA Court by Verwaltungsbeschwerdeinstanz des Fürstentums Liechtenstein (Administrative Court for the Principality of Liechtenstein) by decision of that court of 13 June 2000 in the case of Dr Johann Brändle

(Case E-4/00)

(2001/C 49/11)

A request has been made to the EFTA Court by decision of 13 June 2000 of Verwaltungsbeschwerdeinstanz des Fürstentums Liechtenstein (Administrative Court for the Principality of Liechtenstein), which was received at the Court Registry on 21 June 2000, for an Advisory Opinion in the case of Dr Johann Brändle, on the following question:

Is the single practice rule applying without exception to all doctors under Liechtenstein national law, and in particular Article 9(1) of the Regulation of 8 November 1988 on the medical professions which provides: 'A doctor may pursue his occupation in a self-employed capacity, as a sole practitioner or jointly with others, only if he holds a licence authorising him to do so and only if he himself works on his own behalf in the practice concerned. A doctor may not operate more than one practice, whether as a sole practitioner or jointly with others' compatible with the EEA and/or with the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) of 2 May 1992?

Request for an Advisory Opinion from the EFTA Court by Verwaltungsbeschwerdeinstanz des Fürstentums Liechtenstein (Administrative Court for the Principality of Liechtenstein) by decision of that court of 13 June 2000 in the case of Dr Josef Mangold

(Case E-5/00)

(2001/C 49/12)

A request has been made to the EFTA Court by decision of 13 June 2000 of Verwaltungsbeschwerdeinstanz des Fürstentums Liechtenstein (Administrative Court for the Principality of Liechtenstein), which was received at the Court Registry on 21 June 2000, for an Advisory Opinion in the case of Dr Josef Mangold, on the following question:

Is the single practice rule applying without exception to all dentists under Liechtenstein national law, and in particular Article 23(1) of the Regulation of 8 November 1988 on the medical professions which provides: 'A dentist may pursue his profession in a self-employed capacity, as a sole practitioner or jointly with others, only if he holds a licence authorising him to carry on his profession on a self-employed basis and only if he himself works in the practice concerned. A dentist may not operate more than one practice, whether as a sole practitioner or jointly with other doctors' compatible with the EEA and/or with the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) of 2 May 1992?

Request for an Advisory Opinion from the EFTA Court by Verwaltungsbeschwerdeinstanz des Fürstentums Liechtenstein (Administrative Court for the Principality of Liechtenstein) by decision of that court of 15 June 2000 in the case of Dr Jürgen Tschannett

(Case E-6/00)

(2001/C 49/13)

A request has been made to the EFTA Court by decision of 15 June 2000 of Verwaltungsbeschwerdeinstanz des Fürstentums Liechtenstein (Administrative Court for the Principality of Liechtenstein), which was received at the Court Registry on 21 June 2000, for an Advisory Opinion in the case of Dr Jürgen Tschannett, on the following questions:

1. Is the single practice rule applying without exception to all doctors under Liechtenstein national law, and in particular Article 9(1) of the Regulation of 8 November 1988 on the medical professions which provides: 'A doctor may pursue his profession in a self-employed capacity, as a sole practitioner or jointly with others, only if he holds a licence authorising him to do so and only if he himself works on his own behalf in the practice concerned. A doctor may not operate more than one practice, whether as a sole practitioner or jointly with others' compatible with the EEA and/or with the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) of 2 May 1992?
2. If the answer to the first question is that the Liechtenstein single practice rule, as laid down in Article 9(1) of the Regulation of 8 November 1988 on the medical professions, is basically compatible with the EEA, does that none the less mean that, in an individual case, regard must be had to the specialist medical activities carried on by an 'occupational physician', so that the necessary exceptions should be made for such specific activities, which do not require a 'medical practice' within the generally accepted meaning of the term?

