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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

7 April 2004

(2004/C 88/01)

1 euro =

Currency		Exchange rate	Currency		Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,2101	LVL	Latvian lats	0,6513
JPY	Japanese yen	127,94	MTL	Maltese lira	0,4246
DKK	Danish krone	7,4456	PLN	Polish zloty	4,7231
GBP	Pound sterling	0,6586	ROL	Romanian leu	40 865
SEK	Swedish krona	9,1615	SIT	Slovenian tolar	238,38
CHF	Swiss franc	1,5583	SKK	Slovak koruna	40,16
ISK	Iceland króna	87,53	TRL	Turkish lira	1 604 377
NOK	Norwegian krone	8,3835	AUD	Australian dollar	1,5871
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9461	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,5821
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,5862	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	9,4329
CZK	Czech koruna	32,779	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,8366
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	SGD	Singapore dollar	2,0293
HUF	Hungarian forint	248,10	KRW	South Korean won	1 383,45
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4527	ZAR	South African rand	7,6678

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

Decision not to object to State aid measures that will be regarded as existing aid within the meaning of Article 88(1) of the EC Treaty upon accession

(2004/C 88/02)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. In 2003, in accordance with the procedure provided for in Annex IV, Chapter 3, paragraph (1)(c) (under Article 22) of the Treaty of Accession of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia to the European Union ('Accession Treaty'), Acceding Countries have submitted to the Commission those measures that they wish to be regarded as existing aid within the meaning of Article 88(1) of the EC Treaty but which are not provided for expressly in the Accession Treaty.

2. Until 31 August 2003 the measures included in the attached list were accepted by the Commission as existing aid measures within the meaning of Article 88(1).

3. The Acceding Countries concerned have been informed about the relevant Commission decisions by means of a letter from the Commissioner for Competition.

APPENDIX

LIST OF EXISTING AID MEASURES REFERRED TO IN POINT 1(c) OF THE EXISTING AID MECHANISM PROVIDED FOR IN CHAPTER 3 OF ANNEX IV OF THE ACCESSION TREATY

COMP No			Title of the aid measure (in original language)	Title of the aid measure	Duration	Date of Commission Decision	Budget Euro	Type of aid measure
MS	No	Yr						
CY ⁽¹⁾	1	2003	Οικονομική ενίσχυση του φορέα «Pafos Aphrodite Festival Cyprus» για διοργάνωση του φεστιβάλ «Αφροδίτη» Πάφου	Subsidy to 'Pafos Aphrodite Festival Cyprus' for the organisation of the 'Aphrodite' Festival in Pafos	Approved on an annual basis	28.7.2003	EUR 0,3 million in total	Individual aid
CY	2	2003	Σχέδιο επιχορήγησης για τη δημιουργία, αναβάθμιση ή και συμπλήρωση αθλητικών εγκαταστάσεων με στόχο την ανάπτυξη και προώθηση του αθλητικού τουρισμού	Grant scheme for the creation, upgrading or and completion of sport installations in order to develop and promote sport tourism	30.6.2007	28.7.2003	EUR 0,3 million per year	Aid scheme
CZ ⁽²⁾	4	2003	Investiční pobídka pro společnost Spolek pro chemickou a hutní výrobu s.r.o.	Investment incentive for the company Spolek pro chemickou a hutní výrobu s.r.o.	10 years from fulfilling the conditions	28.7.2003	EUR 11,6 million in total	Individual aid
CZ	7	2003	Investiční pobídka pro společnost KS Katalog — Servis, s.r.o.	Investment incentive for the company KS Katalog — Servis, s.r.o.	5 years from fulfilling the conditions	28.7.2003	EUR 4,7 million in total	Individual aid
CZ	8	2003	Investiční pobídka pro společnost Linde Frigera spol. s.r.o.	Investment incentive for the company Linde Frigera spol. s.r.o.	5 years from fulfilling the conditions	28.7.2003	EUR 15,8 million in total	Individual aid

COMP No			Title of the aid measure (in original language)	Title of the aid measure	Duration	Date of Commission Decision	Budget Euro	Type of aid measure
MS	No	Yr						
CZ	11	2003	Investiční pobídka pro společnost IMI International s.r.o.	Investment incentive for the company IMI International s.r.o.	5 years from fulfilling the conditions	28.7.2003	EUR 7,4 million in total	Individual aid
CZ	13	2003	Investiční pobídka pro společnost Meopta-Optika a.s.	Investment incentive for the company Meopta-Optika a.s.	3 years from the date of decision promising investment incentives, at minimum	28.7.2003	EUR 4,3 million in total	Individual aid
EE ⁽³⁾	1	2003	Tehnoloogia arenduskeskuste programm	Collaborative Research Program of Technology Agency	Jan. 2003 to 31. Dec. 2007	28.7.2003	EUR 1,6 million per year	Aid scheme
EE	2	2003	Kredex-i ekspordigarantiid	KredEx Export guarantees	2001 to 30. Jan. 2005	28.7.2003	EUR 2,8 million per year	Aid scheme
LV ⁽⁴⁾	1	2003	Finansējums sabiedriskās nozīmes programmu veidošanai un pārraidīšanai	Financing for Creation and Broadcasting of General Interest Programms	24.1.2002.-31.12.2006. It might be prolonged as long as the Law imposing the obligation to provide service of general interest will be in force	28.7.2003	EUR 7 million 2000 and 2001; EUR 7,3 million in 2002; EUR 8,2 million planned in 2003	Individual aid
LV	2	2003	Makulatūras pārstrāde, ražojot videi draudzīgu iepakojumu	Processing of Waste Paper through Production of Environment Friendly Packing	1999-2009	28.7.2003	EUR 1,2 million in total	Individual aid
LV	3	2003	Nelaukaimnieciskās uzņēmējdarbības attīstība	The Development of Non-Agricultural Entrepreneurial Activities	2002-2004 (till the accession of Latvia into the EU)	28.7.2003	EUR 4,0 million per year	Aid scheme
LI ⁽⁵⁾	2	2003	Valstybės pagalba uždarai akcinei bendrovei „Sparta“	State aid to the Joint Stock Company 'Sparta'	12/2000-12/2004	28.7.2003	EUR 0,8 million in total	Individual aid
LI	3	2003	Valstybės pagalba akcinei bendrovei „Dvarčionių keramika“	State aid to the Joint Stock Company 'Dvarcioniu Keramika'	31.12.2002	28.7.2003	EUR 0,4 million in total	Individual aid
LI	4	2003	Valstybės pagalba akcinei bendrovei „Dvarčionių keramika“	State aid to the Joint Stock Company 'Dvarcioniu Keramika'	31.7.2005	28.7.2003	EUR 0,023 million in total	Individual aid
LI	5	2003	Valstybės pagalba akcinei bendrovei „Trys sezonai“	State aid to the Joint Stock Company 'Trys Sezonai'	12/2002-12/2007	28.7.2003	EUR 1,2 million in total	Individual aid

