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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates (1)

5 November 2002

(2002/C 270/01)

1 euro =

	Currency	Exchange rate		Currency	Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,0024	LVL	Latvian lats	0,6032
JPY	Japanese yen	121,95	MTL	Maltese lira	0,4152
DKK	Danish krone	7,4326	PLN	Polish zloty	3,9857
GBP	Pound sterling	0,6413	ROL	Romanian leu	33642
SEK	Swedish krona	9,1423	SIT	Slovenian tolar	229,165
CHF	Swiss franc	1,4613	SKK	Slovak koruna	41,304
ISK	Iceland króna	87,14	TRL	Turkish lira	1645000
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,3715	AUD	Australian dollar	1,7815
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9492	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,5601
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,57127	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	7,8177
CZK	Czech koruna	30,948	NZD	New Zealand dollar	2,0151
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,76
HUF	Hungarian forint	241,14	KRW	South Korean won	1219,92
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4533	ZAR	South African rand	9,9282

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

Information procedure — Technical rules

(2002/C 270/02)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and rules on Information Society services (OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p. 37; OJ L 217, 5.8.1998, p. 18).

Notifications of draft national technical rules received by the Commission

Reference (¹)	Title	End of three-month standstill period (²)
2002/400/S	The Swedish Maritime Administration's administrative provisions and guidelines on Finnish-Swedish ice classes	20.1.2003
2002/401/E	Draft Decree on safety measures for gas installations	20.1.2003
2002/402/E	Draft Order laying down implementing standards for Royal Decree No 1083 of 5 October 2001, adopting the quality standard for Iberian ham, shoulder and cured loin produced in Spain	20.1.2003
2002/403/A	Order establishing the basic methods of performance recording and assessing genetic value (German designation: NÖ LZVO)	20.1.2003
2002/404/NL	Draft MVO Regulation 2002, edible oils and fats	22.1.2003
2002/405/F	Technical notes pro pharmacopoeia subject to public inquiry	24.1.2003
2002/406/S	The Swedish National Road Administration's administrative provisions on national type approvals of systems, components or other separate technical units	23.1.2003
2002/407/S	The Swedish National Road Administration's administrative provisions on national type approvals of vehicles	23.1.2003
2002/408/S	The Swedish National Road Administration's administrative provisions on tractors	23.1.2003
2002/409/S	The Swedish National Road Administration's administrative provisions on motorcycles	23.1.2003
2002/410/S	The Swedish National Road Administration's administrative provisions on mopeds	23.1.2003
2002/411/S	The Swedish National Road Administration's administrative provisions on motorised work vehicles	23.1.2003
2002/412/S	The Swedish National Road Administration's administrative provisions on off-road motor vehicles	23.1.2003
2002/413/S	The Swedish National Road Administration's administrative provisions on towed machines, trailers intended to be towed at a maximum of 50 km/h and off-road trailers	23.1.2003
2002/414/S	The Swedish National Road Administration's administrative provisions on cars and trailers pulled by cars	23.1.2003
2002/415/S	The Swedish National Road Administration's administrative provisions on vehicles converted into tractors and vehicles converted into class II motorised tools	23.1.2003
2002/416/D	Amendments and supplements to the specimen list of technical building regulations of September 2002	24.1.2003
2002/417/DK	Technical regulation on the Royal Danish Administration of Navigation and Hydrography's coastal rescue vessels	24.1.2003

⁽¹⁾ Year — registration number — Member State of origin.

The Commission draws attention to the judgment given on 30 April 1996 in the 'CIA Security' case (C-194/94 — ECR I, p. 2201), in which the Court of Justice ruled that Articles 8 and 9 of Directive 98/34/EC (formerly 83/189/EEC) are to be interpreted as meaning that individuals may rely on them before the national court which must decline to apply a national technical regulation which has not been notified in accordance with the Directive.

This judgment confirms the Commission's Communication of 1 October 1986 (OJ C 245, 1.10.1986, p. 4).

Accordingly, breach of the obligation to notify renders the technical regulations concerned inapplicable, so that they are unenforceable against individuals.

