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NOTE TO READERS

In accordance with point 38 of Article 2 of the Treaty of Nice which amends Article 254 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, the *Official Journal of the European Communities* will be known, as from the entry into force of the Treaty of Nice, namely 1 February 2003, as the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates [1]

29 January 2003

(2003/C 23/01)

1 euro =

	Currency	Exchange rate		Currency	Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,0868	LVL	Latvian lats	0,6262
JPY	Japanese yen	128,49	MTL	Maltese lira	0,4208
DKK	Danish krone	7,4346	PLN	Polish zloty	4,121
GBP	Pound sterling	0,6599	ROL	Romanian leu	35983
SEK	Swedish krona	9,2135	SIT	Slovenian tolar	230,935
CHF	Swiss franc	1,4678	SKK	Slovak koruna	41,745
ISK	Iceland króna	84,86	TRL	Turkish lira	1802000
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,458	AUD	Australian dollar	1,8395
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,6543
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,57921	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	8,4768
CZK	Czech koruna	31,357	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,9775
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,8783
HUF	Hungarian forint	243,23	KRW	South Korean won	1269,38
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4524	ZAR	South African rand	9,4932

[1] *Source:* reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

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

(2003/C 23/02)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Aid No: XS 25/01

Member State: Ireland

Region: All regions

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Town Renewal Scheme

Legal basis: Taxes Consolidation Act 1997 as amended by Finance Act 2000 and 2001

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Estimated EUR 69 million in tax forgone over the duration of the scheme

Maximum aid intensity: 12,37 %

Date of implementation: 6 april 2001

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: 6 April 2001 to 31 December 2003

Objective of aid: Investment aid to support renewal projects by small and medium-sized enterprises in 100 small towns in Ireland

Economic sector(s) concerned: The sectors of industrial activity where special Community rules and framworks apply (among which are those falling under the ECSC Treaty, shipbuilding, motor manufacturing, synthetic fibres, transport, fisheries and agriculture, including the processing and marketing of agricultural products listed in Annex I of the EC Treaty (OJ C 29, 2.2.1996, p. 4)) are excluded as are the financial services and property development sectors

Name and address of the granting authority:

Revenue Commissioners
Dublin Castle
Dublin 2
Ireland

Aid No: XS 66/01

Member State: Italy

Region: Veneto

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Revolving fund for the granting of subsidised loans to small and medium-sized enterprises

Legal basis: Legge Regionale 9 febbraio 2001, n. 5, articolo 23

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: ITL 40 billion (EUR 20 658 275,96)

Maximum Aid intensity: As laid down in Regulation (EC) No 70/2001 (Articles 4 and 5), the gross grant equivalent (gge) may not exceed the following ceilings (for investemnt in tangible and intangible fixed assets):

— 15 % for small enterprises,

— 7,5 % for medium-sized enterprises

Date of implementation: From 18 August 2001 (15 days from the date of publication in the Regional Official Gazette of the regional authority measure under which the aid is introduced: DGR No 1843 of 3 July 2001)

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: This is a revolving fund which makes it possible to reduce the cost of loans provided by the banking sector; the duration cannot therefore be specified. Im any event, no aid will be granted after 30 December 2006

Objective of aid: To strengthen the productive system in Veneto by granting subsidised loans to small and medium-sized enterprises that carry out significant investments

Economic sector(s) concerned: Secondary sector, not including activities which do not fall within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 70/2001

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regione Veneto
Dorsoduro 3901
I-30123 Venezia

Aid No: XS 94/01

Member State: Germany

Region: Lower Saxony (district of Gifhorn)

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Directive on the assistance of individual small and medium-sized enterprises in the district of Gifhorn

Legal basis: § 108 der Niedersächsischen Landkreisordnung (NLO) in der Fassung vom 22.8.1996 (Niedersächsisches Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt, S. 365) i. V. mit § 65 der Niedersächsischen Gemeindeordnung (NGO) in der Fassung vom 22.8.1996 (Niedersächsisches Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt, S. 382)

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: DEM 1,3 million

Maximum aid intensity: The aid amounts

— in the case of small enterprises, to no more than 15 %

— and in the case of medium-sized enterprises, to no more than 7,5 %

of eligible investment expenditure.

The rules on the cumulation of aid are complied with

Date of implementation: 1 October 2001

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: 1 October 2001 to 31 December 2006

Objective of aid: The aid is intended to promote the competitiveness and adaptability of small and medium-sized enterprises in the rural district of Gifhorn, encourage the creation of new jobs and help safeguard existing ones, thus bringing about structural improvements.