COMP No			Title of the aid measure (in original language)	Title of the aid measure	Duration	Date of Commission Decision	Budget Euro	Type of aid measure
MS	No	Yr						
LI	6	2003	Valstybės pagalba uždarai akcinei bendrovei „Ranga IV“	State aid to the Joint Stock Company 'Ranga IV'	1/2003 (duration of the investment project is 2003-2006)	28.7.2003	EUR 0,3 million in total	Individual aid
SI ⁽⁶⁾	2	2003	Zasavska garancijska shema	Zasavje guarantee scheme	31.12.2012	28.7.2003	EUR 0,2 million per year	Aid scheme
SI	3	2003	Pomurska garancijska shema	Pomurje guarantee scheme	31.12.2012	28.7.2003	EUR 0,1 million per year	Aid scheme
SI	4	2003	Spodbujanje izrabe obnovljivih virov energije, učinkovite rabe energije in soproizvodnje toplotne in električne energije	The stimulating of the exploitation of renewed sources of energy, effective usage of energy and co-production heat and electric energy	31.12.2006	28.7.2003	EUR 2,5 million per year	Aid scheme
SK ⁽⁷⁾	1	2003	K&S INTERNATIONAL, s.r.o., Bardejov	K&S INTERNATIONAL, s.r.o., Bardejov	2001-2004	15.7.2003	EUR 0,069 million in total	Individual aid
SK	2	2003	AUTO PELA, s.r.o., Trnava	AUTO PELA, s.r.o., Trnava	2001-2006	15.7.2003	EUR 0,027 million in total	Individual aid
SK	3	2003	VS-MONT, s.r.o., Lazy pod Makytou	VS-MONT, s.r.o., Lazy pod Makytou	2001-2006	15.7.2003	EUR 0,049 million in total	Individual aid
SK	4	2003	HYGAL, s.r.o., Trnava	HYGAL, s.r.o., Trnava	2001-2004	15.7.2003	EUR 0,028 million in total	Individual aid
SK	5	2003	AUTOKOMPLEX, spol. s.r.o., Nováky	AUTOKOMPLEX, Ltd, Nováky	2001-2008	15.7.2003	EUR 0,036 million in total	Individual aid
SK	6	2003	SOVEX-BC, spol. s.r.o., Zlaté Moravce	SOVEX-BC, Ltd, Zlaté Moravce	2001-2004	15.7.2003	EUR 0,019 million in total	Individual aid
SK	7	2003	KÁVOMATY, s.r.o., Kežmarok	KÁVOMATY, Ltd, Kežmarok	2001-2006	15.7.2003	EUR 0,025 million in total	Individual aid
SK	8	2003	REGADA, s.r.o., Prešov	REGADA, Ltd, Prešov	2001-2004	15.7.2003	EUR 0,02 million in total	Individual aid
SK	9	2003	JOCHMAN-NETZSCH, s.r.o., Spišská Nová Ves	JOCHMAN-NETZSCH, Ltd, Spišská Nová Ves	2001-2006	15.7.2003	EUR 0,027 million in total	Individual aid
SK	10	2003	BRANCH TRADING, s.r.o., Senica	BRANCH TRADING, Ltd, Senica	2001-2006	15.7.2003	EUR 0,061 million in total	Individual aid
SK	11	2003	BENMOTO, s.r.o., Horné Orešany	BENMOTO, Ltd, Horné Orešany	2001-2009	15.7.2003	EUR 0,025 million in total	Individual aid

COMP No			Title of the aid measure (in original language)	Title of the aid measure	Duration	Date of Commission Decision	Budget Euro	Type of aid measure
MS	No	Yr						
SK	12	2003	CELLTEX, s.r.o., Ivanka pri Dunaji	CELLTEX, Ltd, Ivanka pri Dunaji	2001-2005	15.7.2003	EUR 0,018 million in total	Individual aid
SK	13	2003	TOMIREX SLOVAKIA, s.r.o., Košice	TOMIREX SLOVAKIA, Ltd, Košice	2001-2007	15.7.2003	EUR 0,02 million in total	Individual aid
SK	14	2003	MATADOR, a.s., Púchov	MATADOR, joint stock company, Púchov	2003-2006	15.7.2003	EUR 0,009 million in total	Individual aid
SK	15	2003	Ecco Slovakia, a.s., Martin	Ecco Slovakia, joint stock company, Martin	2003-2006	15.7.2003	EUR 0,15 million in total	Individual aid
SK	18	2003	Boge Slovakia, a.s., Trnava	Boge Slovakia, joint stock company, Trnava	2002-2006	15.7.2003	EUR 3,7 million in total	Individual aid
SK	19	2003	BARLO PLASTICS SLOVAKIA, s.r.o., Žilina	BARLO PLASTICS SLOVAKIA, Ltd, Žilina	2002-2006	15.7.2003	EUR 2,2 million in total	Individual aid
SK	21	2003	Gábor, spol. s.r.o., Bánovcen/Bebravou	Gábor, Ltd, Bánovcen/Bebravou	2005-2014	15.7.2003	EUR 2,8 million in total	Individual aid
SK	24	2003	EKOM, spol. s.r.o., Piešťany	EKOM, Ltd, Piešťany	2000-2006	15.7.2003	EUR 0,046 million in total	Individual aid