Request for an Advisory Opinion from the EFTA Court by Arbeidsretten (The Labour Court of Norway) of 27 September 2000 in the case of Landsorganisasjonen i Norge (Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions), with Norsk Kommuneforbund (Norwegian Union of Municipal Employees) v Kommunenes Sentralforbund (Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities) and Others

(Case E-8/00)

(2001/C 49/14)

A request has been made to the EFTA Court by Arbeidsretten (The Labour Court of Norway), which was received at the Court Registry on 2 October 2000, for an Advisory Opinion in the case of Landsorganisasjonen i Norge (Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions), with Norsk Kommuneforbund (Norwegian Union of Municipal Employees) v Kommunenes Sentralforbund (Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities) and Others, on the following questions:

Scope of application of Article 53 of the EEA Agreement

- 1(a) Does a collective agreement generally entail binding legal effects mutually between the participating members on the employer side which can be regarded as an 'agreement between undertakings' under Article 53 of the EEA Agreement?
- 1(b) If an employer organisation concludes a collective agreement, is this a 'decision by an association of undertakings' under Article 53 of the EEA Agreement?
- 1(c) Is a municipality an 'undertaking' under Article 53 of the EEA Agreement when, in its capacity as

employer, it becomes bound by a collective agreement without being a party thereto?

- 2(a) Can a collective agreement provision which has objectives other than to improve salary and working conditions come within the scope of Article 53 of the EEA Agreement?
- 2(b) If question 2(a) is answered in the affirmative, which conditions must then be met?
3. Do collective agreement provisions on group occupational pension schemes, such as the provisions in clause 2.1.8, second, third and fourth paragraphs of the Basic Collective Agreement for municipalities, etc., for the period 1998-2000 fall within the scope of application of Article 53 of the EEA Agreement?

Prohibition in Article 53 of the EEA Agreement

4. Is it compatible with Article 53 of the EEA Agreement for a collective agreement condition to require that a group occupational pension scheme be based on a gender-neutral financing system which can only be satisfied by one supplier?

- 5(a) Is it compatible with Article 53 of the EEA Agreement for a collective agreement provision to provide that an offer concerning occupational pension schemes made by an insurance company to an employer must be approved by representatives for the parties to a collective agreement?
- 5(b) If question 5(a) is answered in the affirmative, will the assessment be otherwise if approval can only take place through unanimity amongst the parties?
6. Is it compatible with Article 53 of the EEA Agreement for a collective agreement provision to provide that it is a condition for transfer of an occupational pension scheme that the new insurance product must have been tacitly or expressly accepted by a public body?
- 7(a) Is it compatible with Article 53 of the EEA Agreement for collective agreement provisions to provide that a change of supplier of an occupational pension scheme is subject to the condition that the employer, before a decision on change can be made, must have entered into a separate agreement on mutual transfer of pension schemes through approval by the public body which administers the transfer scheme?
- 7(b) If question 7(a) is answered in the affirmative, will the assessment be otherwise if inclusion in the

transfer agreements cannot take place before a decision on change has been made?

8. Can the sum of provisions in a collective agreement, such as the provisions in clause 2.1.8, second, third and fourth paragraphs of the Basic Collective Agreement for municipalities, etc., for the period 1998-2000, be held to be contrary to Article 53 of the EEA Agreement even though none of the provisions, viewed in isolation, come under the prohibition therein?

Interpretation of Article 54 of the EEA Agreement

9. Can an association of municipalities which is an interest and an employer organisation, such as the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities, be regarded as an 'undertaking' under Article 54 of the EEA Agreement in the negotiation of collective agreements?
10. Can an undertaking, assuming that it has a 'dominant position', conclude an agreement for or practise conditions for change of supplier of occupational pension schemes such as those laid down in clause 2.1.8, second, third and fourth paragraphs of the Basic Collective Agreement for municipalities, etc., for the period 1998-2000, regardless of Article 54 of the EEA Agreement?

Action brought on 21 December 2000 by the EFTA Surveillance Authority against the Kingdom of Norway

(Case E-9/00)

(2001/C 49/15)

An action against the Kingdom of Norway was brought before the EFTA Court on 21 December 2000 by the EFTA Surveillance Authority, represented by Peter Dyrberg, acting as Agent of the EFTA Surveillance Authority, 74 Rue de Trèves, B-1040 Brussels.