Rescue and restructuring aid for firms in difficulty (within the meaning of the Community guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty (OJ C 288, 9.10.1999)) is not covered by the measure.

Aid may be granted for the following types of investment project:

— setting-up of an establishment,

— extension of an establishment if the number of long-term full-time jobs is increased by 15 % as compared with the situation before the start of the investment,

— rationalisation, diversification or modernisation of an establishment if this serves to ensure the continued existence of the business and the maintenance of most of the jobs,

— acquisition of an establishment threatened with closure, provided that this is done on market terms.

The long-term jobs created through the aid must be maintained for at least two years after payment of the grant.

The aid takes the form of investment grants.

All depreciable fixed assets relating to physical and intangible assets are eligible

Economic sector(s) concerned: Those entitled to apply are SMEs in manufacturing, the craft sector, the distributive trades, the hotel industry, other service-sector firms and persons working in the business-related professions whose place of business is in the rural district of Gifhorn. Aid may not be granted to firms in sensitive sectors

Name and address of the granting authority:

Landkreis Gifhorn
Schlossplatz 1
D-38518 Gifhorn

Other information:

Herr Krömer
Tel. (0 53 71) 8 24 88
Fax (0 44 61) 8 23 57

Aid No: XS 95/01

Member State: Germany

Region: Lower Saxony (city of Wolfsburg)

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Directive on the assistance of individual small and medium-sized enterprises in the city of Wolfsburg

Legal basis: § 108 der Niedersächsischen Landkreisordnung (NLO) in der Fassung vom 22.8.1996 (Niedersächsisches Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt, S. 365) i. V. mit § 65 der Niedersächsischen Gemeindeordnung (NGO) in der Fassung vom 22.8.1996 (Niedersächsisches Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt, S. 382)

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: DEM 27 million

Maximum aid intensity: The aid amounts

— in the case of small enterprises, to no more than 15 %,

— and in the case of medium-sized enterprises, to no more than 7,5 %

of eligible investment expenditure.

The rules on the cumulation of aid are complied with

Date of implementation: 1 October 2001

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: 1 October 2001 to 31 December 2006

Objective of aid: The aid is intended to promote the competitiveness and adaptability of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Wolfsburg area, to encourage the creation of new jobs and help safeguard existing ones, thus bringing about structural improvements.

Rescue and restructuring aid for firms in difficulty (within the meaning of the Community guidelines on state aid for rescuing and restructuring (OJ C 288, 9.10.1999)) is not covered by the measure.

Aid may be granted for the following types of investment project:

— setting-up of an establishment,

— extension of an establishment if the number of long-term full-time jobs is increased by 15 % as compared with the situation before the start of the investment,

— rationalisation, diversification or modernisation of an establishment if this serves to ensure the continued existence of the business and the maintenance of most of the jobs,

— acquisition of an establishment threated with closure, provided that this is done on market terms.

The long-term jobs created through the aid must be maintained for at least two years after payment of the grant.

The aid takes the form of investment grants.

All depreciable fixed assets relating to physical and intangible assets are eligible

Economic sectors concerned: Those entitled to apply are SMEs in manufacturing, the craft sector, the distributive trades, the hotel industry, other service-sector firms and persons working in the business-related professions whose place of business is in Wolfsburg. Aid may not be granted to firms in sensitive sectors

Name and address of the granting authority:

Stadt Wolfsburg
Gesellschaft für Wirtschafts- und Beschäftigungsförderung Wolfsburg mbH
Porschestraße 49
D-38449 Wolfsburg

Other information:

Herr Krause
Tel. (0 53 61) 28-2867
Fax (0 53 61) 28-2899

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty

Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(2003/C 23/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Date of adoption of the decision: 26.7.2002

Member State: Portugal (All regions)

Aid No: N 254/02

Title: Soft loans for investments in the tourism sector

Objective: Regional aid (Tourism)

Legal basis: Protocolo a celebrar entre o Instituto de Financiamento e Apoio ao Turismo (Ministério da Economia) e entidades bancárias

Budget: EUR 50 million

Aid intensity or amount: Maximum net aid intensity is 7,54 % of eligible costs

Duration: Until the end of 2004

Other information: Annual report

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids

Date of adoption of the decision: 2.7.2002

Member State: Germany

Aid No: N 269/02

Title: Compensation for losses following the closure of the airspace from 11 to 14 September 2001

Objective: Compensation for operating losses incurred by German airlines following the closure of certain parts of the airspace from 11 to 14 September 2001