(¹) CY — Cyprus

(²) CZ — Czech Republic

(³) EE — Estonia

(⁴) LV — Latvia

(⁵) LI — Lithuania

(⁶) SI — Slovenia

(⁷) SK — Slovakia

Publication of an application for registration pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin

(2004/C 88/03)

This publication confers the right to object to the application pursuant to Articles 7 and 12d of the abovementioned Regulation. Any objection to this application must be submitted via the competent authority in a Member State, in a WTO member country or in a third country recognized in accordance with Article 12(3) within a time limit of six months from the date of this publication. The arguments for publication are set out below, in particular under 4.6, and are considered to justify the application within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92.

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 2081/92

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION: ARTICLE 5

PDO (x) PGI ()

National application No: 86

1. *Responsible Department in the Member State*

Name: Subdirección General de Sistemas de Calidad Diferenciada — Dirección General de Alimentación — Secretaría General de Agricultura y Alimentación del Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación de España

Address: Paseo Infanta Isabel, 1, E-28071 Madrid

Tel. (34) 913 47 53 94

Fax (34) 913 47 54 10

2. *Applicant group*

2.1. Name: S.C.A. Ntra. Sra. de los Remedios, Avda. Manuel de Falla s/n, E-11690 Olvera (Cádiz)

S.C.A. San Antón, Avda. de Andalucía, 8, E-41670 Pruna (Sevilla)

Aceites Blázquez S.L., Avda. de Andalucía, 18, E-41670 Pruna (Sevilla)

Almazara El Salado, C/ Vitoria, 22, E-11690 Olvera (Cádiz)

SAT 1 184 San José Obrero, Ctra. Morón — Algodonales s/n, E-41780 Coripe (Sevilla)

S.C.A. El Agro, Ctra. Setenil — Alcalá del Valle s/n, E-11692 Setenil de las Bodegas (Cádiz)

Almazara Las Pilas, C/ Socorro, 32, E-11690 Olvera (Cádiz)

Almazara El Vínculo, Ctra. Zahara — Grazalema Km. 1, E-11688 Zahara de la Sierra (Cádiz)

2.2. *Address*

Name: Ceder Sierra de Cádiz S.A.

Address: Castillo Palacio de los Ribera, plaza Alcalde José González s/n
E-11640 Bornos (Cádiz)

Tel. (34) 956 72 90 00

Fax (34) 956 72 82 63

2.3. Composition: Producer/processor (x) Other ()

3. *Type of product*: Extra virgin olive oil — Class 1.5 Oils and fats

4. *Specification*

(Summary of requirements under Article 4(2))

4.1. Name: 'Sierra de Cádiz'

- 4.2. Description: Extra virgin olive oil obtained from olives of the olive tree (*Olea Europea* L) belonging to the *Lechín de Sevilla*, *Manzanilla*, *Verdial de Huevar*, *Verdial de Cádiz*, *Hojiblanca*, *Picual*, *Alameña de Montilla* and *Arbequina* varieties. Its characteristics are: acidity: maximum 0,6°; peroxide value: maximum 18 meq of active oxygen per kg; absorbency in the ultraviolet (k_{270}): maximum 0,20; humidity: maximum 0,1 per 100; impurities: maximum 0,1 per 100; organoleptic marking by panel of tasters: minimum 6,7 points.

The oils have the medium to intense fruity aroma of the green or ripe olive, reminiscent of wild fruits, with a slightly bitter and sharp flavour, well-balanced and pleasing to the palate.

4.3. Geographical area

Location and delimitation of the area

The area in which the oil is produced, processed and packaged coincides with a natural sub-region within the Sierra de Cádiz region, occupying the north-eastern part of that province. It is hemmed in between sierras such as those of Lijar and Algodonales and closed off in the south-west by the Sierra de Grazalema. It lies adjacent to the 'Sierra de Grazalema' National Park, in which two of the municipalities forming part of it are situated, a factor demonstrating the area's special environmental characteristics.

Municipalities concerned

It covers seven municipalities in the province of Cadiz: Alcalá del Valle, Algodonales, Olvera, El Gastor, Setenil de las Bodegas, Torrealháquime, Zahara de la Sierra, and two in the province of Seville: Coripe and Pruna.

Processing and packaging area

The processing and packaging area coincides with the production area.

- 4.4. Proof of origin: The olive groves, oil mills and/or packaging plants listed in the Regulating Board's register will be subjected to regular inspections for the purpose of monitoring and verifying compliance with their obligations.

Olive grove inspections will involve data being collected on the groves' state of health and on plant health treatments carried out. Inspections at oil mills and/or packaging plants will include taking samples of products and collecting data relating to the intake of olives, the processing and storage of olive oil and the volume of production.

The registered oil mill and/or packaging plant will submit an application, using a special form, to have a batch of olive oil certified. This procedure will lead to the Regulating Board taking the relevant samples and to the stores being subsequently sealed until the packaging of the oil.

For a batch of product to qualify for certification, it must comply with the administrative, technical and legal requirements set out in the Regulation and the *Manual de Calidad* (quality control manual). The Regulating Board will decide whether or not to certify a batch on the basis of a file submitted giving information about inspections and the results of analyses, and of other documents in its archives.

When a batch has been certified, packaging will be undertaken under the supervision of the Regulating Board. On the packaging, a back label must appear identifying the designation of origin and bearing, in addition to the name 'Sierra de Cádiz' and the logo, a unique serial number.