If you require any information on these notifications, please contact the national departments listed below:

⁽²⁾ Period during which the draft may not be adopted.

⁽³⁾ No standstill period since the Commission accepts the grounds of urgent adoption invoked by the notifying Member State.

^(*) No standstill period since the measure concerns technical specifications or other requirements linked to fiscal or financial measures, pursuant to the third indent of the second paragraph of Article 1(11) of Directive 98/34/EC.

⁽⁵⁾ Information procedure closed.

LIST OF NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF DIRECTIVE 98/34/EC

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES ON SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

Rates for conversion of currencies pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

(2002/C 270/03)

Article 107 (1), (2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

Reference period: October 2002

Application period: January, February and March 2003

	EUR	DKK	GBP	NOK	SEK	ISK	CHF
EUR	_	7,42970	0,629943	7,34054	9,10507	86,0778	1,46497
DKK	0,134595	_	0,0847872	0,987999	1,22550	11,5856	0,197178
GBP	1,58744	11,7942	_	11,6527	14,4538	136,644	2,32556
NOK	0,136230	1,012150	0,0858170	_	1,24038	11,7264	0,199573
SEK	0,109829	0,815996	0,0691860	0,806204	_	9,45383	0,160896
ISK	0,0116174	0,0863138	0,00731830	0,0852780	0,105777	_	0,0170192
CHF	0,682606	5,07156	0,430003	5,01070	6,21518	58,7572	_

- 1. Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 determines that the rate for the conversion into a currency of amounts denominated in another currency shall be the rate calculated by the Commission and based on the monthly average, during the reference period specified in paragraph 2, of reference rates of exchange of currencies published by the European Central Bank.
- 2. The reference period shall be:
 - the month of January for rates of conversion applicable from 1 April following,
 - the month of April for rates of conversion applicable from 1 July following,
 - the month of July for rates of conversion applicable from 1 October following,
 - the month of October for rates of conversion applicable from 1 January following.

The rates for the conversion of currencies shall be published in the second Official Journal of the European Communities ('C' series) of the months of February, May, August and November.

Information communicated by Member States regarding State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 68/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to training aid

(2002/C 270/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Aid No: XT 05/02

Member State: Italy

Region: Valle d'Aosta

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Regional measures to assist small and medium-sized enterprises with projects to promote quality, safety and the environment. Amendment of Regional Law No 84 of 7 December 1993 (regional measures to assist research, development and quality), as last amended by Regional Law No 11 of 18 April 2000

Legal basis: Legge regionale 12 novembre 2001, n. 31

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company:

- 1. EUR 78 760 for 2001;
- 2. EUR 157 483 for 2002;
- 3. EUR 165 233 a year from 2003

Maximum aid intensity: Not exceeding 35 %. The intensity is increased by five percentage points for firms in areas qualifying for regional aid under Article 87(3)(c) of the EC Treaty

Date of implementation: 5 December 2001

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 30 June 2007

Objective of aid: The scheme concerns specific training

Economic sector(s) concerned: Small and medium-sized manufacturing and service enterprises

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta Assessorato Industria, Artigianato ed Energia Servizio assistenza alle imprese, ricerca, qualità e formazione professionale Piazza della Repubblica 15 I-11100 Aosta

Aid No: XT 20/01

Member State: Spain

Region: The whole of the Spanish territory

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an

individual aid: Forintel programme

Legal basis: Orden Ministerial (O.M.) de 1 de agosto de 2001 del Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Where aid schemes are concerned EUR 5,5 million

Maximum aid intensity: 50 % for large enterprises and 70 % for SMEs. If the project is carried out in one of the regions referred to in Article 87(3)(a) or (c) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, this percentage shall be increased by 10 and five percentage points respectively (see Section 8 of the Ministerial Order of 1.8.2001)

Date of implementation: 22 August 2001

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 31 December 2006

Objective of aid: The telecommunications training programme (Forintel) can subsidise only general training within the meaning of Article 2(e) of Regulation (EC) No 68/2001, as is explicitly stated in Section 3(1) of the abovementioned Ministerial Order of 1.8.2001.