Legal basis: § 37 der Bundeshaushaltsordnung

Budget: EUR 71 million

Duration: One-off operation in 2002

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids

Date of adoption of the decision: 17.7.2002

Member State: Spain (Region of Andalusia)

Aid No: N 325/02

Title: Scheme of State aid to audiovisual production

Objective: To promote the production of short and feature films

Legal basis: Orden de la Consejería de Cultura de la Junta de Andalucía por la que se establecen las bases reguladoras para la concesión de ayudas para el desarrollo de proyectos y a la producción de obras audiovisuales

Budget: ± EUR 900 000 annually

Aid intensity or amount:

Development aid: A maximum of 35 % of the project budget;

Production aid: A maximum of 15 % of the film budget for feature films, 20 % for documentaries and 35 % for short films

Duration: Until December 2004

Other information: Authorised under Article 87(3)(d) EC

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids

Date of adoption of the decision: 23.9.2002

Member State: Austria (All regions)

Aid No: N 326/02

Title: Assistance for the genome research programme in Austria (GEN-AU)

Objective: Research

Legal basis: Bundesministeriengesetz und Richtlinien des Österreichischen Genomforschungsprogramms GEN-AU

Budget: EUR 31,612 million

Aid intensity or amount: 100 % for fundamental research, up to 50 % gross for industrial research

Duration: Until 30 June 2005

Other information: Annual report

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids

Date of adoption of the decision: 18.9.2002

Member State: Germany

Aid No: N 388/02

Title: IT Forschung 2006

Objective: Research and development

Legal basis: Jährliches Haushaltsgesetz, Einzelplan 30 für den Geschäftsbereich des BMBF, Kapitel 3006

Budget: EUR 209 million in 2002, EUR 223 million a year from 2003 to 2006

Aid intensity or amount: 100 % for fundamental research, up to 75 % gross for industrial research, up to 50 % gross for precompetitive research

Duration: Five years starting on 1 October 2002

Other information: Germany has committed to provide annual reports on the application of the programme including an assessment of the incentive effect on large companies

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids

Date of adoption of the decision: 31.10.2002

Member State: Italy (Sicily)

Aid No: N 526/01

Title: Article 69 of Regional Law No 32/2000 — renewable sources of energy

Objective: Regional development: optimal utilisation of the island's natural resources

Legal basis: Articoli 69, 13, 15, 190, 191 e 198 della legge regionale n. 32/2000; progetto di bando per la presentazione delle richieste di contributo

Budget: EUR 206 582 759,64

Aid intensity or amount: Intensity stipulated on the regional aid map when the aid was granted, with a higher intensity for SMEs

Duration: Until 31 December 2006

Other information: Annual report

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids

Date of adoption of the decision: 22.5.2002

Member State: United Kingdom

Aid No: N 631/01

Title: BBC Licence fee

Objective: Compensation for net public service costs of nine new digital channels

Legal basis: Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949, the Royal Charter of May 1996 and the Agreement between the BBC and the Secretary of State of May 1996

Budget: GBP 90 million for the period 2002-2003

Aid intensity or amount: Measure not constituting aid

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids

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

(2003/C 23/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Aid No: XT 51/01

Member State: Italy

Region: Tuscany

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Aid to promote company, sectoral and regional training plans and to develop continuing training in Tuscany

Legal basis: Delibera della giunta regionale della Toscana n. 1120 del 15 ottobre 2001, attuativa di quanto disposto dalla legge 236/93, articolo 9, in merito alla realizzazione di interventi di formazione continua da parte delle regioni e delle province autonome

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: EUR 11 743 369,85 (ITL 22 738 334 748) for the period between October 2001 and the end of 2002, allocated to Tuscany by Ministry of Labour and Social Security Circular 92/2000. For subsequent years, the funds allocated to Tuscany will be determined by implementing circulars issued each year by the Ministry. The expected annual allocation is EUR 3 873 426,74 (ITL 7 500 000 000)

Maximum aid intensity: The aid is granted by reimbursing duly documented eligible expenditure actually incurred in implementing training activities, subject to the following maximum aid intensities as provided for by Regulation (EC) No 68/2001:

Large enterprises	Specific training	General training
Non-assisted areas	25	50
Assisted areas under Article 87(3)(c)	30	55

SMEs	Specific training	General training
Non-assisted areas	35	70
Assisted areas under Article 87(3)(c)	40	75

The above intensities are increased by 10 percentage points if the training is given to disadvantaged workers, as defined in Article 2(g) of Regulation (EC) No 68/2001.