4.5. Method of production

Processing is limited to extracting from the olive its juice, all of whose characteristics are retained, and obtaining a natural product appreciated for its distinct qualities.

The various aspects featuring in the production of virgin olive oil of the *Sierra de Cádiz* designation of origin are set out below:

Fixed factors and cultivation techniques

The traditional groves are over 100 years old, have steep slopes and are divided into numerous parcels. There is no practice of irrigation; the land is tilled, and on parcels not suited to mechanisation tilling with mules continues.

Harvesting and transport

Two factors are to be borne in mind: the timing of the harvest and the method used.

Harvesting takes place over a period extending from November to February/March. The picking methods are different but tend always to be along traditional lines, inflicting the least possible damage to the fruit.

An essential feature of olive picking in the *Sierra de Cádiz* is the separating of the fruit picked directly from the tree from that on the ground.

Conditions of transport ensure that the fruit suffers as little as possible.

Intake of the olives

Prior to their arrival at the oil mill, the olives from the ground are separated from those from the tree.

Phases in the processing procedure

The most appropriate machinery and procedures are used for the purpose of obtaining the best extra virgin olive oil. The phases are as follows: cleaning and washing, storage, pressing, crushing, separating the liquid matter from the solid matter (systems in two or three phases) and separating the various liquid phases (by centrifugation or a mixed system).

Packaging and storage

The store or cellar is the place where the olive oil will remain until it is marketed. The extra virgin olive oils protected by the designation of origin are always packaged in glass bottles. Bottling in the area of origin is compulsory in order better to safeguard the quality and authenticity of the product and, consequently, the reputation of the designation of origin, for which the holders assume full and collective responsibility. Checks in the production area under the responsibility of the holders of the designation of origin are detailed and systematic and are carried out by professionals with a specialised knowledge of the characteristics of the product. It would be difficult effectively to carry out the checks necessary to guarantee the product outside the production area.

- 4.6. Link: It is the natural mix of varieties, '*Lechín*' being the leading one, and the characteristics and peculiarities of this sierra region that have produced an extra virgin olive oil featuring differing qualities known from early times as '*aceite de la Sierra de Cádiz*' (*Sierra de Cadiz olive oil*).

Background

The olive cultivation tradition in this area has over the ages been reflected in various writings and accounts, the most representative examples of which are as follows:

'Olvera', a township whose name comes from the Arabic name 'Wubira', which in turn stems from the existence in that area of a multitude of 'oliveras' (cf. Olvera), i.e. olive groves ('olivares').

The works of Madoz and Igartuburu, among others, dating back to the 18th century, recount that the olive oils from Algodonales are first-rate, both as regards quantity and quality.

Pruna and its long-standing tradition should also be mentioned: in 1886 a family oil mill was set up there and is still operational today. Also, the Illustrated Geographical Dictionary dating back to 1833 tells us that in Setenil de las Bodegas there were four oil mills. The dictionary also mentions Zahara de la Sierra and its wonderful olive oil, which is described as '*agreste, montaraz, frutado como ningún otro*' (rustic, rugged and fruity as no other).

In El Gastor, four oil mills operated in the post war period; two of these are preserved today as vestiges of the past.

Physical link

Physical features:

Orography:

The *Sierra de Cádiz* region features two different types of relief: on one side, the Grazalema massif and on the other, the north-western part where the olive-growing areas proper are situated; the Guadalete River separates these two constituent parts.

Soils:

The soils of the *Sierra de Cádiz* are poor, ruling out most crops, except arable ones in flat areas and olives on the steeper slopes.

Climate:

The *Sierra de Cádiz* enjoys a very different type of climate from the rest of the province on account of its altitude, which can reach 1 800 meters. It is among the coldest areas in the province of Cadiz, owing to its distance from the sea. Rainfall is in excess of 600 litres per year.

Production conditions:

It is in the areas of the *Sierra de Cádiz* where other crops cannot thrive that groves are situated, olive trees finding it easy to take root on marginal land, slopes and stony terrain. The holdings are small, many of them with a surface area of between 5 and 10 hectares, and olives are their main crop.

The groves are generally old and situated on land where mechanisation is difficult, their high degree of adaptability having encouraged their establishment on the most marginal land. The steepness of many parcels' slopes mean that tilling and harvesting are still carried out today with the help of mules.

4.7. Inspection body

Name: Consejo Regulador de la Denominación de Origen 'Sierra de Cádiz'

Address: Polígono Industrial de Olvera s/n, E-11690 Olvera (Cádiz)

Tel. (34) 956 13 00 34

Fax (34) 956 12 05 11

The Regulating Board for the '*Sierra de Cádiz*' designation of origin complies with standard EN 45011.

- 4.8. **Labelling:** Once certification has been accorded by the Regulating Board, the oil mill and packaging plant will be able to package their olive oil in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation on the Designation of Origin.

The labels must be approved by the Regulating Board and the words *Denominación de Origen 'Sierra de Cádiz'* must appear on them.

Back labels must be numbered and issued by the Regulating Board.

4.9. **National requirements**

- Law No 25/1970 of 2 December 1970 on rules governing viticulture, wine and spirits,
- Decree No 835/1972 of 23 March 1972 on detailed rules for the implementation of Law No 25/1970,
- Order of 25 January 1994 specifying the correlation between Spanish law and Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 as regards designations of origin and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs,
- Royal Decree No 1643/1999 of 22 October 1999 on the procedure governing applications for entry into the Community register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications.

EC No: ES/00219/28.12.2001.

Date of receipt of the full application: 10 December 2003.