It comprises the following two actions:

1. Training for users of telecommunications and the information society.

The substance of the training, according to Section 3.2.(b) of the Ministerial Order which governs the programme, is that featuring in Annex II of the abovementioned Ministerial Order

2. Training for telecommunications and information society professionals.

This is provided pursuant to Section 3.3.(a) of the Ministerial Order governing the programme

Economic sector(s) concerned: The Forintel programme is applicable to all economic sectors with the exception of enterprises producing coal and steel, as referred to in Articles 80 and 81 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community

Name and address of the granting authority:

Dirección General para el Desarrollo de la Sociedad de la Información Palacio de Comunicaciones Alcalá 50 E-28071 Madrid Aid No: XT 24/01

Member State: United Kingdom

Region: Highlands and Islands enterprise area. Highlands and Islands of scotland defined in the NUTS II nomenclature as area UKM4 plus the parts of the Moray Council area which are not in NUTS II UKM4. The latter area is a small part of the NUTS III area UKM11

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: HIE training scheme

Legal basis: Enterprise and New Towns (Scotland) Act 1990, as amended by Scottish Statutory Instrument 2001 No 126, which extends the operational area of HIE into the remaining parts of the Moray Council area not previously covered

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: The total HIE budget for discretionary training expenditure is currently as below:

2000/2001: GBP 5 817 000.

These budgets are fixed annually.

NB. The above figures represent total expenditure on discretionary training, some of which is not State aid (e.g. because it assists unemployed individuals).

Based on the above, it is estimated that future discretionary training budgets are highly unlikely to exceed GBP 8 million per year during the period coverd by this notification

Maximum aid intensity: Aid intensities would be established on a case-by-case basis, following expert appraisal. The level of aid proposed would not be allowed to exceed the following absolute maximum levels, and in most cases would be less owing to addionality considerations.

Maximum permitted aid levels:

	Specific	General
Maritime sector (i.e. subject to conditions as per Regulation (EC) No 68/2001, Article 4)	100 %	100 %
Large firms outside assisted areas (*) Large firms inside Article 87(3)(c)	25 %	50 %
area (*)	30 %	55 %
SMEs outside assisted areas (*)	35 %	70 %
SMEs inside Article 87(3)(c) area (*) Supplement for disadvantaged categories (low-skilled, handicapped,	40 %	75 %
older workers, women returners)	+ 10 %	+ 10 %

^(*) SMEs and large firms are defined in accordance with the EU definition of SMEs (Commission Reccomendation of 3 April 1996).

Aid to one enterprise for a single project may not exceed EUR 1 000 000

Date of implementation: 19 February 2001

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 31 December 2006

Objective of aid: The scheme is intended to cover both general and specific training.

Specific training

Description: Training directly and principally applicable to the employee's present or future position within the assisted firm and providing qualifications which are not (or only to a limited extent) transferable to other firms.

General training

Description: Training not applicable only or principally to the employee's present or future position in the assisted firm, but which provides qualifications that are largely transferable to other firms or fields of work, and thereby substantially improve the employability of the employee.

Discretionary funding would be awarded to businesses to help them develop the skills of their staff, thus creating a skilled, trained and adaptable workforce and labour markets responsive to economic change

Economic sector(s) concerned: All sectors

Name and address of the granting authority:

Highlands and Islands Enterprise Official responsible: Director, Developing Skills Group Tel. (014 63) 23 41 71 Fax (014 63) 24 44 69

Other information: Two different mechanisms will be used to deliver the aid. In the first case, the Local Enterprise Company would identify a need for some form of training. This could be done through, for example, surveys, information gathered through business advisers, or specific requests from a number of companies. The local Enterprise Company would then identify appropriately experienced and qualified trainers and develop a training course specifically suited to the needs of the companies in their locality. It is highly unlikely that training provision would be available locally, so the Local Enterprise Company would have to source the training from outside the area, thus incurring additional travel and subsistence costs in respect of the trainers. In addition, the number of companies wishing to send employees on the training is unlikely to be sufficient to make the training financially viable for them. The Local Enterprise Company funding towards the training will ensure that the costs are set at a level which will enable local companies to participate and will offer the training at a cost similar to other parts of the UK, whilst at the same time respecting the aid ceilings in this scheme. The mechanism for respecting the aid ceilings would be to set the fees paid for each attendee so that the aid is below the appropriate ceiling. The aid amount would be computed by subtracting the fee paid for each beneficiary from the actual course cost.

