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Information and Notices

Notice No — Contents — Page

I *Information*

Commission

(1) Text with EEA relevance

(Continued overleaf)

Notice No	Contents (continued)	Page

II *Preparatory Acts pursuant to Title VI of the Treaty on European Union*

III *Notices*

European Parliament

Corrigenda

EN

I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates (1)

5 March 2003

(2003/C 52/01)

1 euro =

	Currency	Exchange rate		Currency	Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,0966	LVL	Latvian lats	0,6295
JPY	Japanese yen	128,77	MTL	Maltese lira	0,4245
DKK	Danish krone	7,4273	PLN	Polish zloty	4,2948
GBP	Pound sterling	0,6876	ROL	Romanian leu	36047
SEK	Swedish krona	9,189	SIT	Slovenian tolar	231,7425
CHF	Swiss franc	1,459	SKK	Slovak koruna	41,854
ISK	Iceland króna	84,45	TRL	Turkish lira	1757000
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,7775	AUD	Australian dollar	1,7778
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9537	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,6157
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,58146	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	8,5524
CZK	Czech koruna	31,845	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,9455
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,9007
HUF	Hungarian forint	245,33	KRW	South Korean won	1314,99
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4535	ZAR	South African rand	8,6879

(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 on State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises

(2003/C 52/02)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Aid No: XS 17/02

Member State: Italy

Region: Marche

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: SPD Obj. 2 2000-2006 — Measure 1.4 Infrastructure for the productive system; submeasure 1 Improvement of innovative and advanced services for firms — measure (a)

Legal basis: Docup Ob. 2, 2000-2006

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

	Ordinary funding	
Year	ITL	EUR
2002	500 000 000	258 228,44
Total	500 000 000	258 228,44

Maximum aid intensity: In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 70/2001, the following rates of aid will be applied: 15 % gge for small firms and 7,5 % gge for medium-sized firms. In the areas exempted under Article 87(3)(c) of the EC Treaty, the aid will be 20 % gge, with a maximum of 8 % nge + 10 % gge, for small firms and 15 % gge for medium-sized firms, with a maximum of 8 % nge + 6 % gge. The minimum investment eligible for financing is EUR 330 000,00

Date of implementation: Date of publication of the notice inviting applications (January 2002)

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: The application of the scheme is currently limited to 2002

Objective of aid: The measure is intended to enhance and improve the operational infrastructure of research and test laboratories and innovation and technology transfer centres through improvements in the regional supply of services for the productive system, with particular reference to strategic and cutting-edge services

Economic sector(s) concerned: Services

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regione Marche
Servizio Industria e Artigianato
Via Tiziano 44
I-60100 Ancona
Tel. (39) 071 80 61

Aid No: XS 22/02

Member State: United Kingdom

Region: Wales

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Investment grant

Legal basis: Industrial Development Act 1982 (Sections 7 and 8)

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: GBP 3 million per annum. Maximum award per project is GBP 50 000. Estimated number of SME beneficiaries per year is 80

Maximum aid intensity: In Article 87(3)(a) assisted areas — 35 % net + 15 % gross.

In Article 87(3)(c) assisted areas — 15 % net + 10 % gross.

In non-assisted areas 15 % gross (small enterprises)

7,5 % gross (medium-sized enterprises).

All other public aid will be taken into account in ensuring that the limits are not breached

Date of implementation: 1 April 2002

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 2006

Objective of aid: To improve competitiveness and job-creation capabilities of SMEs throughout Wales by encouraging investment in good-quality projects

Economic sector(s) concerned: Manufacturing and services, excluding retail and local services. Sensitive sectors will be excluded

Name and address of the granting authority:

Economic Development Department
The National Assembly for Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
United Kingdom

Other information: The form of assistance will be a direct grant. The scheme will allow capitalisation of leases, subject to the same limitations as set out in the Regional Selective Assistance Scheme (and in the Commission's letter dated 13 September 2001 (D/53731) with regard to N 791/99 — Enterprise Grant Scheme)