Publication of an application for registration pursuant to Article 6(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin

(2004/C 88/04)

This publication confers the right to object to the application pursuant to Articles 7 and 12(d) of the abovementioned Regulation. Any objection to this application must be submitted via the competent authority in a Member State, in a WTO member country or in a third country recognized in accordance with Article 12(3) within a time limit of six months from the date of this publication. The arguments for publication are set out below, in particular under 4.6, and are considered to justify the application within the meaning of Regulation (EEC) No 2081/92.

COUNCIL REGULATION (EEC) No 2081/92

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION: ARTICLE 5

PDO (x) PGI ()

National application No: 112/02

1. *Responsible department in the Member State*

Name: Instituto de Desenvolvimento Rural e Hidráulica

Address: Av. Afonso Costa, n.º 3, P-1949-002 Lisboa

Tel. (351) 218 44 22 00

Fax (351) 218 44 23 16

2. Applicant group

2.1. Name: ESTRELACOOOP – Cooperativa de Produtores de Queijo Serra da Estrela, CRL

2.2. Address: Rua Miguel Bombarda, n.º 20, P-6360 Celorico da Beira

Tel. (351) 271 74 13 21

Fax (351) 271 74 33 21

2.3. Composition: Producer/processor (x) Other ()

3. Type of product: Class 1.4 — Other products of animal origin (milk products)

4. Specification

(Summary of requirements under Article 4(2))

4.1. Name: 'Requeijão Serra da Estrela'

4.2. Description: *Serra da Estrela* curd cheese is the product obtained by precipitation or coagulation by heat of the proteins contained in the whey resulting from the manufacture of *Serra da Estrela* cheese — PDO. Raw milk obtained from sheep of the breeds Bordaleira *Serra da Estrela* and Churra Mondegueira, drinking water and occasionally, in very special and duly authorised circumstances, milk from goats of the *Serrana* or *Jarmelista* varieties of the *Serrana* breed may be added to the whey. *Serra da Estrela* curd cheese takes the form of a creamy and slightly lumpy mellow and uniform white mass. It is moulded by its container (roughly a cylinder with an irregular base) and weighs between 150 and 400 grams per piece. It is consistent, uniformly creamy, easy to cut and white in colour. The taste and odour are agreeable and it melts in the mouth. In chemical terms, it contains 55 % to 60 % water, 19 % to 20 % protein, 18 % to 20 % fat and 1 % to 1,5 % ash (minerals). It was traditionally wrapped in a cabbage leaf and had to be eaten before the leaf wilted. Nowadays, to comply with health rules and because this is a highly perishable product sensitive to microbiological contamination, it is packed in the region of origin and put up for sale in appropriate wrapping (sheets of vegetable paper) which are harmless and inert.

4.3. Geographical area: Because of the soil and climatic conditions and the know-how required to produce the raw material and process it into the product using local, correct and consistent methods and because the product is obtained from *Serra da Estrela* cheese — PDO, the geographical area of production of milk and whey and for obtaining and packaging *Serra da Estrela* cheese is the same as that for the cheese and so covers the same municipalities: Carregal do Sal, Celorico da Beira, Fornos de Algodres, Gouveia, Mangualde, Manteigas, Nelas, Oliveira do Hospital, Penalva do Castelo and Seia; the parishes of Carapito, Cortiçada, Dornelas, Eirado, Forninhos, Pena Verde and Valverde in the municipality of Aguiar da Beira; the parishes of Anceriz, Barril do Alva, Cerdeira, Coja, Pomares and Vila Cova do Alva in the municipality of Arganil; the parishes of Aldeia de Carvalho, Cortes do Meio, Erada, Paul, Sarzedo, Unhais da Serra and Verdelhos in the municipality of Covilhã; the parishes of Aldeia Viçosa, Corujeira, Cavadoúe, Faia, Famalicão, Fernão Joanes, Maçainhas de Baixo, Meios, Mizarela, Pêro Soares, Porto da Carne, São Vicente, Sé, Seixo Amarelo, Vale Amoreira, Trinta, Vale de Estrelas, Valhelhas, Videmonte, Vila Cortez do Mondego and Vila Soeiro in the municipality of Guarda; the parishes of Midões, Póvoa de Midões and Vila Nova de Oliveirinha in the municipality of Tábua; the parishes of Canas de Santa Maria, Ferreirós do Dão, Lageosa Tonda, Lobão da Beira, Molelos, Mosteiro de Fráguas, Nadufe, Parada de Gonta, Sabugosa, São Miguel de Outeiro and Tondela in the municipality of Tondela; the parishes of Aldeia Nova, Carnicães, Feital, Fiães, Freches, Santa Maria, São Pedro, Tamanhos, Torres, Vila Franca das Naves and Vilares in the municipality of Trancoso and the parishes of Fragosela, Povolide, São João de Lourosa and Loureiro de Silgueiros in the municipality of Viseu.

4.4. **Proof of origin:** The sheep and goats' milk may be obtained only from farms within the geographical area which are subject to inspection. The flocks of local breeds of sheep and goats are also inspected with particular regard to breed, feeding, handling, health and milking. The production premises must also be located in the geographical area for the production, manufacturing and packaging of Serra da Estrela cheese. The whole production process from the sheep breeds to their handling and including the transport of the milk, the manufacturing of Serra da Estrela cheese, the collection of the whey, the addition of the remaining raw materials and production of the curd cheese, its packaging and labelling are duly registered and subject to checks by the appropriate Private Inspection and Certification body. Each unit of *Serra da Estrela curd cheese* marketed may also be traced back in full to the farm where the milk was obtained.

