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## Information and Notices

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**Notice to readers** (see page 3 of the cover)

## NOTICE

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## I

(Information)

## COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates <sup>(1)</sup>

19 November 2003

(2003/C 279/01)

1 euro =

| Currency |                  | Exchange rate | Currency |                    | Exchange rate |
|----------|------------------|---------------|----------|--------------------|---------------|
| USD      | US dollar        | 1,191         | LVL      | Latvian lats       | 0,6532        |
| JPY      | Japanese yen     | 129,82        | MTL      | Maltese lira       | 0,4293        |
| DKK      | Danish krone     | 7,438         | PLN      | Polish zloty       | 4,6112        |
| GBP      | Pound sterling   | 0,7021        | ROL      | Romanian leu       | 40 037        |
| SEK      | Swedish krona    | 8,9969        | SIT      | Slovenian tolar    | 236,05        |
| CHF      | Swiss franc      | 1,5518        | SKK      | Slovak koruna      | 40,94         |
| ISK      | Iceland króna    | 89,74         | TRL      | Turkish lira       | 1 737 828     |
| NOK      | Norwegian krone  | 8,186         | AUD      | Australian dollar  | 1,6484        |
| BGN      | Bulgarian lev    | 1,9477        | CAD      | Canadian dollar    | 1,5502        |
| CYP      | Cyprus pound     | 0,58374       | HKD      | Hong Kong dollar   | 9,2376        |
| CZK      | Czech koruna     | 31,84         | NZD      | New Zealand dollar | 1,8754        |
| EEK      | Estonian kroon   | 15,6466       | SGD      | Singapore dollar   | 2,0431        |
| HUF      | Hungarian forint | 258,35        | KRW      | South Korean won   | 1 401,51      |
| LTL      | Lithuanian litas | 3,4529        | ZAR      | South African rand | 7,8257        |

<sup>(1)</sup> Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

**Amendment by France of public service obligations in respect of scheduled air services within France**

(2003/C 279/02)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. France has decided to alter the public service obligations in respect of scheduled air services between Paris (Orly) and Carcassonne, published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* C 227 of 1 September 1995, and amended on 29 December 1995 (*Official Journal of the European Communities* C 349) and on 14 June 1997 (*Official Journal of the European Communities* C 180) pursuant to Article 4(1)(a) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 of 23 July 1992 on access for Community air carriers to intra-Community air routes.

2. The public service obligations are now as follows:

— *Minimum frequency*

The services must be operated all year round with two outward and inward trips per day, morning and evening, from Monday to Friday inclusive, one outward and inward trip on Saturday morning and one outward and inward trip on Sunday evening.

The services must be non-stop between Paris (Orly) and Carcassonne.

— *Type of aircraft used and capacity provided*

The service must be operated with a pressurised aircraft having a seating capacity of at least nineteen.

— *Timetables*

Timetables must be such as to enable passengers on business trips during the working week to make the round trip within the day and to spend at least eight hours in Paris and at least six hours in Carcassonne.

— *Commercial policy*

Flights must be marketed by means of at least one computerised reservation system.

— *Continuity of service*

Except in cases of *force majeure*, the number of flights cancelled for reasons directly attributable to the carrier must not exceed 3 % of the number of flights scheduled in any year. In addition, the carrier must give six months' notice before discontinuing these services.

Community carriers are hereby informed that the operation of air services without regard to these public service obligations may result in administrative and/or criminal penalties.

3. Slots have been reserved at Paris (Orly) airport for the scheduled Paris (Orly)–Carcassonne service pursuant to Article 9 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 95/93 on common rules for the allocation of slots at Community airports. Air carriers interested in this route can obtain information about these slots from the Paris airports coordinator.

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**Imposition by France of a public service obligation on scheduled air services within France**

(2003/C 279/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. France has decided to impose a public service obligation in respect of scheduled air services between Bourges and Lyon Saint-Exupéry, pursuant to Article 4(1)(a) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 of 23 July 1992 on access for Community air carriers to intra-Community air routes.
2. As from 1 April 2004, the public service obligation in respect of scheduled air services between Bourges and Lyon Saint-Exupéry will be as follows:

— *Minimum frequency*

The minimum level of service provided must be two return trips per day, morning and evening, from Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays, 220 days a year.

The services must be non-stop between the airports of Bourges and Lyon Saint-Exupéry.

— *Type of aircraft used and capacity provided*

The service must be operated with a pressurised aircraft having a seating capacity of at least nineteen.