Where the aid is granted in the maritime transport sector, it may reach an intensity of 100 %, regardless of whether the training project concerns specific or general training, provided that the following condtions are met:

— the trainee may not be an active member of the crew but must be supernumerary on board, and

— the training must be carried out on board ships on Community registers

Date of implementation: 15 October 2001

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

Objective of aid: The aid scheme covers general and specific training. General training within the meaning of Article 2(e) of Regulation (EC) No 68/2001 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 substanially improve the employability of the employee.

For the purposes of implementing this aid scheme, 'general' training means:

— inter-enterprise training, i.e. training organised jointly by different independent enterprises (under the Community rules defining SMEs) or in which employees of different enterprises may take part. Checks are made on supporting documents during the project selection procedure to ensure that these requirements are fulfilled (the training is inter-enterprise and the enterprises are independent);

— Company training relating to job profiles included in the regional calssification or training relating to profiles for which inclusion in the catalogue is requested. The relevant certificate is issued by the region or province concerned. The legal basis for the certification system is Regional Law No 70 of 31 August 1994 (new rules on vocational training), and more specifically Article 11 thereof, which provides for the issue of a vocational training or specilisation certificate for certain training activities following an aptitude test, and Article 18 thereof, which confers on the Regional Council the powers to determine the job profiles included in the regional classification and in respect of which the vocational training or specialisation certificate is issued

Economic sector(s) concerned:

— farming

— fisheries and aquaculture

— coalmining

— steel

— shipbuilding

— synthetic fibres

— motor vehicle industry

— other manufacturing industries

— all services.

Comments: The aid scheme applies to all sectors covered by Regulation (EC) No 68/2001. It does not apply to aid for training or retraining workers employed by firms in difficulty within the meaning of the Community guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty (OJ C 288, 9.10.1999), as part of rescue or restructuring operations assisted through public funds (rescue and/or restructuring aid). Such aid will be assessed in the light of the above guidelines. Neither does te aid scheme apply if the amount of aid granted to one enterprise for a single training project exceeds EUR 1 million, in which case the individual aid grant must be notified to the Commission for its approval

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regione Toscana — Dipartimento delle politiche formative e dei beni culturali
Servizio FSE e Sistema della formazione professionale
Piazza della Libertà, 15
I-50129 Firenze (Italia)

Non-opposition to a notified concentration

(Case COMP/M.3042 — Sony/Philips/Intertrust)

(2003/C 23/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 20 December 2002, 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 302M3042. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law.

For more information concerning subscriptions please contact:

EUR-OP,
Information, Marketing and Public Relations,
2, rue Mercier,
L-2985 Luxembourg.
Tel. (352) 29 29 427 18, fax (352) 29 29 427 09.

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.3031 — Burda/HDP/Catherine Nemo)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(2003/C 23/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 21 January 2003 the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 (1), as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 (2), by which the undertakings Burda Holding International GmbH (Burda, Germany) belonging to the Hubert Burda Media Group (Burda, Group Germany) and Holding di Partecipazioni Industriali SpA (HDP, Italy) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of the undertaking Catherine Nemo Holding (Catherine Nemo, France) by way of acquisition of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— Burda: advertising and printing, publication and distribution of consumer magazines, mainly in Germany,

— HDP: advertising, publication and distribution of books, magazines and newspapers, mainly in Italy,

— Catherine Nemo: publication of the French magazines 'Nouveau detective' and 'Horoscope'.

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 simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council 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.3031 — Burda/HDP/Catherine Nemo, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
J-70,
B-1049 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.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration

(Case COMP/M.3046 — AMEC/FS)

(2003/C 23/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 21 January 2003, 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 303M3046. CELEX is the computerised documentation system of European Community law.

For more information concerning subscriptions please contact:

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Information, Marketing and Public Relations,
2, rue Mercier,
L-2985 Luxembourg.
Tel. (352) 29 29 427 18, fax (352) 29 29 427 09.

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Reminder notice under the open call for applications for the establishment of the Professional Chamber of the Enterprise Policy Group (2000/C 326/04)

Biennial renewal of the composition of the Professional Chamber of the Enterprise Policy Group

Extension of the deadline for the submission of applications

(2003/C 23/08)

The Reminder notice under the open call for applications for the establishment of the Professional Chamber of the Enterprise Policy Group published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* on 17 December 2002 indicated 27 January 2003 as the deadline for the submission of applications for membership.

A new deadline is now set for 15 February 2003. Candidatures will therefore be considered until this date.

NOTE TO READERS

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