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Information and Notices

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I

*(Information)***COUNCIL****COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS****of 6 May 2003****regarding the future of youth activities in the context of the new generation of programmes**

(2003/C 115/01)

WHEREAS

- (1) the Treaty provides that Community action is to be aimed at encouraging the development of exchange programmes for young people and youth workers;
- (2) the European Parliament and the Council have by Decision 1031/2000/EC of 13 April 2000 established the 'Youth' Community action programme concerning a cooperation policy in the youth field, in order to allow young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies which may be one of the foundations of their future development, and to exercise responsible citizenship so as to become an active part of the European society;
- (3) the Laeken Declaration, annexed to the Conclusions of the European Council of 14 and 15 December 2001, on the Future of the European Union, states that one of the basic challenges facing the European Unions is 'how to bring citizens, and primarily the young, closer to the European design and the European Institutions';
- (4) the Commission's White paper of 21 November 2001 entitled 'A new impetus for European youth' has been a starting point for the establishment of a framework of European cooperation in the youth field;
- (5) the European Council of Copenhagen at 15 and 16 December 2002 endorsed the results of the accession negotiations for the enlargement of the European Union;
- (6) the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 14 December 2000, concerning an action plan for mobility, notes that the mobility of young people is a major political goal and the Youth programmes represent appreciable progress and play an essential role for the achievement of this goal;
- (7) the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 14 December 2000, on the social inclusion of young people, noting that young people, particularly the most vulnerable are particularly susceptible to social, political and cultural exclusion, invites the Commission and the Member States to promote broad access by a wide range of young people to Community and national initiatives and programmes designed for their benefit;
- (8) the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 14 February 2002 on the added value of voluntary activity for young people in the context of the development of Community action on youth, invites the Commission and the Member States to take measures to strengthen and to further develop the role of voluntary activity for young people;
- (9) the Resolution of the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 28 June 2001, on promoting young people's initiative, enterprise and creativity: from exclusion to empowerment;

- (10) the Resolution of the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 27 June 2002, regarding the framework of the European cooperation in the youth field endorses participation, information, voluntary activities among young people and greater understanding and knowledge of youth, as its four thematic priorities;
- (11) the Resolution of the Council, of 27 June 2002, on lifelong learning.

- (1) HAVING REGARD to the preparation of the future generation of programmes in the field of education, training and youth;
- (2) UNDERLINES that the existing 'Youth' Community action programme constitutes the basic means and the lever to promote European Cooperation in the youth field and the most important instrument for creating and implementing youth policies, in a more complete, more coherent and more intersectorial way;
- (3) NOTES that there is a need for links with other relevant Community programmes in the context of horizontal consideration of youth in other policies;
- (4) RECALLS that the 'Youth' programme offers young people, and particularly young people in difficulty, the chance of acquiring experience and skills by participating in activities outside school, thus contributing to their personal development in the context of non-formal learning;
- (5) RECALLS that, in the field of youth, the European Union has strengthened its relations with third countries under the actions of the 'Youth' programme;
- (6) NOTES that the enlargement of the European Union introduces new geographical, demographic, sociological and cultural factors affecting young people;
- (7) RECOGNISES that young people play a crucial role in the promotion of European citizenship and identity;
- (8) NOTES the intention of the Ministers to contribute to the reflection launched by the Commission concerning the future programmes, but without prejudice to the results of national consultations on the future generation of programmes and the impact assessments of the existing programmes, and in full respect of the Commission's right of initiative;
- (9) STRESSES the need to maintain and develop the existing Community instruments specifically addressed to young people, which is essential for the development of Member States' cooperation in the field of youth, in the context of the future generation of programmes;
- (10) STRESSES moreover that the priorities and objectives of these instruments should be aligned with the new Framework of European Cooperation in the field of Youth.