4.5. **Method of production:** *Serra da Estrela curd cheese* is manufactured from the whey of Serra da Estrela cheese — PDO, the main raw material. If the cheese is made with salt in the milk, between 10 % and 20 % of water is added to the curds obtained to soften its taste. These are then placed near to a heat source and the water driven off slowly with constant one-way stirring until a temperature of 82 °C is reached. In some plants, sheep's milk is added at this point in a proportion of up to 18 % of the quantity of curd cheese. A few producers also add a small percentage of milk from goats of the Serrana and Jarmelista varieties of the Serrana breed. This must be expressly authorised by the Producers' Group and be mentioned on the label. After stirring, the temperature quickly rises to 96 °C, at which point the proteins (lacto-albumin and lacto-globulin) precipitate by coagulation, forming 'flakes'. They are then removed by skimming or sieving. Traditionally, these flakes were collected in small baskets made of thin chestnut branches, also known as 'açafates', to be separated from the 'sorelho'. The curd cheese is then ready for eating. Nowadays the flakes are collected in a container which, although it has the same shape, is made of harmless inert material. After the 'sorelho' has been separated, the curd cheese is immediately wrapped in vegetable paper as described in 4.2.

Serra da Estrela curd cheese must be prewrapped at its place of origin (in the cheese plant where it is produced) in order to:

- retain the typical features of the product and guarantee that it is genuine and of a high quality — *Serra da Estrela curd cheese* is a fragile product which is perishable for microbiological reasons. Any handling results in a deterioration in its microbiological features and taste. Left unwrapped, it dries out easily, becoming a dry, friable, yellowish lump. The packaging of origin avoids *Serra da Estrela curd cheese* being mixed or confused with other milk coagulates of inferior quality,
- ensure that it is traceable and allow inspections — the packaging of origin normally allows *Serra da Estrela curd cheese* to be sealed with its own certification label attached to both ends so that it cannot be opened and the contents replaced without the consumer knowing. The numbered label is also a key feature in making the product fully traceable.

4.6. **Link:** Since time immemorial agriculture and stock-raising have contributed much of the wealth of the municipalities which make up the Serra da Estrela region. Sheep-rearing using animals suitable for both meat and milk is particularly important and constitutes an important addition to agricultural holdings and the local economy. This activity yields products which, although coming from the same source, differ from each other and complement the economy of the serra: *Borrego Serra da Estrela* — PDO, *Serra da Estrela cheese* — PDO and *Serra da Estrela curd cheese* — DO. Portugal has proof of the manufacture and consumption of cheese and curd cheese in the region of the Montes Hermínios (the present Serra da Estrela) from the time when the Romans occupied the Iberian Peninsula. In a mountain region with few natural resources the need to make full use of milk has always been a basic necessity for producers so it is not surprising that the applicant Group is the same as that for *Serra da Estrela cheese*. The history of *Serra da Estrela curd cheese* is fully documented and its traditional presentation in small straw baskets and wrapped in cabbage or mulberry leaves is well known. The art of producing *Serra da Estrela curd cheese* is regarded as a cultural asset of the geographical area of production since its characteristics are readily apparent and acknowledged by those living there and its usual consumers.

Since this is one of the regions with the largest flocks of sheep and goats of specific breeds typical of this forestry and pastoral region with its particular climate, it is easy to establish the link between the region and its curd cheese. The specific features of this product arise from natural factors — the breeds of animals (Bordaleira Serra da Estrela and Churra Mondegueira sheep and, when appropriate, Serrana goats), specific pastures and climatic conditions not found elsewhere in Portugal — resulting in sheep's milk with particular characteristics. The development of the art and know-how of producing sheep's cheese using as a coagulant thistles (*Cynara cardunculus*) also found in the region, results in whey with unique features, which has a considerable influence on the quality of Serra da Estrela curd cheese.

The manufacture of cheese, butter and curd cheese has provided the region with much of its food and, because of the combination of environmental conditions and the excellent quality of the raw materials, the cheese has become internationally famous for its excellent nutritional qualities and its widely appreciated taste. As far as *Serra da Estrela curd cheese* is concerned, it is not only the economic value derived from making use of whey from the manufacture of cheese but also acknowledgement of its substantial food value. Historically, whey has been used for a wide variety of purposes: as food in its natural state, or processed into curd cheese and butter, as a medicine in special diets for certain diseases and as animal feed. (Hippocrates, 460 years before Christ, advised its consumption in large quantities over long periods). Motta Prego, in his work on butter and cheeses of 1906 noted that Beira exported mainly cheese and wool and had oil and wine for consumption. Poor people lived off their flocks, with maize soaked in whey providing their basic food, particularly for children. While, in the past, whey derived from the production of Serra da Estrela cheese, either on its own or in soups of corn, rye or mixed cereals served in most cases to stave off the hunger of tribes of children from the poorest families in the region, today, since it is product with a high protein and low fat content, it is well appreciated as the final course of a meal or a comforting late-afternoon snack. It may be eaten alone, in milk or coffee, mixed with honey or pumpkin jelly with or without pieces of walnut, hazelnut or almond. *Serra da Estrela curd cheese* is well known among consumers who, irrespective of the form in which they consume it, do not hesitate in associating it with its region of origin. In short, it is easy to establish a vital link between sheep of the breeds local to the region, its pasture lands, which are typical in terms of soil and climate, the type of milk produced, the know-how of the shepherds and cheese-makers and the quality features of the final product: Serra da Estrela curd cheese.

4.7. Inspection body

Name: Beira Tradição — Certificação de Produtos da Beira, LDA

Address: Urbanização Auto Mecânica, n.º 8, r/c, P-6000 Castelo Branco

Tel. (351) 272 32 98 43

Fax (351) 272 32 98 43

- 4.8. Labelling: Compulsory: Requeijão Serra da Estrela — Denominação de Origem, list of ingredients, use-by date, quantity of liquid, name and address of the producer, batch, storage temperature, serially numbered quality mark and Certification Label showing the name of the product and the name of the certifying body.

4.9. National requirements: —

EC No: PO/00235/16.5.2002.

Date of receipt of the full application: 22 January 2004.