Aid No: XS 23/02

Member State: United Kingdom

Region: Wales

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Farming Connect: subsidised planning consultancy advice for farm businesses

Legal basis: Agriculture Act 1986, Section 1

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: GBP 250 000

Maximum aid intensity: 50 %

Date of implementation: January 2002

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 2006

Objective of aid: To subsidise planning consultancy costs incurred by farm businesses in seeking planning permission for non-agricultural diversification projects eligible for EC development and farm diversification grants

Economic sector(s) concerned: Other services, i.e. farm businesses

Examples include:

— tourism and recreation including farmhouse accommodation, horse riding, adventure holidays, sport facilities including motor sports, theme parks, etc.

— craft workshops, motor repairs, etc.

— storage of furniture, caravans, etc.

— small-scale retail activities

— office space and IT

Name and address of the granting authority:

NAFW
FFD3
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
United Kingdom

Aid No: XS 29/02

Member State: Germany

Region: Bavaria

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Guidelines for implementing the Bavarian regional aid programme for industry and commerce

Legal basis: Artikel 23, 44 Bayerische Haushaltsordnung (BayHO)

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: 2002: EUR 100,9 million (gross, according to budget plan); 2003-2006: EUR 115,9 million per year (gross, according to medium-term finance plan)

Maximum aid intensity: 15 % in the case of small enterprises; 7,5 % in the case of medium-sized enterprises

Date of implementation: 22 February 2002

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 30 June 2007 in accordance with European Commission requirements

Objective of aid:

Regional aid for SMEs:

— to establish a standard of living and a level playing field for competition that are as far as possible the same in all parts of Bavaria;

— to strengthen the productivity and competitiveness of the economy, especially in economically weak areas, rural areas and areas facing special labour-market problems;

— to create new jobs and to safeguard existing ones

Economic sector(s) concerned: Commercial and industrial enterprises. However, under the sectoral aid rules, the aid is limited in certain sectors and may be granted only with the approval of the European Commission

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regierung von Oberbayern, Maximilianstraße 39, D-80538 München

Regierung von Niederbayern, Regierungsplatz 540, D-84028 Landshut

Regierung der Oberpfalz, Emmeramsplatz 8, D-93047 Regensburg

Regierung von Oberfranken, Ludwigstraße 20, D-95444 Bayreuth

Regierung von Mittelfranken, Promenade 27, D-91522 Ansbach

Regierung von Unterfranken, Peterplatz 9, D-97070 Würzburg

Regierung von Schwaben, Fronhof 10, D-86152 Augsburg

Aid No: XS 42/02

Member State: Spain

Region: Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Aid for the implementation of projects exploiting renewable energy resources and demonstration projects promoting energy-saving and efficiency

Legal basis:

Estatuto de Autonomía de la Región de Murcia.

Decreto del Consejo de Gobierno nº 1/2002 de reorganización de la administración regional.

Decreto legislativo 1/1999, de 2 de diciembre, texto refundido de la Ley de Hacienda de la Región de Murcia.

Orden de 7 de enero de 2002, de la Consejería de Ciencia, Tecnología, Industria y Comercio, reguladora de las bases y convocatoria de las ayudas con destino a la ejecución de proyectos de explotación de recursos energéticos renovables y de ahorro y eficiencia energética para el año 2002.

Orden de 14 de marzo de 2002, por la que se modifica la orden de 7 de enero de 2002, reguladora de las bases y convocatoria de las ayudas con destino a la ejecución de proyectos de explotación de recursos energéticos renovables y de ahorro y eficiencia energética para el año 2002.

Orden de 16 de abril de 2002, por la que se complementa y aclara la orden de 14 de marzo de 2002, por la que se modifica la orden de 7 de enero de 2002, de ejecución de proyectos de explotación de recursos energéticos renovables y de ahorro y eficiencia energética para el ejercicio 2002.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 70/2001 of 12 January 2001 on the aplication of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Aid allocated to private firms (SMEs): EUR 240 405

Maximum aid intensity: This may not be less than 30 % or more than 50 % of the eligible expenditure planned by the applicant.