UNDERLINES the importance of pursuing efforts in order to:

- (1) increase participation of all young people, especially for those threatened by or experiencing social exclusion;
 - (2) strengthen dialogue and cooperation between young people in Europe and the rest of the world;
 - (3) encourage young people's initiatives fostering innovation and entrepreneurship from local to European level;
 - (4) promote voluntary activities, not only as a mean for acquiring skills but also as a core value of active citizenship;
 - (5) respect and disseminate the universal values of democracy, equality, and respect for human rights, as well as combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination against and among young people;
 - (6) promote mobility and new technologies as well as investigating other innovation methods as means for supporting youth strategies.
-

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

14 May 2003

(2003/C 115/02)

1 euro =

Currency			Exchange rate		
Currency			Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,1499	LVL	Latvian lats	0,6481
JPY	Japanese yen	134,25	MTL	Maltese lira	0,4291
DKK	Danish krone	7,4244	PLN	Polish zloty	4,3302
GBP	Pound sterling	0,7118	ROL	Romanian leu	37 518
SEK	Swedish krona	9,1785	SIT	Slovenian tolar	233,09
CHF	Swiss franc	1,5129	SKK	Slovak koruna	41,075
ISK	Iceland króna	83,89	TRL	Turkish lira	1 707 000
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,873	AUD	Australian dollar	1,781
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9464	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,5977
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,58654	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	8,9677
CZK	Czech koruna	31,515	NZD	New Zealand dollar	2,002
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,9911
HUF	Hungarian forint	244,81	KRW	South Korean won	1 379,88
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4528	ZAR	South African rand	8,6012

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

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3171 — Computer Sciences Corporation/Royal Mail Business Systems)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2003/C 115/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 6 May 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 Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), United States of America, acquires, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of Royal Mail Business Systems (Royal Mail), United Kingdom, currently controlled by the United Kingdom-based Royal Mail Group plc, by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— CSC: information technology services,

— Royal Mail: provision of information technology services to the Royal Mail Group plc.

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.3171 — Computer Sciences Corporation/Royal Mail Business Systems, 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.1501 — GKN Westland/Agusta/JV)

(2003/C 115/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 22 November 2000, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the common market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. The full text of the decision is only available in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- as a paper version through the sales offices of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities (see list on the last page),
- in electronic form in the 'CEN' version of the CELEX database, under document No 300M1501. 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.3102 — Thomesto/SCA Holz JV)

(2003/C 115/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

On 5 May 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 303M3102. 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.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
EFTA COURT

JUDGMENT OF THE COURT

of 24 January 2003

in Case E-1/02: EFTA Surveillance Authority v Kingdom of Norway

(Failure of a Contracting Party to fulfil its obligations — Equal Rights Directive — Reservation of academic positions for women)

(2003/C 115/06)

In Case E-1/02: EFTA Surveillance Authority v Kingdom of Norway — APPLICATION for a declaration that, by maintaining in force a rule which reserves a number of academic posts exclusively for women, Norway has failed to fulfil its obligations under Articles 7 and 70 of the EEA Agreement and Articles 2(1), 2(4) and 3(1) of Directive 76/207/EEC of 9 February 1976 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions, referred to in point 18 of Annex XVIII to the EEA Agreement, the Court, composed of: Carl Baudenbacher (Judge-Rapporteur), President, Per Tresselt and Dóra Guðmundsdóttir, Judges, gave judgment of 24 January 2003, the operative part of which is as follows:

1. Declares that by maintaining in force a rule which permits the reservation of a number of academic posts exclusively for members of the under-represented gender, Norway has failed to fulfil its obligations under Articles 7 and 70 of the EEA Agreement and Articles 2(1), 2(4) and 3(1) of Directive 76/207/EEC of 9 February 1976 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions as referred to in point 18 of Annex XVIII to the EEA Agreement;
 2. Orders the Kingdom of Norway to pay the costs of the proceedings.
-

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Call for proposals concerning transnational projects for innovative actions to enhance the role played by women in the fisheries sector 2003

(2003/C 115/07)

INTRODUCTION

Article 22 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds provides that the Commission may finance innovative actions under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG). Actions may be financed by the Structural Funds in the 15 member countries only.

Innovative actions include studies, pilot projects and exchanges of experience. They contribute to the development of innovative methods and practices designed to improve the quality of assistance.