The second mechanism will be utilised where a company has analysed its training needs in lin with its business objectives and has developed a company training plan. Frequently, this analysis will take place as a company works towards the Investors in People (¹) standard. In this case, the Local Enterprise Company will appraise the company training plan and will provide funding towards the costs of the training, including travel and subsistance costs of trainees who are required to travel outside the area to undertake the training.

Explanation of the incentive effect in the case of training projects for large firms outside assisted regions

Aid must be for a business which is undertaking a development that contributes to economic development in the Highlands and Islands region. The level of assistance would be the minimum necessary to enable the development to proceed, as determined by appraisal of the business and its business plan. This additionally requirement ensures that a firm undertakes more training than would have been the case without public funds. The incentive would be determined for each firm, using discretion to ensure that the optimum outturn per unit of public funds is achieved, in the context of the long-term viability of the business.

Payments would be made on documentary evidence of expenditure. These would be mandatory requirements stated in formal undertakings made by the assisted firm in return for an individual offer of aid

(1) Investors in People is a national quality standard which sets a level of good practice for improving an organisation's performance through its people.

Aid No: XT 35/01

Member State: Italy

Region: Autonomous region of Valle d'Aosta

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Regional operational programme (ROP) for structural measures taken by the Valle d'Aosta region to meet Objective 3 in the period 2000-2006

Legal basis: Decisione (CE) n. 2067/2000 del 21 settembre 2000; regolamento (CE) n. 1260/1999 del Consiglio, del 21 giugno 1999, recante disposizioni generali sui Fondi Strutturali; regolamento (CE) n. 1784/1999 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 12 luglio 1999, relativo al Fondo sociale europeo; delibera della Giunta regionale n. 4514 del 6.12.1999, ratificata dal Consiglio regionale con atto n. 1138/XI in data 10.2.2000, recante approvazione del Programma Operativo Regionale (POR); delibera della Giunta regionale n. 504 del 26 febbraio 2001

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Annual expenditure will be ITL 3 108 410 407 (EUR 1 605 359), giving a cumulative total of ITL 21 758 872 850 (EUR 11 237 520) for the whole programming period

Maximum aid intensity:

Specific training:

Large enterprises: 25 %

SMEs: 35 %

Bonus for areas included in the Italian regional aid map for the period 2000-2006: five percentage points.

General training:

Large enterprises: 50 %

SMEs: 70 %

Bonus for areas included in the Italian regional aid map for the period 2000-2006: five percentage points

Date of implementation: 24 August 2001

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: December 2006

Objective of aid: The aid is intended for projects involving specific or general training. General training involves training which is not applicable only or principally to the employee's present or future position in the assisted firm but which provides qualifications that are largely transferable to other firms or fields of work and thereby substantially improve the employability of the employee. Training will be considered general training if, for example, it is organised jointly by different independent enterprises or of employees of different enterprises may avail themselves of the training or if it is recognised, certified for validated by public authorities or bodies on which a Member State or the Community has conferred the necessary powers.

A special committee will be responsible for assessing whether a proposed training scheme is general or specific, in the light of the definitions given above

Economic sector(s) concerned: All sectors

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta Dipartimento Politiche del Lavoro Direzione Agenzia regionale del Lavoro Via Garin, 1 I-11100 Aosta Tel. (39) 01 65 27 56 11 Fax (39) 01 65 27 56 86 E-mail: direzioneadl@regione.vda.it m.monteleone@regione.vda.it

Aid No: XT 69/01

Member State: Germany

Region: Bavaria

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Promoting job rotation via the Bavarian Labour Market Fund

Legal basis: Bayerische Haushaltsordnung i. V. m. Bescheid der Regierung von Oberbayern und Bescheid der Regierung von Schwaben

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: EUR 30 000

Maximum aid intensity: 50 % of eligible expenditure

Date of implementation: Immediate

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 30 June 2002

Objective of aid: Provision of general training subsidies to make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises to take part in job rotation.