In the case of private firms, not more than 40 % gross grant equivalent may be granted in respect of eligible costs

Date of implementation: The Order came into force on 15 January 2002

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: The aid may be granted until 30 September 2002

Objective of aid: Aid to local authorities, private firms (SMEs) and to non-profit making families and institutions for implementing projects to exploit renewable energy resources and demonstration projects promoting energy-saving and efficiency.

Use of the energy arriving from the following renewable sources:

— solar,

— thermal,

— photovoltaic,

— wind,

— biomass,

— geothermal,

— municipal solid waste,

— biofuels

Economic sector(s) concerned: Private firms (SMEs)

Name and address of the granting authority:

D. Patricio Valverde Megías
Consejero de Ciencia, Tecnología, Industria y Comercio
c/ San Cristóbal, 6
E-30071 Murcia

Aid No: XS 43/02

Member State: Spain

Region: Autonomous Community of the Region of Murcia

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Aid to be granted in 2002 for presenting information society products and services at the SICARM 2002 Business Innovation Days

Legal basis:

Estatuto de Autonomía de la Región de Murcia.

Decreto del Consejo de Gobierno nº 1/2002, de 15 de enero, de reorganización de la administración regional.

Decreto legislativo 1/1999, de 2 de diciembre, texto refundido de la Ley de Hacienda de la Región de Murcia.

Orden de 7 de enero de 2002, de la Consejería de Ciencia, Tecnología, Industria y Comercio, reguladora de las bases y convocatoria de las ayudas a la exposición de productos y servicios de la sociedad de la información en las Jornadas Técnicas Empresariales SICARM 2002, para el ejercicio 2002.

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

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Aid allocated to private firms (SMEs): EUR 30 000

Maximum aid intensity: Not more than 50 % gross grant equivalent of eligible costs

Date of implementation: The Order came into force on 18 April 2002

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: The aid may be granted until 24 May 2002

Objective of aid: Aid to be granted in 2002 to private firms (SMEs) based in the Region of Murcia for presenting information society products and services at the SICARM 2002 Business Innovation Days

Economic sector(s) concerned: Private firms covered by the definition of SMEs set out in the Commission Recommendation of 3 April 1996

Name and address of the granting authority:

D. Patricio Valverde Megías
Consejero de Ciencia, Tecnología, Industria y Comercio
c/ San Cristóbal, 6
E-30071 Murcia

Aid No: XS 47/02

Member State: Spain

Region: Autonomous Community of the Basque Country

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Gauzatu foreign establishments

Legal basis: Orden de 27 de diciembre de 2000, del Consejero de Industria, Comercio, y Turismo de modificación de la orden de 28 de junio de 2000, del Consejero de Industria, Comercio, y Turismo, por la que se regulan el programa Gauzatu implantaciones exteriores, de impulso a la creación y desarrollo de implantaciones de empresas vascas en el exterior (BOPV nº 249 de 30 de diciembre de 2000)

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: EUR 6 010 121,04

Maximum aid intensity: 5,32 % for small firms and 4,43 % for medium-sized firms

Date of implementation: From 19 March 2002

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: 2001-2004, pursuant to Decree 121/2000

Objective of aid: To support the consolidation of Basque SMEs by increasing productive investment in the export market as a way of enhancing their competitiveness and hence their future viability

Economic sector(s) concerned: SMEs in industry, mining or processing and those providing ancillary technical services. Under the scheme, the aid granted will be subject to the sectoral rules issued by the European Union for the steel industry (non-ECSC), the synthetic fibres industry and the automobile industry

Name and address of the granting authority:

Sr. José Ignacio Telletxea Fernández
Viceconsejero de Innovación y Desarrollo Industrial
Departamento de Industria, Comercio y Turismo
Gobierno Vasco
c/ Donostia — San Sebastián, 1
E-01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz

Aid No: XS 48/02

Member State: Spain

Region: Autonomous Community of the Basque Country

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Gauzatu foreign establishments