The innovative actions to which this call for proposals applies have to comply also with two essential criteria:

- they must be highly transnational in character or of interest to several Member States as it is this aspect which reflects the added value of and reason for Community financial assistance,
- their main goal must be the networking of those involved in fisheries and the regions dependent on fishing together with exchanges of experience and the sharing of good practice and innovative practices.

They must in addition benefit communities in preference to individuals.

1. INNOVATIVE ACTIONS, PILOT PROJECTS AND EXCHANGES OF EXPERIENCE FOR ENHANCING THE ROLE PLAYED BY WOMEN IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR

One of the priorities of the FIFG 2000-2006 programming period is to take full advantage of the role played by women in the fisheries sector and the areas dependent on fishing.

This call for proposals is geared specifically to the funding of projects to promote the role of women in the sector and to give them a greater say in decision-making.

In order to identify relevant projects which can be funded out of the available resources, the Commission calls upon interested bodies to present proposals for projects, pilot actions and exchanges of experience on the following topics:

- (1) the networking of women's associations at transnational level;

- (2) meetings and exchanges of experience on topics of common interest at transnational level between associations and groups of women in the fisheries sector;

- (3) training, education and eLearning, mainly through the use of the Internet, linguistic knowledge, surveillance of the quality of the environment, fisheries management and business administration.

2. CRITERIA**2.1. Eligibility criteria**

- Only proposals submitted by legal persons in an official Community language on forms duly completed and sent before 11 July 2003 (post marked) will be considered.
- Proposals must include the participation of at least two European Union Member States. Proof of participation must be provided in the form of letters of participation from the partner institutions.
- Grants may not be made to applicants who are, at the time of a grant award procedure, in one of the situations referred to in Articles 93 and 94 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002.
- Applicants must certify in writing that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Article 93 of Council Regulation No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002.

2.2. Selection criteria

- Applicants must provide evidence of their experience and ability to carry out the action.
- Application forms must be accompanied by:
 - a copy of the articles of association (constitution) of the promoting institution,
 - the most recent progress report and/or balance sheet of the promoting institution,
 - the curriculum vitae (CV) of the persons responsible in each partner institution for carrying out the project.

2.3. Award criteria

- The innovative interest of the proposed action for improving and enhancing the role played by women in the fisheries sector,
- consistency with the priorities set out,
- the quality and consistency of the work plan for the projects,
- the consistency of the budget and the profitability of the proposed activities in the light of the anticipated results,
- other authorised measures to part-finance the project.

Where applications are presented by organisations that have previously received a grant from the Commission under earlier EC Directorate-General for Fisheries programmes, the results of those projects will be taken into account. Candidates are reminded that the resources allocated to calls for projects are limited. For that reason applications will be assessed in comparison with other applications submitted. It may happen that good quality applications cannot be funded for lack of resources and the selection group will have to make a choice.

Working methods

Projects have to be innovative and involve women's associations in the fisheries sector at the preparatory and/or implementation and/or monitoring stages of an activity. Projects may exploit the new media and information technology possibilities.

Partners concerned

Cooperation and networks will mainly concern associations and groups of women in the fisheries sector but also other bodies which, by their expertise or duties, contribute to the aims of the project, including professional organisations, training institutes, local and regional authorities, associations and one-man businesses.

Nature of projects

Projects must be operational and lead to concrete actions. The study phases (preliminary, feasibility, impact, etc.) must be limited to the necessary minimum and properly justified.

Selection procedure

The decision to award a grant will be taken by a selection panel made up of representatives of the European Commission. Selection meetings will be chaired by a representative of unit C1 in the Directorate-General for Fisheries.

Applicants will be informed of the Commission's decision at the earliest opportunity. The Commission's decision is final.

Financial arrangements

Overall amount available: EUR 800 000.

Community grants will be made in accordance with the principle of co-financing subject to an upper limit of EUR 80 000 per project.

The maximum rates of the Community contribution will be 50 % for pilot projects presented by industrial or commercial businesses and 75 % for projects for networking and exchanges of experience presented by public or not-for-profit bodies. It may reach 85 % in the case of projects submitted by non-profit organisations which are associations or groups of women in the fisheries sector.

The Commission reserves the right to make grants of an amount lower than requested by the applicant.