Commission communication in the framework of the implementation of Council Directive 90/396/EEC of 29 June 1990 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to appliances burning gaseous fuels ⁽¹⁾

(2004/C 88/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(Publication of titles and references of European harmonised standards under the Directive)

ESO ⁽¹⁾	Reference	Title of the harmonised standards
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Warning: The presumption of conformity, conferred by standard EN 676 of 1996 published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* C 216, 17 July 1997, ends from the date of this publication.

CEN	EN 676:2003	Automatic forced draught burners for gaseous fuels
CEN	EN 30-1-4:2002	Domestic cooking appliances burning gas — Part 1-4: Safety — Appliances having one or more burners with an automatic burner control system
CEN	EN 1266:2002	Independent gas-fired convection heaters incorporating a fan to assist transportation of combustion air and/or flue gases

⁽¹⁾ ESO: European standardisation organisations:

- CEN: rue de Stassart 36, B-1050 Bruxelles; tel. (32-2) 550 08 11, fax (32-2) 550 08 19 (<http://www.cenorm.be>)
- Cenelec: rue de Stassart 35, B-1050 Bruxelles; tel. (32-2) 519 68 71, fax (32-2) 519 69 19 (<http://www.cenelec.org>)
- ETSI: 650, route des Lucioles, F-06921 Sophia Antipolis; tel. (33-4) 92 94 42 00, fax (33-4) 93 65 47 16 (<http://www.etsi.org>).

NOTE:

- Any information concerning the availability of the standards can be obtained either from the European standardisation organisations or from the national standardisation bodies ⁽²⁾ of which the list is annexed to the European Parliament and Council Directive 98/34/EC ⁽³⁾ amended by the Directive 98/48/EC ⁽⁴⁾.
- Publication of the references in the *Official Journal of the European Union* does not imply that the standards are available in all the Community languages.
- Further Harmonised Standards relating to appliances burning gaseous fuels have been published in previous editions of the *Official Journal of the European Union*. A complete updated list can be found on the Europa-Server in the Internet at:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/newapproach/standardization/harmstds/reflist/appligas.html>

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 196, 26.7.1990, p. 15.

⁽²⁾ <http://www.cenorm.be/aboutcen/whatis/membership/members.htm>

⁽³⁾ OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p. 37.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 217, 5.8.1998, p. 18.

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3403 — JP Morgan/Bank One)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2004/C 88/06)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 2 April 2004 the Commission received a 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 J.P. Morgan Chase & Co ('JPMC', USA) and Bank One Corporation ('Bank One', USA) enter into a full merger within the meaning of Article 3(1)(a) of the Regulation by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— JPMC: Financial services,

— Bank One: Financial services.

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 a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under 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.3403 — JP Morgan/Bank One, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Merger Registry,
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.3392 — WestLB/Klöckner)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(2004/C 88/07)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 1 April 2004 the Commission received a 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 German undertaking WestLB AG ('West LB') acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of the whole of the German undertaking Klöckner & Co. AG ('Klöckner') by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— WestLB: financial services,

— Klöckner: trading, distribution and processing of steel and other metal 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 a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under 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.3392 — WestLB/Klöckner, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Merger Registry,
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.

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty**Cases where the Commission raises no objections**

(2004/C 88/08)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Date of adoption of the decision:	27.2.2004
Member State:	The Netherlands — North Netherlands (part of the 87.3.c areas)
Aid No:	N 561/03
Title:	Modification of the Investment Premium Scheme North Netherlands 2000 (IPR 2000) (approved under aid N 764/99)
Objective:	Regional development
Legal basis:	Verordening Investeringspremieregeling Noord-Nederland 2000 (IPR 2000)
Budget:	Unchanged
Aid intensity or amount:	Unchanged
Duration:	2004-2006

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

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

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

of 1 April 2004

at the request of the Council of the European Union on a recommendation by the Commission of the European Communities for a Council decision on the position to be taken by the Community regarding an agreement concerning the monetary relations with the Principality of Andorra (SEC(2004) 204 final)

(CON/2004/12)

(2004/C 88/09)

1. On 27 February 2004 the European Central Bank (ECB) received a request from the Council of the European Union for an opinion on a recommendation by the Commission of the European Communities for a Council decision on the position to be taken by the Community regarding an agreement concerning the monetary relations with the Principality of Andorra (SEC(2004) 204 final) (hereinafter the 'recommendation').

2. The ECB's competence to deliver an opinion on the recommendation is based on Article 111(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Community. In accordance with the first sentence of Article 17.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Central Bank, the Governing Council has adopted this opinion.

3. The recommendation proposes a draft Council decision (hereinafter the 'draft decision') defining the Community's position in the negotiation of a monetary agreement (hereinafter the 'Agreement') between the Community and the Principality of Andorra (hereinafter 'Andorra') concerning the following:

(a) the use of the euro as Andorra's official currency; and

(b) a prohibition on Andorra issuing any banknotes, coins or monetary surrogates without the Community's agreement to the conditions of such issuance; and

(c) the requirement for Andorra to conform with Community rules regarding euro banknotes and coins, including cooperating with the Community on measures to protect euro banknotes and coins against fraud and counterfeiting and adopting rules implementing Community legal acts in the latter domain; and

(d) the adoption by Andorra of all appropriate measures ensuring the application in Andorra of all relevant Community banking and financial legislation, in particular legislation relating to the activities and

supervision of the institutions concerned, and also of all relevant Community legislation on the prevention of money laundering, on the prevention of fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment and on statistical reporting requirements; and

(e) examining the possibility of granting financial institutions located in Andorra access to payment and settlement systems within the euro area subject to appropriate conditions determined in agreement with the ECB and laid down in the Agreement.

It is not intended, however, that the Agreement will provide for the possibility of financial institutions located in Andorra having access to Eurosystem monetary policy operations.