The applicant claims that the Court should declare that the Kingdom of Norway has failed to fulfil its obligations under the following provisions of the EEA Agreement:

- Article 16, by applying two forms of sale at the retail level where beer with an alcohol content between 2,5 % and 4,75 % by volume, mainly produced domestically, may be sold outside the outlets of the State controlled Wine and Spirits Monopoly ('Vinmonopolet'), while other alcoholic beverages with the same alcohol content, mostly imported from other EEA States, may only be sold through the Monopoly, and

- Article 11, by applying more restrictive measures regarding licences to serve alcoholic beverages with an alcoholic content between 2,5 % and 4,75 % by volume, mostly imported from other EEA States, compared to beer with the same alcohol content, mainly produced domestically, these measures not being necessary and proportionate in relation to the objective of safeguarding public health under Article 13 of the EEA Agreement.

Legal and factual background and pleas in law adduced in support:

- Article 16 provides that any State monopoly of a commercial character must be adjusted so that no discrimination regarding the conditions under which goods are procured and marketed will exist between nationals of EC Member States and EFTA States,

-
- by requiring that retail sales of other alcoholic beverages than beer, with an alcohol content between 2,5 % and 4,75 % by volume, only take place through Vinmonopolet, while allowing beer to be sold in grocery stores pursuant to municipal licence, Norway has, according to the applicant, failed to comply with Article 16 of the EEA Agreement,
 - beer is overwhelmingly domestically produced, while other alcoholic drinks with the same alcoholic content are mostly imported. Furthermore, according to the applicant, there is a competitive relationship between these products,
 - Article 11 of the EEA Agreement prohibits quantitative restrictions on imports, and all measures having an equivalent effect thereto. Such a measure may only be allowed if it is justified under Article 13 of the EEA Agreement,
 - by not allowing licences held by restaurants and other establishments to serve beer to cover other alcoholic beverages having the same alcoholic content, including beverages based on spirits, Norway has, according to the applicant, failed to comply with Article 11 of the EEA Agreement,
 - the applicant submits that justification for this prohibition cannot be found in Article 13 of the EEA Agreement on grounds of public health, since the measure chosen is unnecessary and disproportionate.
-

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on improving the human research potential and the socioeconomic knowledge base**Marie Curie Industry Host Fellowships***Call identifier: IHP-MCHI-01-1*

(2001/C 49/16)

1. In accordance with the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 1998, concerning the fifth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 1998 to 2002 ⁽¹⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the fifth framework programme), and with the Council Decision of 25 January 1999, adopting the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on improving the human research potential and the socioeconomic knowledge base ⁽²⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the specific programme), the European Commission hereby invites proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme.

In conformity with Article 5 of the specific programme, a work programme ⁽³⁾, specifying detailed objectives and RTD priorities and an indicative timetable for their implementation, was drawn up by the European Commission to serve as the basis for implementing the specific programme. The objectives, priorities, indicative budget, and types of indirect RTD actions referred to in this call notice correspond to those set out in the work programme.

2. This call relates to proposals, specified under point 4 of this call, called by a fixed deadline following which evaluation will take place. Proposals not having met this deadline will not be considered under this call notice. Proposals are invited to be submitted in one step.
3. The specific programme is implemented notably through indirect RTD actions as provided for in Annexes II and IV of the fifth framework programme and in Annex III of the specific programme.

Evaluation and selection criteria and modalities relevant to this call are given in the fifth framework programme, the specific programme, the Council Decision 1999/65/EC of 22 December 1998, concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the

implementation of the fifth framework programme ⁽⁴⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the rules for participation and dissemination), and the work programme. The fifth framework programme manual of proposal evaluation procedures ⁽⁵⁾, along with its annex on this specific programme, provide further details.

Information on these rules and on how to prepare and submit proposals is given in the guide for proposers, which can be obtained, along with the work programme and other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using one of the following addresses:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Research
Unit D2
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

E-mail: improving@cec.eu.int
Fax (32-2) 296 21 33
Internet: <http://www.cordis.lu/improving>

4. Those eligible to participate in indirect RTD actions under the specific programme, are hereby invited to submit proposals that address the following parts of the work programme:

Marie Curie Industry Host Fellowships

These fellowships will be awarded to registered companies (including SMEs) for the training of young researchers in an industrial or commercial environment.