Legal basis: Orden de 27 de diciembre de 2000, del Consejero de Industria, Comercio, y Turismo de modificación de la orden de 28 de junio de 2000, del Consejero de Industria, Comercio, y Turismo, por la que se regulan el programa Gauzatu implantaciones exteriores, de impulso a la creación y desarrollo de implantaciones de empresas vascas en el exterior (BOPV nº 249 de 30 de diciembre de 2000)

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Economic sector(s) concerned: SMEs in industry, mining or processing and those providing ancillary technical services. Under the scheme, the aid granted will be subject to the sectoral rules issued by the European Union for the steel industry (non-ECSC), the synthetic fibres industry and the automobile industry

Name and address of the granting authority:

Sr. José Ignacio Telletxea Fernández
Viceconsejero de Innovación y Desarrollo Industrial
Departamento de Industria, Comercio y Turismo
Gobierno Vasco
c/ Donostia — San Sebastián, 1
E-01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz

Aid No: XS 49/02

Member State: Spain

Region: Basque Country

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Name of company: Grupo Innovalia, SL

Legal basis: Decreto 121/2000, de 27 de junio de 2000 (BOPV 30.6.2000), por el que se establecen distintas líneas de ayudas con fines de promoción económica: programa de proyectos estratégicos

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

(EUR)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	Total
Annual expenditure (investment) planned	1 250 105,18	4 177 034,12	5 529 311,36	6 244 515,77	17 200 966,43
Amount of aid	0	809 457,83	824 696,79	931 369,52	2 565 524,14

Maximum aid intensity: Non-repayable grant of EUR 2 565 524,14, equivalent to a gross aid intensity of 14,915 %

Date of implementation: The aid will be granted in financial 2002 and relates to the investment carried out in 2001-2004

Duration of scheme or individual aid award:

Aid to be granted in 2002 (under a grant application procedure).

Implementation period: 2002-2004.

Paymenet: annual; overdue instalments: last payment 2005 for investment carried out in 2004

Objective of aid: The objective of the aid is to promote investment to be carried out by the SMEs that make up the Grupo Innovalia, an industrial group with local capital, in order to compete at global level, using the synergies resulting from the technological development of each of the firms making up the group. The group as a whole is also an SME.

The aid is conditional on the effective implementation of the investment, its continued presence on the assets side of the firm's balance sheet for five years and the generation of 293 jobs in the period 2001-2004.

So that the project can be regarded as strategic, account has also been taken of the considerable R&D effort that will be carried out, which is assessed at EUR 13 120 094,24 for the period 2001-2004.

In short, we consider that the objective of the aid is wholly consistent with recital 5 of Regulation (EC) No 70/2001, in as much as it facilitates the development of the economic activities of small and medium-sized enterprises, which perform a crucial function as regards job creation and, more generally, are a factor of social stability and economic dynamiasm

Economic sector(s) concerned:

All industrial sectors

— manufacture and marketing of calibration and measuring equipment,

— computational vision systems,

— testing software,

— telematics engineering.

Other services

— advisory,

— innovation management,

— communication and multimedia

Name and address of the granting authority:

Gobierno Vasco
c/ Donostia — San Sebastián, 1
E-01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz
Tel. (945) 01 82 63
Fax (945) 01 82 53
e-mail: pol-ind@ej-gv.es

Other information: The project was submitted to the Commission for prior authorisation as special aid. The notification was withdrawn, with the Commission's consent, since the proposed aid was covered by Regulation (EC) No 70/2001.

The aid is incompatible with any other investment aid for the same reason. The eligibility requirements for the expenditure should be met both at group level and by each of the firms making up the group.

The aid is being implemented under Commission Regulation (EC) No 70/2001 of 12 January 2001, since it meets all the requirements laid down.

The authority gives an undertaking to the Commission that it will meet all the requirements in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 70/2001 concerning the transparency and monitoring of the implementation of and follow-up to the planned aid

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Aid No: XS 52/01

Member State: Germany

Region: Lower Saxony, rural district of Lüneburg

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Rules (*Richtlinie*) on the approval of grants to individual SMEs in the rural district of Lüneburg

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: 150 000 EUR

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 combination of aid are complied with

Date of implementation: 1 July 2001

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: From 1 July 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 Lüneburg, to encourage the creation of new jobs and help safeguard existing ones and thereby to bring about structural improvements.