Grants higher than the amount requested will not be made.

The budget must be balanced and sufficiently detailed to allow the proposed activities to be identified, monitored and verified.

Project sponsors must examine the instructions for the administrative and financial management of innovative actions and comply with the relevant rules.

The instructions can be consulted at the following Internet address: http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/calls/calls_en.htm or may be obtained from the Commission on request.

Title VI of the Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾ and Title VI of the implementing rules ⁽²⁾ on grant management setting out the general rules on grants made by the European Commission can be consulted at the following Internet address: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/fr/search/search_dpi.html

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002.

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002.

Duration of project, date foreseen for closing the awarding procedure and admissible financing period:

Owing to the nature of the call, the duration of projects must not exceed 12 months.

The date foreseen for closing the awarding procedure is 15 October 2003.

Projects are expected to start on 1 December 2003.

Preparation of agreements and payment of the grant:

Where the Commission decides to award a grant, a standard agreement duly signed by the legal representative of the beneficiary organisation and the representative of the European Commission and setting out the conditions and the amount of the grant in euro will be sent to the beneficiary.

The estimated budget contained in application forms together with the statements of eligible costs and the final financial implementation reports will be presented in euro.

The payment procedure will be as follows:

- prefinancing of 40 % of the maximum amount of the grant within 30 days following the signing of the agreement,
- a second prefinancing payment of 30 % of the maximum amount of the grant once not less than 70 % of the preceding prefinancing payment has been used up,
- payment of the balance on the basis of the eligible costs actually incurred set out in the final financial implementation report.

Reports:

Beneficiary organisations will be required to present:

- a detailed statement of the eligible costs actually incurred once 70 % of the initial prefinancing payment has been used up,
- within 60 days following the completion of the action: a final technical implementation report on behalf of all the partner organisations, a final financial implementation report on the eligible costs actually incurred, and a full summary statement of the income and expenditure of the action.

Reports represent the main instrument for monitoring and evaluating the satisfactory implementation of actions and must therefore provide as complete an overview as possible of the action. They have to allow a qualitative and quantitative examination and evaluation:

- of the results obtained in comparison with the goals set (activities/impact/products, etc.),
- of the resources used to obtain those results, in the light of the budget authorised.

The Commission reserves the right to withdraw its support in full or in part if an action is not carried out in accordance with the description given in the application, or if changes are made without Commission authorisation, or if the reports state that the project is unsatisfactory.

The Commission is entitled to make use of and disseminate the reports on actions that receive funding.

General information

1. To be admissible, proposals must:

- be drawn up on the standard form which may be downloaded from the following Internet address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/calls/calls_en.htm, or obtained from the Commission (No (32-2) 296 73 60),

- be submitted in triplicate,
- and sent to the Commission by 11 July 2003 (post marked), by registered mail, at the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Fisheries
J99 2/11
B-1049 Brussels.

2. The documents below concerning the call for proposals:

- text of the call,
- application form,
- instructions for the financial and administrative management of innovative actions,
- draft grant agreement,
- model interim and final reports,

can be consulted at the following Internet address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/calls/calls_en.htm

3. Further information is available from the Commission on request at the above address.

Call for proposals concerning transnational projects for innovative actions in the fisheries sector 2003

(2003/C 115/08)

INTRODUCTION

Article 22 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999 laying down general provisions on the Structural Funds provides that the Commission may finance innovative actions under the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG). Actions may be financed by the Structural Funds in the 15 member countries only.

Innovative actions include studies, pilot projects and exchanges of experience. They contribute to the development of innovative methods and practices designed to improve the quality of assistance.

The innovative actions to which this call for proposals applies have to comply also with two essential criteria:

- they must be highly transnational in character or of interest to several Member States as it is this aspect which reflects the added value of and reason for Community financial assistance,
- their main goal must be the networking of those involved in fisheries and the regions dependent on fishing together with exchanges of experience and the sharing of good practice and innovative practices.

They must in addition benefit communities in preference to individuals.