Scientific areas covered

The Marie Curie Fellowships offered by the human potential programme are open to all fields of scientific research that contribute to the Community's objectives in research, technological development and demonstration.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, p. 105.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(1999) 508, as last amended by Decision C(2000) 3749 of 13 December 2000.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Decision C(1999) 710, as last amended by Decision C(2000) 2002 of 14 July 2000.

The indicative budget available for this call in terms of Community contribution is EUR 15 million. Proposals must be received on or before 3 October 2001.

5. Proposers are encouraged to prepare proposals with a software tool (the proposal preparation tool — ProTool) which is available from the Commission via Internet (<http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/protocol>), electronic mail or CD-ROM. It will help them prepare the administrative and technical information required.

Proposals may be sent in one of two ways:

- Made with the proposal preparation tool and sent electronically, by use of a sealing mechanism, including encryption and server uploading or electronic mail.

The proposer must request a digital certificate from the Commission's certification authority for electronic signature of the proposal file. When the proposal has been finalised, it is then 'sealed' and a short validation file ('fingerprint') is created.

The validation file, which identifies the proposal file uniquely, must be sent (electronically or by fax) no later than 5 p.m. (Brussels local time) on the applicable closing date. The unmodified proposal file must be received electronically within 48 hours of the expiration of the deadline.

The electronic submission of a proposal for a Marie Curie Fellowship must be in line with the detailed instructions given on the Marie Curie Internet site: <http://www.cordis.lu/improving>

- Prepared on paper forms distributed with the guide for proposers or made with the proposal preparation tool and then printed out by the proposer.

To be receivable ⁽¹⁾ proposals submitted on paper must be received by the Commission not later than 5 p.m. (Brussels local time) on the applicable closing date at the following address:

The IHP Programme
The Research Proposal Office
Square Frère Orban/Frère Orbanplein 8
B-1040 Brussels.

Further information is available in the guide for proposers.

Please note that failure to use the above address exactly, as it is reproduced here, could lead to delays in your proposal's

reception by the IHP programme, and could subsequently lead to your proposal not being received before the deadline.

Proposers are requested to use only one of the methods described above to submit proposals, and to submit only one version of any given proposal. In the case of an eligible proposal being received in both paper and electronic formats, only the electronic version will be evaluated.

Important notice: The above constitutes a change with respect to previous calls where deadlines applied to submission. Deadlines *now* apply to receipt by the Commission.

In addition, proposers should be aware of the new provisions governing the evaluation of proposals submitted under the 'Improving human research potential and the socioeconomic knowledge base' (IHP) programme, as set out in the manual of proposal evaluation procedures (and in Annex N thereof which is devoted specifically to the IHP programme).

The new version of the manual of proposal evaluation procedures can be obtained from the following website: <http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/src/evalman.htm>

6. Please make sure that the relevant call identifier is quoted in all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting a proposal).

In submitting a proposal, either on paper or electronically, proposers accept the procedures and conditions as described in this call and in the documents to which it refers.

All proposals received by the European Commission will be treated in the strictest confidence.

According to the rules for participation and dissemination and the European Commission regulation for implementing them, Member States and associated States may have access, on presentation of a reasoned request, to useful knowledge which is relevant to policymaking. This knowledge must have been generated by those RTD actions supported as a result of this call and which addressed a part of the work programme specified as eligible for such access.

The European Community pursues an equal opportunities policy and, in this context, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals or to be involved in their submission.

⁽¹⁾ For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use (32-2) 298 42 06.

Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on improving the human research potential and the socioeconomic knowledge base

Stays at Marie Curie Training Sites Fellowships

Call identifier IHP-MCHT-01-1

and

Marie Curie Development Host Fellowships

Call identifier IHP-MCHD-01-1

(2001/C 49/17)

1. In accordance with the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 1998, concerning the fifth framework programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration (RTD) activities for the period 1998 to 2002 ⁽¹⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the fifth framework programme), and with the Council Decision of 25 January 1999, adopting the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration on improving the human research potential and the socioeconomic knowledge base ⁽²⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the specific programme), the European Commission hereby invites proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme.