Rescue and restructuring aid to 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 under market conditions.

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 and restaurant industry, other service-sector firms and persons starting new businesses in these sectors whose place of business is in the Amt Neuhaus and Bleckede municipalities or in the Dahlenburg integrated municipality.

Aid may not be granted to firms in sensitive sectors.

Name and address of the granting authority:

Landkreis Lüneburg
Auf dem Michaeliskloster 4
D-21335 Lüneburg

Other information:

Mr Dutzmann
Tel. (041 31) 20 82 20
Fax (041 31) 20 82 10

Aid No: XS 57/01

Member State: Germany

Region: Brandenburg

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Rules (*Richtlinie*) introduced by the Brandenburg Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Women's Affairs on the approval of grants for devising and implementing innovative arrangements which can serve as models to ensure that jobs and technologies comply with safety concerns (Brandenburg Official Gazette, No 18, 2 May 2001)

Legal basis:

— Verordnung (EG) Nr. 70/2001 der Kommission vom 12. Januar 2001 über die Anwendung der Artikel 87 und 88 EG-Vertrag auf staatliche Beihilfen an kleinere und mittlere Unternehmen

— Landeshaushaltsordnung Brandenburg (LHO); W zu §§ 23 und 44 LHO

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

Year: 2001	2002	2003
EUR 920 245	EUR 920 245	EUR 920 245
Year: 2004	2005	2006
EUR 920 245	EUR 920 245	EUR 1 380 368

Maximum aid intensity: EUR 200 000 or up to 50 % in the assisted area under Article 87(3)(a) of the EC Treaty (Brandenburg outer development area) or up to 20 % net plus 10 % gross in the assisted area under Article 87(3)(c) of the EC Treaty (Berlin labour market region)

Date of implementation: 1 July 2001

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Up until 30 April 2003, the rules can be extended until 31 December 2006

Objective of aid: Brandenburg's objective in introducing the rules is to provide grants towards the investment costs of implementing innovatory projects which can serve as models for organising jobs and work processes in small and medium-sized firms.

The relevant investment measuresare intended to ensure that technology takes account of human requirements. Assistance is granted primarily to investment in small and medium-sized firms for the reduction of undue safety and health risks and in complex business projects aimed at organising jobs in such a way that work-related health risks or stress are avoided or reduced.

By using the economic aspects of labour protection, the aim is, through the aid, to create jobs and/or improve their competitiveness, to stimulate ongoing investment by small and medium-sized firms in particular and to enhance the attractiveness of the region

Economic sector(s) concerned:

All economic sectors

Not eligible for aid:

— activities relating to the manufacture, processing and marketing of goods listed in Annex I to the EC Treaty;

— aid for export-related activities, i.e. aid which is directly related to the exported quantities, the setting-up and operation of a distribution network or current expenditure on an export activity;

— aid which is conditional on the use of indigenous products rather than imported goods

Name and address of the granting authority:

InvestitionsBank des Landes Brandenburg
Postfach 90 02 61
D-14438 Potsdam

Other information:

Landesinstitut für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin
Postfach 90 020 36
D-14438 Potsdam
Tel. 049-(0)331-8 68 31 52
Fax 049-(0)331-86 43 35
E-mail: liaa.verwaltung@liaa.brandenburg.de

Aid No: XS 83/01

Member State: Italy

Region: Calabria

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving an individual aid: Measure to promote innovative business structures and processes

Legal basis:

Legge 27.10.1994, n. 598, articolo 11, commi 2 e 2 *bis*, come modificati ed integrati da:

— Legge 8.8.1995, n. 341, articolo 3

— Legge 23.12.1999, n. 488, articolo 54

— Legge 5.3.2001, n. 57, articolo 15.

Decreto del ministro dell'Industria, del commercio e dell'artigianato del 18.9.1997.

Decreto del ministro dell'Industria, del commercio e dell'artigianato del 27.10.1997.