— *Timetables*

Timetables must be such as to enable passengers on business trips during the working week to make the round trip within the day and to spend at least seven hours at their destination, whether Bourges or Lyon.

— *Commercial policy*

Flights must be marketed by means of at least one computerised reservation system.

— *Continuity of service*

Except in cases of *force majeure*, the number of flights cancelled for reasons directly attributable to the carrier must not exceed 3 % of the number of flights scheduled in any year. The carrier must give six months' notice before discontinuing these services.

Community carriers are hereby informed that the operation of air services without regard to these public service obligations may result in administrative and/or criminal penalties.

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**Prior notification of a concentration****(Case COMP/M.3311 — Van Oord/BHD/Bagger Holding JV)**

(2003/C 279/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 10 November 2003, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 <sup>(1)</sup>, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 <sup>(2)</sup>, by which the Dutch undertakings Koninklijke BAM Groep NV ('BAM'), MerweOord BV and NPM Capital NV acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, joint control of a newly created company, Bagger Holding, constituting a joint venture. BAM will contribute Ballast Ham Dredging BV ('BHD') to the JV, and MerweOord and NPM will contribute the jointly-owned Van Oord Groep NV ('Van Oord') to the JV.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- BAM: building, civil engineering, engineering consulting
- MerweOord: family-owned holding company holding the majority of the shares in Van Oord
- NPM: private equity company
- Van Oord and BHD: dredging activities
- Bagger Holding (JV): dredging activities

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.

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.3311 — Van Oord/BHD/Bagger Holding JV, to:

European Commission,  
Directorate-General for Competition,  
Merger Registry,  
J-70,  
B-1049 Brussels.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.

# EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2002

(2003/C 279/05)

Table 1

### Implementation of the budget for the financial year 2002

(million EUR)

| Revenue             |                                                            |                  | Expenditure                    |                                    |           |      |              |           |                                                              |      |           |                                                                |           |      |              |           |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|------|--------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------|--------------|-----------|
| Origin of revenue   | Revenue entered in the final budget for the financial year | Revenue received | Allocation of expenditure      | Appropriations in the final budget |           |      |              |           | Appropriations carried over from the previous financial year |      |           | Available appropriations (2002 budget and financial year 2001) |           |      |              |           |
|                     |                                                            |                  |                                | entered                            | committed | paid | carried over | cancelled | outstanding commitments                                      | paid | cancelled | appropriations                                                 | committed | paid | carried over | cancelled |
| Community subsidies | 16,5                                                       | 16,5             | Title I Staff                  | 9,3                                | 9,3       | 9,1  | 0,2          | 0,1       | 0,2                                                          | 0,2  | 0,0       | 9,5                                                            | 9,5       | 9,3  | 0,2          | 0,0       |
| Other subsidies     | 0,3                                                        | 0,1              | Title II Administration        | 1,6                                | 1,6       | 0,9  | 0,7          | 0,0       | 0,2                                                          | 0,2  | 0,0       | 1,8                                                            | 1,8       | 1,1  | 0,7          | 0,0       |
|                     |                                                            |                  | Title III Operating activities | 6,4                                | 6,4       | 3,3  | 3,1          | 0,0       | 3,1                                                          | 3,1  | 0,1       | 9,5                                                            | 9,4       | 6,4  | 3,1          | 0,1       |
| Total               | 16,8                                                       | 16,6             | Total                          | 17,4                               | 17,4      | 13,3 | 4,0          | 0,1       | 3,6                                                          | 3,5  | 0,1       | 21,0                                                           | 20,7      | 16,8 | 4,0          | 0,1       |

NB: Any discrepancies in totals are due to the effects of rounding.

Source: European Foundation 2002 Final accounts audited by the Court of Auditors.