In conformity with Article 5 of the specific programme, a work programme ⁽³⁾, specifying detailed objectives and RTD priorities and an indicative timetable for their implementation, was drawn up by the European Commission to serve as the basis for implementing the specific programme. The objectives, priorities, indicative budget, and types of indirect RTD actions referred to in this call notice correspond to those set out in the work programme.

2. This call relates to proposals, specified under point 4 of this call, called by a fixed deadline following which evaluation will take place. Proposals not having met this deadline will not be considered under this call notice. Proposals are invited to be submitted in one step.
3. The specific programme is implemented notably through indirect RTD actions as provided for in Annexes II and IV of the fifth framework programme and in Annex III of the specific programme.

Evaluation and selection criteria and modalities relevant to this call are given in the fifth framework programme, the specific programme, the Council Decision 1999/65/EC of 22 December 1998, concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the implementation of the fifth framework programme ⁽⁴⁾ (here-

inafter referred to as the rules for participation and dissemination), and the work programme. The fifth framework programme manual of proposal evaluation procedures ⁽⁵⁾, along with its annex on this specific programme, provides further details.

Information on these rules and how to prepare and submit proposals is given in the guide for proposers, which can be obtained, along with the work programme and other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using one of the following addresses:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Research
Unit D2
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels

E-mail: improving@cec.eu.int
Fax (32-2) 296 21 33
Internet: <http://www.cordis.lu/improving>

4. Those eligible to participate in indirect RTD actions under the specific programme, are hereby invited to submit proposals that address the following parts of the work programme:

Stays at Marie Curie training sites

This scheme will support short stays by young researchers pursuing doctoral studies at Marie Curie training sites, providing them with the possibility of undertaking part of their doctoral studies in a country other than their own, and allowing them benefit from working with an internationally recognised group in their specialised area of research.

Marie Curie Development Host Fellowships

These fellowships will allow institutions active in research in less-favoured regions of the Community with a need to develop new areas of competence to host young researchers with the necessary research experience. This will help develop high-level research capacity in such institutions.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 64, 12.3.1999, p. 105.

⁽³⁾ Commission Decision C(1999) 508, as last amended by Decision C(2000) 3749 of 13 December 2000.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.

⁽⁵⁾ Commission Decision C(1999) 710 of 24 March 1999, as last amended by Decision C(2000) 2002 of 14 July 2000.

Scientific areas covered

The Marie Curie Fellowships offered by the human potential programme are open to all fields of scientific research that contribute to the Community's objectives in research, technological development and demonstration.

The indicative budget available for this call in terms of Community contribution is as follows:

| Type of fellowship | Deadline for the reception of proposals | Indicative budget for the deadline (in millions of euro) |
|--|---|--|
| Stays at Marie Curie training sites | 16 May 2001 | 44,0 |
| Marie Curie Development Host Fellowships | 16 May 2001 | 15,0 |

5. Proposers are encouraged to prepare proposals with a software tool (the proposal preparation tool ProTool) which is available from the Commission via Internet (<http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/protocol>), electronic mail or CD-ROM. It will help them prepare the administrative and technical information required.

Proposals may be sent in one of two ways:

- Made with the proposal preparation tool and sent electronically, by use of a sealing mechanism, including encryption and server uploading or electronic mail.

The proposer must request a digital certificate from the Commission's certification authority for electronic signature of the proposal file. When the proposal has been finalised, it is then 'sealed' and a short validation file ('fingerprint') is created.

The validation file, which identifies the proposal file uniquely, must be sent (electronically or by fax) no later than 5 p.m. (Brussels local time) on the applicable closing date. The unmodified proposal file must be received electronically within 48 hours of the expiration of the deadline.

The electronic submission of a proposal for a Marie Curie Fellowship must be in line with the detailed instructions given on the Marie Curie Internet site: <http://www.cordis.lu/improving>

- Prepared on paper forms distributed with the guide for proposers or made with the proposal preparation tool and then printed out by the proposer.