Decreto legislativo 31.3.1998, n. 112, articolo 19.

Decreto legislativo 31.3.1998, n. 123.

Legge Regionnale 2.5.2001, n. 7, articolo 31 *quater*.

Delibera di Giunta della Regionne Calabria del 31.5.2001, n. 471

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: EUR	3 099 000	5 165 000	5 165 000	3 099 000		

Maximum aid intensity: 50 % 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 intended to assist investment in existing innovative business structures and processes through the construction of new buildings, the extension of existing buildings or the commencement of a related activity involving substantial modification of products or processes in the existing plant, in particular through rationalisation, restructuring or modernisation.

The scheme covers investments in connection with the purposes described above either in tangible assets (machinery, equipment, finishing work) or in intangible assets (acquisition of technology), and in services supplied by outside consultants. The services must not be continuous or regular or be connected with the normal running of the firm. The aid in question guarantees the financial soundness of the investment

Economic sector(s) concerned: The aid is intended only for small and medium-sized enterprises within the meaning of Regulation (EC) No 70/2001 and does not include investment in the following:

— iron and steel,

— shipbuilding,

— fisheries,

— transport,

— farming,

— production, processing or marketing of the products listed in Annex I to the EC Treaty (see Article 1(1) of Regulation No 70/2001),

— export-related activities (see Article 1(2) of Regulation No 70/2001),

— manufacture of synthetic and artificial fibres.

The investments in activities in the motor vehicle sector (34.10, 34.20 and 34.30) are subject to the limitations provided for in the framework for state aid in the motor vehicle sector (97/C 279/01, OJ C 279, 15.9.1997)

Name and address of the granting authority:

Regionne Calabria
Via Massara n. 2
I-88100 Catanzaro

Other information: This aid scheme does not apply to investments that reach one of the two following thresholds:

(a) the total eligible costs of the whole project are at least EUR 25 million and the net aid intensity is at least 50 % of the net aid ceiling as determined in the regional aid map for the area concerned; or

(b) the total gross aid amounts to at least 15 million EUR.

The aid scheme is not contingent upon the use of domestic as opposed to imported goods.

Only expenditure incurred since the date on which the aid application was submitted is eligible.

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

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.3115 — ABN AMRO Capital/PizzaExpress)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(2003/C 52/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 27 February 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 undertaking ABN AMRO Capital Limited (ABN AMRO Capital), United Kingdom, belonging to the ABN AMRO Group (ABN AMRO), the Netherlands, acquires, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of the whole of the undertaking PizzaExpress plc (PizzaExpress), United Kingdom, by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— ABN AMRO Capital: management of the ABN AMRO LBO Fund, an English registered limited partnership belonging to ABN AMRO,

— ABN AMRO: provision of financial services throughout Europe and the world,

— PizzaExpress: restaurant group operating mainly in the United Kingdom.

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.3115 — ABN AMRO Capital/PizzaExpress, 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.

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.3103 — General Electric Consumer Finance/Abbey National)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(2003/C 52/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 26 February 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 undertaking General Electric Company (GE), United States of America, acquires, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of parts of the undertaking Abbey National plc (Abbey National), United Kingdom, by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— GE: diversified company active in various manufacturing, technology and services business activities, including financial services,

— Abbey National: provision of personal financial services, including mortgages, savings products, investment products, banking, general insurance and life insurance,

— business to be acquired by GE: provision of secured and unsecured loans.

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.3103 — General Electric Consumer Finance/Abbey National, 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.

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.3098 — Nissho Iwai/Nichimen)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(2003/C 52/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 27 February 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 Japanese companies Nissho Iwai Corporation (NIC) and the Nichimen Corporation (NC) enter into a full merger within the meaning of Article 3(1)(a) of the Regulation.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— NIC: trading of machinery, metals and other products,

— NC: trading of machinery, metals and other products.

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.3098 — Nissho Iwai/Nichimen, 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.2995 — APAX Europe V/Goldman Sachs/Providence/Telekom Cable/JV)

(2003/C 52/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 28 February 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 303M2995. 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.