Table 2

**Revenue and expenditure account for the financial year 2002 and 2001**

|                                                                          | (thousand EUR) |                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                                                          | 2002           | 2001           |
| <b>Revenue received during the financial year</b>                        |                |                |
| Commission subsidies                                                     | 16 500         | 14 957         |
| Miscellaneous revenue                                                    | 62             | 15             |
| Financial revenue                                                        | 57             | 96             |
| <b>Total revenue (a)</b>                                                 | <b>16 618</b>  | <b>15 069</b>  |
| <b>Budgetary expenditure for the financial year</b>                      |                |                |
| <i>Staff — Title 1 of the budget</i>                                     |                |                |
| Payments                                                                 | 9 111          | 7 583          |
| Appropriations carried over                                              | 216            | 189            |
| <i>Administration — Title 2 of the budget</i>                            |                |                |
| Payments                                                                 | 938            | 854            |
| Appropriations carried over                                              | 683            | 245            |
| <i>Operating activities — Title III of the budget</i>                    |                |                |
| Payments                                                                 | 3 289          | 3 129          |
| Appropriations carried over                                              | 3 105          | 3 148          |
| <b>Total expenditure (b)</b>                                             | <b>17 343</b>  | <b>15 150</b>  |
| <b>Out-turn for the financial year (a-b)</b>                             | <b>- 725</b>   | <b>- 81</b>    |
| Balance carried over from the previous financial year                    | - 1 209        | - 1 210        |
| Appropriations carried over from the previous financial year which lapse | 81             | 59             |
| Appropriations for re-use from the financial year 2000, not utilised     | 13             | 24             |
| Exchange differences                                                     | 3              | - 2            |
| <b>Balance for the financial year</b>                                    | <b>- 1 836</b> | <b>- 1 210</b> |

NB: Any discrepancies in totals are due to the effect of rounding.

Source: European Foundation 2002 Final accounts audited by the Court of Auditors.

Table 3

**Balance sheet as at 31 December 2002 and 31 December 2001**

(thousand EUR)

| Assets                         | 2002         | 2001          | Liabilities                             | 2002         | 2001          |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Fixed assets</b>            |              |               | <b>Fixed Capital</b>                    |              |               |
| Buildings                      | 7 137        | 7 137         | Own Capital                             | 4 294        | 8 865         |
| Equipment and furniture        | 1 547        | 1 665         | Balance for the financial year          | - 1 836      | - 1 209       |
| Transportation equipment       | 49           | 49            |                                         |              |               |
| <i>Subtotal</i>                | 8 733        | 8 851         | <i>Subtotal</i>                         | 2 458        | 7 656         |
| <b>Stock</b>                   | 12           | 23            | <b>Current liabilities</b>              |              |               |
| <b>Current assets</b>          |              |               | Automatic carry-overs of appropriations | 4 004        | 3 583         |
| Commission subsidy             | 0            | 0             | Salary deductions                       | 139          | 327           |
| Other subsidies to be received | 0            | 0             | VAT/Other taxes                         | 0            | 0             |
| Advances on missions           | 2            | 9             | Sundry accounts payable                 | 0            | 4             |
| Other advances                 | 9            | 5             | <i>Subtotal</i>                         | 4 143        | 3 914         |
| Other accounts receivable      | 12           | 4             | <b>Suspense accounts</b>                |              |               |
| Recoverable VAT                | 274          | 337           | Sums to be re-used                      | 149          | 195           |
| Recovery orders                | 1 840        | 1 231         | Deferred payments                       | 1 840        | 1 231         |
| <i>Subtotal</i>                | 2 137        | 1 586         | <i>Subtotal</i>                         | 1 989        | 1 426         |
| <b>Cash accounts</b>           |              |               | Payments in progress                    | 30           | 0             |
| Banks                          | 1 961        | 2 390         |                                         |              |               |
| Imprest accounts               | 228          | 145           |                                         |              |               |
| <i>Subtotal</i>                | 2 189        | 2 535         |                                         |              |               |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>8 619</b> | <b>12 996</b> | <b>Total</b>                            | <b>8 619</b> | <b>12 996</b> |

NB: Any discrepancies in totals are due to the effect of rounding.

Source: European Foundation 2002 Final accounts audited by the Court of Auditors.

## III

(Notices)

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**Minutes of the session from 9 and 10 October 2002 published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* C 279 E**

(2003/C 279/06)

These texts are available on:

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

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## COMMISSION

## Outcome of the invitations to tender of (Community food aid)

(2003/C 279/07)

as provided for in Article 9(7) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2519/97 of 16 December 1997 laying down general rules for the mobilisation of products to be supplied under Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 as Community food aid

(Official Journal of the European Communities L 346, 17.12.1997, p. 23)