To be receivable⁽¹⁾ proposals submitted on paper must be received by the Commission not later than 5 p.m. (Brussels local time) on the applicable closing date at the following address:

The IHP Programme
The Research Proposal Office
Square Frère Orban/Frère Orbanplein 8
B-1040 Brussels.

Further information is available in the guide for proposers.

Please note that failure to use the above address exactly, as it is reproduced here, could lead to delays in your proposal's reception by the IHP programme, and could subsequently lead to your proposal not being received before the deadline.

Proposers are requested to use only one of the methods described above to submit proposals, and to submit only one version of any given proposal. In the case of an eligible proposal being received in both paper and electronic formats, only the electronic version will be evaluated.

Important notice: The above constitutes a change with respect to previous calls where deadlines applied to submission. Deadlines *now* apply to receipt by the Commission.

In addition, proposers should be aware of the new provisions governing the evaluation of proposals submitted under the 'Improving human research potential and the socioeconomic knowledge base' (IHP) programme, as set out in the 'Manual of proposal evaluation procedures' (and in Annex N thereof which is devoted specifically to the IHP programme).

The new version of the manual of proposal evaluation procedures can be obtained from the following website: <http://www.cordis.lu/fp5/src/evalman.htm>

6. Please make sure that the relevant call identifier is quoted in all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. when requesting information, or submitting a proposal).

In submitting a proposal, either on paper or electronically, proposers accept the procedures and conditions as described in this call and in the documents to which it refers.

All proposals received by the European Commission will be treated in the strictest confidence.

According to the rules for participation and dissemination and the European Commission regulation for implementing them, Member States and associated States may have access, on presentation of a reasoned request, to useful knowledge which is relevant to policymaking. This knowledge must have been generated by those RTD actions supported as a result of this call and which addressed a part of the work programme specified as eligible for such access.

The European Community pursues an equal opportunities policy and, in this context, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals or to be involved in their submission.

⁽¹⁾ For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use (32-2) 298 42 06.

CALL FOR PROJECTS

(VP/2001/006)

Budget heading B3-4003: 'Information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings'

(2001/C 49/18)

The budget authority has fixed the amount allocated to heading B3-4003 for 2001 at EUR 3,91 million.

This appropriation covers funding of measures aimed at strengthening transnational cooperation between worker and employer representatives in respect of information, consultation and participation within undertakings operating in more than one Member State (even where they do not come under Council Directives 94/45/EC and 97/74/EC). It may also be used to fund training for representatives in transnational information, consultation and participation bodies.

Up to a maximum of 10 % of the total appropriation is earmarked to cover participation by social partners' representatives from the applicant countries.

I — THE AIMS

The comment under the budget heading clearly states the purpose of the funded operations, which is to ensure, in a pragmatic manner, the conditions for fostering the development of information and consultation in undertakings, especially by promoting Directives 94/45/EC and 97/74/EC, the proposal for a Council Directive on worker involvement in a European Company and the proposal for a Directive establishing a general framework for improving information and consultation rights of employees in the European Community (COM(1998) 612 final).

The budget heading is intended to finance specific measures.

Promoters and the persons concerned must be representatives of workers or employers.

A number of priority objectives have been established for the 2001 financial year:

- strengthening of transnational cooperation in the field of information and consultation between workers' representatives, between employers, and between worker and employer representatives in undertakings operating in more than one Member State and in the applicant countries,
- exchange of experience with a view to preparing the participation of workers' representatives in the decision-making bodies of a European Company (European Company Statutes),
- cooperation between worker and employer representatives to ensure correct information and consultation of employees at all levels (national and European) in an undertaking or group of undertakings,
- innovative measures relating to the management of information, consultation and participation rights within multinational companies in the context of the development and competitiveness strategies of the various sectors of activity and company restructuring, mergers, takeovers and relocation,
- aid for the establishing of information and consultation bodies and adoption of best practices in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings,
- production of reports on experience in the field of information and consultation within European Works Councils;
- innovative measures relating to the promotion of employee participation in profits and enterprise results in the context of information and consultation bodies.

II — ELIGIBLE MEASURES

Eligible types of action are:

1. Practices, exchange of information and reports on experience in the field of information, consultation and participation within undertakings or groups of undertakings. The relationship between these information and consultation methods within the undertaking and the European sectoral dimension.