Non-opposition to a notified concentration

(Case COMP/M.3068 — Ascott Group/Goldman Sachs/Oriville)

(2003/C 52/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 13 February 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 303M3068. 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.

Amendments to the list of hop certification centres and codes

(2003/C 52/08)

(Official Journal of the European Communities C 1 of 4 January 2003)

On pages 7 and 8, Certification centres in Germany, under ELBE-SAALE, centres 1 and 6 are hereby replaced as follows:

1. Hopfenlager Reichenbach, Agrar GmbH Scharfenberg, D-01665 Scharfenberg	82D
6. MFP Landwirtschaftliche Produktions GmbH, D-39164 Blumenberg	87D

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

Authorisation of State aid pursuant to Article 61 and 63 of the EEA Agreement and Article 1(1) of Protocol 3 to the Surveillance and Court Agreement

EFTA Surveillance Authority decision to propose appropriate measures

(2003/C 52/09)

Date of adoption: 25.9.2002

EFTA State: Norway

Aid No: 95-010

Title: To propose appropriate measures to Norway with regard to State aid in the form of regionally differentiated social security taxation (Geografisk differensiert arbeidsgiveravgift)

Objective: Regional development

Legal basis: Act relating to national insurance (Lov om folketrygd av 17.6.1966, No 12)

Budget: Unspecified

Aid intensity: Norway is divided into five geographical zones with differentiated social security taxation (Zone 1: 14,1 %, Zone 2: 10,6 %, Zone 3: 6,4 %, Zone 4: 5,1 %, Zone 5: 0,0 %)

Duration: Until 1.1.2004

Other information: The appropriate measures, as accepted by the Norwegian authorities by letter dated 25.10.2002, are as follows:

(a) The Norwegian authorities shall take any legislative, administrative and other measures necessary to eliminate any State aid within the meaning of Article 61(1) EEA resulting from the system of regionally differentiated social security tax, or to render such aid compatible with Article 61 of the EEA Agreement,

(b) The Norwegian authorities shall eliminate any such aid or render it compatible with effect from 1.1.2004 unless the Authority agrees to a later date should that be considered objectively necessary and justified by the Authority in order to allow an appropriate transition for the undertakings in question to the adjusted situation; and

(c) The Norwegian authorities shall communicate to the Authority the relevant measures adjusting the aid scheme as soon as possible and in any event no later than 25 March 2003.

The authentic text of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:
http://www.eftasurv.int

II

(Preparatory Acts pursuant to Title VI of the Treaty on European Union)

Initiative of the Hellenic Republic with a view to the adoption of a Council Decision adjusting the basic salaries and allowances applicable to Europol staff

(2003/C 52/10)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Council Act of 3 December 1998 laying down the Staff Regulations applicable to Europol employees [1] (hereinafter referred to as Staff Regulations), and in particular Article 44 thereof,

Having regard to the initiative of the Hellenic Republic,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament [2],

Having regard to the review of remuneration of officials of Europol by the Management Board of Europol,

Whereas:

(1) In the aforementioned review the Management Board took account of the changes in the cost of living in the Netherlands, as well as of the changes in salaries in the public service in the Member States.

(2) The said review justifies an increase of 4,4 % of remuneration for the period between 1 July 2002 and 1 July 2003.

(3) It is for the Council, acting unanimously, to adjust the basic salaries and allowances of officials of Europol, on the basis of the review,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Staff Regulations are amended as follows:

1. with effect from 1 July 2002:

(a) the table of basic monthly salaries in Article 45 shall be replaced by the following:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	14 081,87										
2	12 644,93										
3	8 679,03	8 903,19	9 127,36	9 368,76	9 610,17	9 863,04	10 114,79	10 380,35	10 647,62	10 929,26	11 208,01
4	7 558,22	7 759,40	7 957,69	8 167,48	8 377,28	8 598,56	8 816,97	9 049,76	9 282,53	9 526,82	9 771,10
5	6 227,64	6 391,44	6 552,37	6 724,81	6 897,24	7 081,17	7 262,22	7 454,77	7 644,45	7 845,61	8 046,79
6	5 336,76	5 477,55	5 618,38	5 767,83	5 914,37	6 069,57	6 224,77	6 388,57	6 552,37	6 724,81	6 897,24
7	4 448,72	4 566,55	4 681,50	4 805,07	4 928,65	5 057,98	5 187,30	5 325,25	5 460,32	5 604,01	5 747,70
8	3 781,98	3 882,58	3 980,28	4 086,61	4 190,06	4 299,29	4 408,49	4 526,32	4 641,27	4 764,85	4 885,54
9	3 333,67	3 422,76	3 511,85	3 603,80	3 695,77	3 793,48	3 891,19	3 994,65	4 095,26	4 204,45	4 310,78
10	2 891,09	2 968,70	3 043,41	3 123,87	3 201,48	3 287,68	3 373,89	3 462,99	3 549,20	3 644,05	3 736,01
11	2 802,02	2 876,73	2 948,56	3 026,16	3 103,76	3 187,10	3 267,56	3 353,79	3 440,00	3 531,97	3 621,04
12	2 224,37	2 284,71	2 342,17	2 402,54	2 462,89	2 528,99	2 595,09	2 664,06	2 730,15	2 802,02	2 873,86
13	1 911,10	1 962,83	2 011,69	2 066,31	2 118,04	2 175,50	2 230,11	2 290,45	2 347,95	2 411,17	2 471,51

(1) OJ C 26, 30.1.1999, p. 23. Council Act as last amended by the Council Act of 19 December 2002 (OJ C 24, 31.1.2003, p. 1).
(2) OJ . . .

(b) in Article 59(3), the amount 'EUR 908,40' shall be replaced by 'EUR 948,37';

(c) in Article 59(3), the amount 'EUR 1 816,80' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 1 896,74';

(d) in Article 60(1), the amount 'EUR 242,24' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 252,90';

(e) in Article 2(1) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 253,25' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 264,39';

(f) in Article 3(1) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 11 010,92' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 11 495,40';

(g) in Article 3(1) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 2 477,46' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 2 586,47';

(h) in Article 3(2) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 14 864,74' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 15 518,79';

(i) in Article 4(1) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 1 101,09' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 1 149,54';

(j) in Article 4(1) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 825,83' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 862,17';

(k) in Article 4(1) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 550,54' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 574,76';

(l) in Article 4(1) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 440,43' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 459,81';

(m) in Article 5(3) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 1 553,86' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 1 622,23';

(n) in Article 5(3) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 2 071,82' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 2 162,98';

(o) in Article 5(3) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 2 589,77' shall be replaced by: 'EUR 2 703,72'.

2. With effect from the date on which this Decision takes effect:

— in Article 7(3) of Appendix 5, the amount 'EUR 0,23' shall be replaced by 'EUR 0,24'.

Article 2

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 3

This Decision shall take effect on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, . . .

For the Council

The President

. . .

III

(Notices)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Written questions with answer published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* C 52 E

(2003/C 52/11)

These texts are available on:

EUR-Lex: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex

CELEX: http://europa.eu.int/celex

CORRIGENDA

Corrigendum to Call for Proposals for the ASEAN-EU University Network Programme (AUNP) issued by the European Commission

(Official Journal of the European Union C 43 of 22 February 2003)

(2003/C 52/12)

On page 15, point 12 should read as follows:

‘12. **Detailed information**

Detailed information on this Call for Proposals is contained in the AUNP Guidelines for applicants to the second Call for Proposals 2003, which are published together with this notice on the **EuropeAid Cooperation Office website**:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/tender/index_en.htm

and for information purposes only, on the **AUNP website**:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/aunp/index_en.htm

Any questions regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent by fax: (32-2) 299 10 62 or by e-mail: europeaid-aunp@cec.eu.int (including the publication reference of this Call for Proposals as indicated in item 1).

All potential applicants are encouraged to consult the AUNP website regularly before the deadline for the submission of proposals, which will be regularly updated to include the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) and other relevant information.’