Two job rotation projects (in Ingolstadt and Augsburg) are receiving aid from the Bavarian Labour Market Fund.

Job rotation involves employees of small and medium-sized firms attending further training courses. While they are away, unemployed workers are taken on as 'substitutes' to fill the vacancies. They continue to receive unemployment benefit from the Labour Office. This enables them to gain work experience and so improve their prospects on the labour market. At the same time the small and medium-sized firms involved are able to boost their competitiveness through employees attending courses to enhance their qualification.

Under the scheme, small and medium-sized firms receive subsidies of up to 50 % of the eligible training costs if an unemployed person is taken on as a substitute for the duration of the training course. The essential requirement is that aid is granted only for general training, i.e. external training covering more than one firm, where the qualifications obtained can be transferred to other areas of work and used in other firms (e.g. preparatory courses for master craftsman qualifications, commercial specialists, customer service, environmentally friendly construction planning, fundamentals of electrical engineering).

No other projects are to receive assistance

Economic sector(s) concerned: All economic sectors

Name and address of the granting authority:

Ingolstadt scheme: Regierung von Oberbayern

Maximilianstraße 39 D-80538 München

Augsburg scheme: Regierung von Schwaben

Fronhof 10 D-86125 Augsburg

Information communicated by Member States regarding State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 70/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises

(2002/C 270/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Aid No: XS/69/01

Member State: Italy

Region: Tuscany

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Tax credits for productive and environmental investments by industrial firms and cooperatives

Legal basis: Delibera Consiglio regionale n. 283 del 28 dicembre 2000 «Piano regionale dello sviluppo economico 2001-2005», ai sensi della L.R. 20 marzo 2000, n. 35 «Disciplina degli interventi regionali in materia di attività produttive» Misura 1.1. Decisione Giunta regionale n. 13 dell'11 luglio 2001 «Reg. 1260/99 — Docup Ob. 2 anni 2000-2006 — Direttive per l'attuazione dei regimi di aiuto»

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: EUR 13 000 000

Maximum aid intensity: The intensity of the aid to each firm may not exceed 15 % gross grant equivalent for small firms and 7,5 % gge of total investment costs for medium-sized firms

If the regions concerned by the programme are eligible for exemption under Article 87(3)(c) of the Treaty, the aid may be increased within the limits provided for in the Commission decision.

Aid granted may not be combined with aid under other schemes for the same investment costs

Date of implementation: July 2001, date on which the Commission received the notification

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: 2001-2006

Objective of aid: The aid is granted in the form of tax credits for tangible and intangible investments aimed at:

- 1. Increased employment.
- Expansion and upgrading of activities to encourage positioning of firms in market segments featuring a more substantial proportion of innovative products or services or that can be classified as innovative aimed at increasing employment.
- 3. Reducing the environmental impact of production and reducing the consumption of energy and resources.
- 4. Increased health and safety at the workplace, along the lines of Law No 626/94 and the Seveso Directive.

Procedures and conditions for applications are defined in Law No 341/1995.

The eligible costs of tangible investment are the costs relating to investment in land, buildings, machinery and equipment.

The eligible costs of intangible investment are the costs of acquisition of the technology

Economic sector(s) concerned:

ISTAT codes 1991

- Section C Mining,
- Section D Manufacturing,
- Section F Construction,
- Section K Realty, rentals, information technology, research, other professional activities (Divisions 72 and 74 only).