Promoters: promoters may be organisations of workers' representatives, employers' associations, or technical bodies mandated by one or both parties.

Joint measures will be particularly encouraged.

2. Measures to prepare the participation of workers' representatives in the decision-making bodies of the European Company.

Promoters:

— *for workers:* works council or similar body ensuring the general representation of workers; regional, national, European, sectoral or multisectoral trade union covering the undertakings concerned,

— *for employers:* applications may come from the management of the undertaking or group of undertakings concerned or from an employers' body which is representative at national, European, multisectoral or sectoral level.

Joint measures will be particularly encouraged.

3. Innovative measures concerning the dissemination of information and consultation rights in connection with company restructuring, mergers, takeovers and relocation. Innovative measures relating to employee participation in profits and enterprise results.

Promoters: applications may be submitted by bodies or organisations representing employers or workers at multi-sectoral (European, national or local) or sectoral (European, national or undertaking) level.

Joint measures will be particularly encouraged.

Priority will be given to innovative measures and/or measures concerning new subjects in relation to information, consultation and participation of undertakings' representatives. Promoters wishing to submit several projects under the heading are asked to provide the Commission with an overview of all the measures for which they would like to obtain funding during the current financial year.

III — ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANTS

In the case of legal entities, the applicant must be properly constituted and registered.

Grants may be awarded to commercial undertakings only if the immediate objective of the project is non-commercial and certainly not to make a profit.

The applicant must submit evidence of legal and financial viability and professional integrity, as needed to complete the activity for which funding is requested.

None of the grounds for exclusion from participation in a contract must apply to the applicant (Article 29(a), (b), (e), (f) and (g) of Directive 92/50/EEC).

The applicant must be in a position to finance his activities. The applicant must have access to solid and adequate funding sources, so as to be able to maintain activities for the period of the project and to help finance the project where necessary.

The applicant must have the operational resources (technical, management) needed to complete the activity for which funding is requested.

IV — PRACTICAL PROCEDURES

Project applications must be submitted before 15 September 2001. Only projects starting 2001 will be considered.

1. Guide and form

A guide and form are available to promoters:

— by mail from the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs
Unit D/3 — Heading B3-4003
Rue Joseph II/Jozef II-straat 37 (4/20)
B-1049 Brussels

— by fax (32-2) 299 08 98

— by electronic mail: EMPL-b3-4003@cec.eu.int

— on website: http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/empl/european_works_council/library.

2. Submission of projects

Applications must be sent in duplicate, by mail only, to the following address (the postmark will constitute proof of posting):

European Commission
Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs
Mail service — Archives
Rue Joseph II/Jozep II-straat 37 (0/26)
B-1049 Brussels.

In order to avoid any doubts relating to transmission, applications must in any case also be sent by electronic mail to the following address:

EMPL-B3-4003@cec.eu.int

or by fax to (32-2) 299 08 90.

Promoters who do not have electronic mail should enclose, with their postal application, a diskette containing a digital copy of the completed form.

3. Examination of applications

Applications will be examined and selected — taking account of the comment in the budget, the stipulated criteria and the priorities — by a selection committee which will meet on the following dates:

— 2 May 2001 for applications received by 31 March 2001,

— 10 July 2001 for applications received by 31 May 2001,

— 15 October 2000 for applications received by 15 September 2001.

Applications not complete by the appropriate deadline will be rejected.

4. Agreement governing the grant

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by letter. Successful applicants will receive a letter together with an agreement for their acceptance and signature. The Commission will then return one of the signed copies to the applicant.

The grant will not cover the full cost of the project. The Commission reserves the right to refuse and/or limit the funding of specific elements in the budget estimate. The project promoter is also required to contribute at least

20 % of the total cost of the operation. Contributions in kind are acceptable. The payment arrangements will be set out in the agreement. The general rule is an advance of 70 % where the grant awarded is less than EUR 100 000, and 30 % where the grant exceeds EUR 100 000.

5. Evaluation and monitoring

A report and budget implementation details must be provided in accordance with the conditions laid down in the agreement.