11 November 2003

| Regulation (EC) No/ Decision of | Lot | Action No | Beneficiary/ Destination | Product | Quantity (t) | Delivery stage | Successful tenderer                     | Awarded price (EUR/t) |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------|--------------------------|---------|--------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1791/2003                       | A   | 10/03     | EuronAid/Haiti           | FBLT    | 220          | EMB            | UNITED BELGIAN MILLS NV — ANTWERPEN (B) | 208,85                |
|                                 | B   | 11/03     | EuronAid/Haiti           | CBL     | 1 320        | EMB            | EURICOM SPA — VERCELLI (I)              | 274,00                |
| 1792/2003                       | A   | 8 + 15/03 | EuronAid/. . .           | HCOLZ   | 276          | EMB            | CEBAG BELGIUM NV — ANTWERPEN (B)        | 717,00                |

|          |                                            |        |                                          |        |                                   |
|----------|--------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|
| BLT:     | Common wheat                               | FABA:  | Broad beans ( <i>Vicia faba major</i> )  | WSB:   | Wheat/soya blend                  |
| DUR:     | Durum wheat                                | FEQ:   | Horse beans ( <i>Vicia faba equina</i> ) | Lsub1: | Infant formula                    |
| ORG:     | Barley                                     | PISUM: | Split peas                               | Lsub2: | Follow-on formula                 |
| MAI:     | Maize                                      | SUB:   | White sugar                              | LHE:   | High energy milk                  |
| SEG:     | Rye                                        | HCOLZ: | Rape seed oil                            | AC:    | Compound food                     |
| SOR:     | Sorghum                                    | HTOUR: | Sunflower oil                            | PAL:   | Pasta                             |
| CBR/M/L: | Milled round, medium or long grain rice    | HOLI:  | Olive oil                                | SAR:   | Tinned sardines                   |
| RPR/M/L: | Parboiled round, medium or long grain rice | HMAI:  | Maize oil                                | CM:    | Tinned mackerel                   |
| BRI:     | Broken rice                                | HSOJA: | Soya oil                                 | CB:    | Corned beef                       |
| FBLT:    | Common wheat flour                         | LEP:   | Skimmed milk powder                      | BPJ:   | Canned beef                       |
| FMAI:    | Maize flour                                | LEPv:  | Vitaminized skimmed milk powder          | PFB:   | Beef liver pâté                   |
| FSEG:    | Rye flour                                  | LDEP:  | Semi-skimmed milk powder                 | CP:    | Canned pork                       |
| SDUR:    | Durum wheat meal                           | LENP:  | Whole milk powder                        | PPF:   | Pig liver pâté                    |
| SMAI:    | Maize gritz                                | B:     | Butter                                   | CV:    | Canned poultrymeat                |
| FHAF:    | Oat flakes                                 | BO:    | Butteroil                                | DEST:  | Free at destination               |
| CT:      | Tomato concentrate                         | FETA:  | Feta-type cheese                         | DEB:   | Free at port of landing — landed  |
| PT:      | Tomato powder                              | FROf:  | Processed cheese                         | DEN:   | Free at port of landing — ex ship |
| COR:     | Currants                                   | BABYF: | Cereal-based weaning food                | EMB:   | Free at port of shipment          |
|          |                                            | BISC:  | Biscuits                                 | EXW:   | Ex works                          |

**Operation of scheduled air services****Invitation to tender issued by the United Kingdom under Article 4(1)(d) Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 in respect of the operation of scheduled air services between Glasgow-Campbeltown and Glasgow-Tiree (Scotland)**

(2003/C 279/08)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. **Introduction:** In pursuance of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 of 23.7.1992 on access for Community air carriers to intra-Community air routes, the United Kingdom has imposed public service obligations (PSOs) in respect of scheduled air services operated between Glasgow-Campbeltown and Glasgow-Tiree. The standards required by these public service obligations were published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 387/06 and No C 387/07 of 21.12.1996, as modified in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 355/03 of 8.12.1999 and No C 310/07 of 13.12.2002 and No C 278 of 19.11.2003.
2. **Object of Invitation to Tender:** Operation from 1.4.2004 of scheduled air services between Glasgow-Campbeltown and Glasgow-Tiree in accordance with the public service obligations imposed on these routes and published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 387/06 and No C 387/07 of 21.12.1996, as modified in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 355/03 of 8.12.1999 and No C 310/07 of 13.12.2002 and No C 278 of 19.11.2003.
3. **Participation:** Participation is open to all air carriers holding a valid operating licence issued by a Member State in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No 2407/92 on 23.7.1992 on licensing of air carriers. The services will operate under the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulatory regime.
4. **Tender Procedure:** This invitation to tender is subject to the provisions of Article 4(1)(d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) of Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92.
5. **Tender Dossier/Qualifications etc.:** The complete tender documentation, including form of tender, specification, conditions of contract/schedule to the conditions of contract, as well as the text of the original public service obligations published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 387/06 and No C 387/07 of 21.12.1996, as modified in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 355/03 of 8.12.1999 and No C 310/07 of 13.12.2002 and No C 278 of 19.11.2003, may be obtained free of charge from the awarding authority as follows:  
  
Scottish Executive Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department, Transport Division 2/2, Victoria Quay, UK-Edinburgh EH6 6QQ. Tel.: (44-131) 244 08 54. Fax: (44-131) 244 08 71. Att: Grace McGuire, SEETLLD - Transport Division 2/2.  
  