1. INNOVATIVE ACTIONS, PILOT PROJECTS AND EXCHANGES OF EXPERIENCE

In order to identify relevant projects which can be funded out of the available resources, the Commission calls upon interested bodies to present proposals for projects, pilot actions and exchanges of experience on the following topics:

- (1) socio-economic diversification efforts in fisheries-dependent areas, in particular developing activities and services as an alternative to and/or supplementing fishing;
- (2) enhancing the value of fisheries and aquaculture products, in particular by establishing European networks for tracing products and alerting the industry and consumers to the need to combat illegal fishing;
- (3) improving and promoting the image of the fisheries and aquaculture sector, in particular as regards the environment, responsible fishing and the passing on of fishing techniques to subsequent generations;
- (4) vocational training and maritime education, including the use of eLearning, in particular in relation to safety at sea, environmental protection, product enhancement and business administration;
- (5) promoting information technology for communication, information sharing and business administration.

2. CRITERIA

2.1. Eligibility criteria

- Only proposals submitted by legal persons in an official Community language on forms duly completed and sent before 11 July 2003 (post marked) will be considered.
- Proposals must include the participation of at least two European Union Member States. Proof of participation must be provided in the form of letters of participation from the partner institutions.
- Grants may not be made to applicants who are, at the time of a grant award procedure, in one of the situations referred to in Articles 93 and 94 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002.
- Applicants must certify in writing that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Article 93 of Regulation (EG, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002.

2.2. Selection criteria

- Applicants must provide evidence of their experience and ability to carry out the action.
- Application forms must be accompanied by:
 - a copy of the articles of association (constitution) of the promoting institution,
 - the most recent progress report and/or balance sheet of the promoting institution,
 - the curriculum vitae (CV) of the persons responsible in each partner institution for carrying out the project.

2.3. Award criteria

- The innovative interest of the proposed action for improving the competitiveness of the fisheries sector and/or for the economic diversification of areas dependent on fisheries,
- consistency with the priorities set out,
- the quality and consistency of the work plan for the projects,
- the consistency of the budget and the profitability of the proposed activities in the light of the anticipated results,
- other authorised measures to part-finance the project.

Where applications are presented by organisations that have previously received a grant from the Commission under earlier EC Directorate-General for Fisheries programmes, the results of those projects will be taken into account. Candidates are reminded that the resources allocated to calls for projects are limited. For that reason applications

will be assessed in comparison with other applications submitted. It may happen that good quality applications cannot be funded for lack of resources and the selection group will have to make a choice.

Working methods

Projects have to be innovative and involve those active in the fishing industry at the preparatory and/or implementation and/or monitoring stages of an activity. Projects may exploit the new media and information technology possibilities.

Partners concerned

Cooperation and networks will embrace:

- professional organisations,
- training institutes,
- local and regional authorities,
- associations,
- one-man businesses.

In the light of the priorities which applications address, attention will focus on vertical and/or horizontal sectoral partnerships or broad transnational partnerships, subject in all cases to compliance with the requirement that partners must be from not less than two Community countries.

Nature of projects

Projects must be operational and lead to concrete actions. The study phases (preliminary, feasibility, impact, etc.) must be limited to the necessary minimum and properly justified.

Selection procedure

The decision to award a grant will be taken by a selection panel made up of representatives of the European Commission. Selection meetings will be chaired by a representative of unit C1 in the Directorate-General for Fisheries.

Applicants will be informed of the Commission's decision at the earliest opportunity. The Commission's decision is final.

Financial arrangements

Overall amount available: EUR 1,4 million.

Community grants will be made in accordance with the principle of co-financing subject to an upper limit of EUR 150 000 per action.

The maximum rates of the Community contribution will be 50 % for pilot projects presented by industrial or commercial businesses and 75 % for projects for networking and exchanges of experience presented by public or non-profit bodies.

The Commission reserves the right to make grants of an amount lower than requested by the applicant.

Grants higher than the amount requested will not be made.

The budget must be balanced and sufficiently detailed to allow the proposed activities to be identified, monitored and verified.

Project sponsors must examine the instructions for the administrative and financial management of innovative actions and comply with the relevant rules.

The instructions can be consulted at the following Internet address: http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/calls/calls_en.htm or may be obtained from the Commission on request.