The following sectors are excluded from the concessions: transport, iron and steel, shipbuilding, the manufacture of synthetic fibres, the automobile industry, coal and the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regione Toscana Via di Novoli 26 I-50127 Firenze Aid No: XS/84/01

Member State: Italy

Region: Calabria

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Measures to assist the development of craft firms

Legal basis:

- Legge 25 luglio 1952, n. 949, articolo 37 e Legge 21 maggio 1981, n. 240, articolo 23, concernenti il Fondo contributo in conto interessi,
- Legge 19 luglio 1993, n. 237, articolo 2, comma 5, concernente la determinazione dei tassi agevolati,
- Legge della Regione Calabria 28 maggio 1975, n. 21, articolo 1, comma 2,
- Decreto legislativo 31 marzo 1998, n. 112, concernente il conferimento di funzioni e compiti amministrativi dello Stato alle Regioni e agli Enti locali,
- Decreto legislativo 31 marzo 1998, n. 123, concernente la razionalizzazione degli interventi di sostegno pubblico delle imprese,
- Decreto del ministro del Tesoro 21 dicembre 1994, concernente la determinazione del tasso di riferimento,
- Delibera della Giunta regionale della Calabria 17 marzo 1997, n. 1469,
- Legge regionale 2 maggio 2001, n. 7, articolo 31 quater,
- Delibera di Giunta della Regione Calabria del 31 maggio 2001, n. 472

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company:

Calendar year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Amount in billion ITL	6	10	10	6		

Maximum aid intensity: 50 % net grant equivalent plus 12 % gross grant equivalent

Date of implementation: 5 September 2001

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: 31 December 2006

Objective of aid: The aid is for credit transactions under Law No 949/52, lease transactions under Law No 240/81 and financing granted by Artigiancassa SpA either directly or indirectly through the banks and leasing companies to which it grants credit lines specifically to finance craft businesses, and is intended for investments in:

- Credit transactions (Law No 949/52)
 - fitting out, enlarging and modernisation of workshops,
 - acquisition, lease or hire purchase of new machinery and equipment.
- Leasing transactions (Law No 240/81)
 - fitting out and/or enlargement of workshops (leasing of property), with the exception of premises that are not suitable for the certified craft activity,
 - new machinery and equipment

Economic sector(s) concerned: The aid is intended solely for craft firms, including cooperatives and joint ventures entered in the registers provided for in Law No 443 of 8 August 1985, with the exception of firms operating in the following sectors:

- ECSC steel,
- coal,
- shipbuilding,
- synthetic fibres,
- motor vehicles,
- transport, limited to investments in vehicles made by firms whose main activity is in the transport sector,
- fisheries and acquaculture,
- processing and marketing of agricultural products

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regione Calabria Via Massara, 2 I-88100 Catanzaro **Other information:** The types of aid measures and their duration provided for by the scheme are as follows:

- Credit (Law No 949/52) and leasing transactions (Law No 240/81):
 - interest rate subsidies or contributions to the costs of transactions not exceeding ITL 500 000 999 to offset the full burden of interest and other charges borne by craft firms,
 - contributions to costs amounting to 20 % of the subsidised credit and leasing transactions, up to a maximum of ITL 100 million. Contributions will not cover transactions involving less than ITL 20 million.

Period of validity of the interest rate subsidies/cost contributions:

- Credit (Law No 949/52) and leasing transactions (Law No 240/81), up to:
 - 10 years for transactions concerning workshops and the acquisition of land,
 - five years for transactions involving machinery and vehicles.

The aid scheme covers:

- 100 % of subsidised investment costs, with a maximum intensity of 50 % net grant equivalent, plus 15 % gross grant equivalent, the total amount of the aid not exceeding 75 % of the subsidised investment costs,
- only investment expenditure incurred since the date on which the aid application was submitted.

Only costs relating to the period 2001-2004 may be taken into account as regional cofinancing is provided for the period ending 31 December 2004.

As soon as the necessary measures have been adopted to provide cofinancing for 2005-2006, the appropriate documents will be sent

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Notice of open competition

(2002/C 270/06)

The Commission of the European Communities is organising the following open competitions (1):

- COM/LA/5/02 Greek-language interpreters (LA 7/LA 6)
- COM/LA/6/02 Greek-language assistant interpreters (LA 8)
- COM/LA/7/02 Finnish-language interpreters (LA 7/LA 6)
- COM/LA/8/02 Finnish-language assistant interpreters (LA 8).

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 270 A, 6.11.2002 (Greek and Finnish editions).