Airlines will be required to include in their tender documents, evidence of their financial standing (an annual report and audited accounts for the past 3 years must be provided and must include turnover and pre-tax profit for the past 3 years), previous experience and technical capability to provide the services described. The awarding authority reserves the right to solicit further information about any applicant's financial and technical resources and abilities.  
  
The right to operate the Glasgow-Campbeltown and Glasgow-Tiree services is being offered on the basis that they may be combined together into one contract, or tenders may be made to operate either of the services. Accordingly, the awarding authority reserves the right to exercise discretion in accepting bids which are to provide one service only or both services, and tenderers should provide separate costings for each bid. Bids whether separate or combined will be evaluated according to which bid(s) is/are the most economically advantageous and will secure the operation of each of the 2 services for the duration of the specified tender period. Tenders should be priced in sterling and all supporting documents must be in English. The contract(s) shall be considered as a contract(s) made under Scottish Law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Scottish courts.

6. **Financial Compensation:** Tenders submitted should indicate the amount required by way of grant for operating the services for 2 years from the scheduled starting date (with an analysis to each year). The grant should be calculated in accordance with the specification. The maximum limit finally granted may be revised only in the event of an unforeseen change in the operating conditions.

The contract will be awarded by the Scottish Ministers. All payments under the contract will be in sterling.

7. **Period of validity, amendment and termination of the contract:** A 2-year contract commencing 1.4.2004 will terminate on 31.3.2006. Any amendment or termination of the contract will be in accordance with the conditions of contract. Variations in the service will be permitted only with the agreement of the awarding authority.

8. **Penalties in the event of the carrier failing to comply with the contract:** In the event of the carrier failing to operate a flight for any reason then, subject as aftermentioned, the Scottish Ministers may reduce the grant on a pro-rata basis for each occasion on which a flight is not operated provided that the Scottish Ministers shall not make any such reduction in the grant where the failure to operate the flight is as a consequence of any of the following, and the appropriate occurrence has not arisen as a consequence of the acts or omissions of the carrier:

— weather/tidal conditions;

— closure of the airports;

— security reasons;

— strikes;

— reasons of safety.

An explanation from the carrier for such non-operation is also required in accordance with the conditions of contract.

9. **Deadline for submission of bids:** 1 month after the date of publication of this notice.

10. **Application procedure:** Tenders must be sent to the address at 5 above. Persons admitted to open tenders are designated staff from the Scottish Executive's Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department and Procurement and Commercial Services Division at the Scottish Executive.

11. **Validity of invitations to tender:** In accordance with Article 4(1)(d) of Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92, the validity of this invitation to tender is subject to the condition that no Community air carrier presents, by 1.3.2004, a programme for operating the routes in question from 1.4.2004 or before that date, in accordance with the PSOs imposed, as amended, without receiving any subsidy.

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**Operation of scheduled air service****Invitation to tender issued by the United Kingdom under Article 4(1)(d) Council Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 in respect of the operation of a scheduled air service between Glasgow and Barra (Scotland)**

(2003/C 279/09)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. **Introduction:** In pursuance of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92 of 23.7.1992 on access for Community air carriers to intra-Community air routes, the United Kingdom has imposed a public service obligation (PSO) in respect of a scheduled air service operated between Glasgow-Barra. The standards required by this public service obligation were published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 387/06 of 21.12.1996, as modified in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 355/04 of 8.12.1999 and No C 310/08 of 13.12.2002 and No C 278 of 19.11.2003.

If, by 1.3.2004, no air carrier has commenced or is about to commence a scheduled air service between Glasgow and Barra in accordance with the PSO imposed and without requesting compensation, the United Kingdom has decided, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4(1)(d) of the above-mentioned regulation, to continue to limit access to this route to a single air carrier and to offer the right to operate such a service from 1.4.2004 by public tender.