Title VI of the Financial Regulation ⁽¹⁾ and Title VI of the implementing rules ⁽²⁾ on grant management setting out the general rules on grants made by the European Commission can be consulted at the following Internet address: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/fr/search/search_dpi.html

Duration of project, date foreseen for closing the awarding procedure and admissible financing period:

Owing to the nature of the call, the duration of projects must not exceed 18 months.

The date foreseen date foreseen for closing the awarding procedure is 15 October 2003.

Projects are expected to start on 1 December 2003.

Preparation of agreements and payment of the grant:

Where the Commission decides to award a grant, a standard agreement duly signed by the legal representative of the beneficiary organisation and the representative of the European Commission and setting out the conditions and the amount of the grant in euro will be sent to the beneficiary.

The estimated budget contained in application forms together with the statements of eligible costs and the final financial implementation reports will be presented in euro.

Project sponsors should be aware that in examining their technical and financial capacity, the Commission wishes to ensure that tenderers have access to solid and adequate sources of funding so as to be able to carry out their activities during the period of the project and to contribute to its co-financing. Before an agreement is drawn up, therefore, the following may be requested:

- a guarantee, which may be in the form of a bank guarantee, corresponding to all or part of the grant applied for,

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002.

⁽²⁾ Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002.

- an express undertaking by each organisation participating in the funding of the project concerned for the amount shown in the grant application,
- an express statement by the beneficiaries undertaking to provide their share of the financing and, where applicable, the financing of expenditure which would not be covered by the Community grant in the event of failure by the other organisations participating in the financing.

The payment procedure will be as follows:

1. For actions with a duration of not more than one year:
 - prefinancing of 70 % of the maximum amount of the grant within 30 days following the signing of the agreement,
 - payment of the balance on the basis of the eligible costs actually incurred set out in the final financial implementation report.
2. For actions with a duration of more than one year:
 - prefinancing of 40 % of the maximum amount of the grant within 30 days following the signing of the agreement,
 - a second prefinancing payment of 30 % of the maximum amount of the grant once not less than 70 % of the preceding prefinancing payment has been used up,
 - payment of the balance on the basis of the eligible costs actually incurred set out in the final report.

Reports:

For actions with a duration of not more than 1 year

Beneficiary organisations will be required to present within 60 days following the completion of the action: a final technical implementation report on behalf of all the partner organisations, a final financial implementation report on the eligible costs actually incurred, and a full summary statement of the income and expenditure of the action.

For actions with a duration of more than one year

- a detailed statement of the eligible costs actually incurred once 70 % of the initial prefinancing payment has been used up,
- at the mid-way stage, an interim technical implementation report on behalf of all the partner organisations,
- within 60 days following the completion of the action: a final technical implementation report on behalf of all the partner organisations, a final financial implementation report on the eligible costs actually incurred and a full

summary statement of the income and expenditure of the action.

Reports represent the main instrument for monitoring and evaluating the satisfactory implementation of actions and must therefore provide as complete an overview as possible of the action. They have to allow a qualitative and quantitative examination and evaluation:

- of the results obtained in comparison with the goals set (activities/impact/products, etc.),
- of the resources used to obtain those results, in the light of the budget authorised.

The Commission reserves the right to withdraw its support in full or in part if an action is not carried out in accordance with the description given in the application, or if changes are made without Commission authorisation, or if the reports state that the project is unsatisfactory.

The Commission is entitled to make use of and disseminate the reports on actions that receive funding.

General information

1. To be admissible, proposals must:

- be drawn up on the form which may be downloaded from the following Internet address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/calls/calls_en.htm, or obtained from the Commission (No (32-2) 296 73 60),
- be submitted in triplicate,
- and sent to the Commission by 11 July 2003 (post marked), by registered mail, at the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Fisheries
J99 2/11
B-1049 Brussels.

2. The documents below concerning the call for proposals:

- text of the call,
- application form,
- instructions for the financial and administrative management of innovative actions,
- draft grant agreement,
- model interim and final reports

can be consulted at the following Internet address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/news_corner/calls/calls_en.htm

3. Further information is available from the Commission on request at the above address.