2. **Object of Invitation to Tender:** Operation from 1.4.2004 of a scheduled air service between Glasgow and Barra in accordance with the public service obligation imposed on the route and published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 387/06 of 21.12.1996, as modified in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 355/04 of 8.12.1999 and No C 310/08 of 13/12/2002 and No C 278 of 19.11.2003.

3. **Participation:** Participation is open to all air carriers holding a valid operating licence issued by a Member State in accordance with Council Regulation (EEC) No 2407/92 on 23.7.1992 on licensing of air carriers. The service will operate under the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) regulatory regime.

4. **Tender Procedure:** This invitation to tender is subject to the provisions of Article 4(1)(d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) of Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92.

5. **Tender Dossier/Qualifications etc.:** The complete tender documentation, including form of tender, specification, conditions of contract/schedule to the conditions of contract, as well as the text of the original public service obligation published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 387/06 of 21.12.1996, as modified in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 355/04 of 8.12.1999 and No C 310/08 of 13.12.2002 and No C 278 of 19.11.2003, may be obtained free of charge from the awarding authority as follows:

Scottish Executive Enterprise,  
Transport and Lifelong Learning Department, Transport Division 2/2,  
Victoria Quay,  
UK-Edinburgh EH6 6QQ.  
Tel.: (44-131) 244 08 54.  
Fax: (44-131) 244 08 71.  
Att: Grace McGuire, SEETLLD - Transport Division 2/2.

Airlines will be required to include in their tender documents, evidence of their financial standing (an annual report and audited accounts for the past 3 years must be provided and must include turnover and pre-tax profit for the past 3 years), previous experience and technical capability to provide the service described. The awarding authority reserves the right to solicit further information about any applicant's financial and technical resources and abilities.

Tenders should be priced in sterling and all supporting documents must be in English. The contract shall be considered as a contract made under Scottish Law and subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Scottish courts.

6. **Financial Compensation:** Tenders submitted should indicate the amount required by way of grant for operating the service for 2 years from the scheduled starting date (with an analysis for each year). The grant should be calculated in accordance with the specification. The maximum limit finally granted may be revised only in the event of an unforeseen change in the operating conditions.

The contract will be awarded by the Scottish Ministers. All payments under the contract will be in sterling.

7. **Period of validity, amendment and termination of the contract:** A 2-year contract commencing 1.4.2004 will terminate on 31.3.2006. Any amendment or termination of the contract will be in accordance with the conditions of contract. Variations in the service will be permitted only with the agreement of the awarding authority.

8. **Penalties in the event of the carrier failing to comply with the contract:** In the event of the carrier failing to operate a flight for any reason then, subject as aftermentioned, the Scottish Ministers may reduce the grant on a pro rata basis for each occasion on which a flight is not operated provided that the Scottish Ministers shall not make any such reduction in the grant where the failure to operate the flight is as a consequence of any of the following, and the appropriate occurrence has not arisen as a consequence of the acts or omissions of the carrier:

- weather/tidal conditions;
- closure of the airports;
- security reasons;

— strikes;

— reasons of safety.

An explanation from the carrier for such non-operation is also required in accordance with the conditions of contract.

9. **Deadline for submission of bids:** 1 month after the date of publication of this notice.
10. **Application procedure:** Tenders must be sent to the address at 5 above. Persons admitted to open tenders are designated staff from the Scottish Executive's Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department and Procurement and Commercial Services Division at the Scottish Executive.
11. **Validity of invitations to tender:** In accordance with Article 4(1)(d) of Regulation (EEC) No 2408/92, the validity of this invitation to tender is subject to the condition that no Community air carrier presents, by 1.3.2004, a programme for operating the route in question from 1.4.2004 or before that date, in accordance with the PSO imposed, as amended, without receiving any subsidy.
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**NOTICE OF CALL FOR PROPOSALS****EuropeAid/117489/C/G — Action against antipersonnel landmines**

(2003/C 279/10)

The European Commission is seeking proposals for supporting actions against antipersonnel landmines in Sri Lanka, Laos, Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea-Bissau with financial assistance from the antipersonnel landmines programme of the European Communities.

The full Guidelines for Applicants are available for consultation at the European Commission, EuropeAid/F6, Attn. Ms Pascale Noel, office J-54 1/140, Rue de Genève 1-3-5, B-1140 Brussels and on the following internet site:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/cgi/frame12.pl>

The deadline for submission of proposals is **19 February 2004, at 16h00** (Brussels Time).

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## NOTICE

On 21 November 2003, in the *Official Journal of the European Union* C 280 A, the 'Common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species — Fifth supplement to the 22nd complete edition' will be published.

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