4. The ECB acknowledges that it would be in the Community's interest to open negotiations on a monetary agreement with Andorra. In determining the scope of such an agreement, the historical bonds between Andorra, Spain and France deserve special attention. The ECB considers that an agreement between the Community and Andorra will clarify the legal status of the euro in Andorra. Prior to the introduction of the single currency, Andorra used the French franc and the Spanish peseta. Andorra on 11 October 2000 unilaterally adopted the Law on measures guaranteeing the transition to the euro in the Principality of Andorra ⁽¹⁾ to which certain Council Regulations on the introduction of the euro ⁽²⁾ were annexed. The ECB considers that a third country should only introduce the euro following agreement with the Community.

⁽¹⁾ Llei reguladora de les mesures per garantir la transició cap a l'euro al Principat d'Andorra, Butlletí Oficial, 8 November 2000.

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 1103/97 of 17 June 1997 on certain provisions relating to the introduction of the euro (OJ L 162, 19.6.1997, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 2595/2000 (OJ L 300, 29.11.2000, p. 1)), Council Regulation (EC) No 974/98 of 3 May 1998 on the introduction of the euro (OJ L 139, 11.5.1998, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 2596/2000 (OJ L 300, 29.11.2000, p. 2)) and Council Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 of 31 December 1998 on the conversion rates between the euro and the currencies of the Member States adopting the euro (OJ L 359, 31.12.1998, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1478/2000 (OJ L 167, 7.7.2000, p. 1)).

5. The ECB notes that Article 3 of the draft decision provides the basis for Andorra to be authorised to use the euro as its official currency and to grant legal tender status to euro banknotes and coins. A logical consequence of this is that Andorra should undertake to conform with Community rules on euro banknotes and coins, as provided for in Article 5(1) of the draft decision.
6. The ECB concurs with the proposal to impose an obligation on Andorra to cooperate closely with the Community in the fight against counterfeiting and fraud involving euro banknotes and coins as laid down in Article 5(2) of the draft decision. As to placing Andorra under an obligation to adopt rules implementing Community legal acts in this domain, this should not be limited to Community legal acts adopted under the first pillar but also cover legal acts adopted under the third pillar, such as Council Framework Decision of 29 May 2000 on increasing protection by criminal penalties and other sanctions against counterfeiting in connection with the introduction of the euro ⁽¹⁾.
7. The ECB welcomes Article 6(1) of the draft decision, the objective of which is also to apply the legal framework applying to financial institutions located in the Community to financial institutions located in Andorra, thereby both protecting the single currency and ensuring a level playing field. In view of the importance of legislation regarding the prevention of systemic risks in payment and securities clearing and settlement systems, the ECB recommends explicitly mentioning this area in the list of relevant Community legislation to be applied by Andorra.
8. The ECB equally welcomes the fact that under Article 6(1) of the draft decision, Andorra will undertake to adopt all appropriate measures to apply all relevant Community legislation on statistical reporting requirements. The ECB's statistical framework is sufficiently flexible to be applied by third countries, and statistical information provided by these countries may provide useful information for the conduct of the ESCB's tasks.
9. Article 6(2) of the draft decision provides that the Agreement may grant financial institutions located in Andorra access to payment and settlement systems within the euro area subject to the ECB's consent. In the ECB's opinion, this would only be possible on condition that the Andorran financial system develops significantly. The appropriate conditions for granting such access will need to be laid down in the Agreement itself.
10. The ECB welcomes the fact that negotiations on behalf of the Community will be conducted by the Commission with full association of Spain and France and association of the ECB in all aspects of the negotiations falling within its fields of competence.
11. Finally, the ECB would like to emphasise that the opening of negotiations with Andorra on a monetary agreement should in no way be seen as setting a precedent for opening negotiations on monetary agreements between the Community and other third countries in the future. In this context the ECB notes that the absence to date of formal monetary arrangements between Andorra and any Member State reflects the fact that, unlike the Republic of San Marino, the Vatican City and the Principality of Monaco, Andorra did not become a sovereign State until 1993. This could also explain why Andorra was not included in Declaration No 6 on monetary relations with the Republic of San Marino, the Vatican City and the Principality of Monaco annexed to the Treaty on European Union ⁽²⁾.

Done at Frankfurt am Main, 1 April 2004.

The President of the ECB

Jean-Claude TRICHET

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 140, 14.6.2000, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 191, 29.7.1992, p. 99.

OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

of 31 March 2004

at the request of the Council of the European Union regarding a proposal for a Council regulation on the conversion rates between the euro and the currencies of the Member States adopting the euro (codified version)

(CON/2004/10)

(2004/C 88/10)

1. On 2 February 2004, the European Central Bank (ECB) received a request from the Council of the European Union for an opinion on a proposal for a Council regulation on the conversion rates between the euro and the currencies of the Member States adopting the euro (hereinafter the 'proposal for a regulation').
2. The ECB is competent to deliver an opinion since the proposal for a regulation is based on the third sentence of Article 123(4) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, which provides for the consultation of the ECB. In accordance with the first sentence of Article 17.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the ECB, the Governing Council of the ECB has adopted this opinion.
3. With the aim of clarifying and simplifying Community legislative acts that have been amended, the proposal for a regulation codifies in one single text, without any changes of substance, Council Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 of 31 December 1998 on the conversion rates between the euro and the currencies of the Member States adopting the euro ⁽¹⁾ and the instrument amending it. Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 irrevocably fixed the conversion rates between the euro and the currencies of the 11 Member States adopting the euro on 1 January 1999 and was amended by Regulation (EC) No 1478/2000 in order to include the conversion rate between the euro and the Greek drachma. The ECB delivered Opinions CON/98/61 ⁽²⁾ and CON/00/12 ⁽³⁾ on Regulations (EC) Nos 2866/98 and 1478/2000, respectively.
4. The ECB generally welcomes codification of the *acquis communautaire*, and in particular in the field of economic and monetary union, which contributes to a clear, effective and workable legal framework.
5. The ECB is also pleased to note that the proposal for a regulation does not change the substance of Regulations (EC) Nos 2866/98 and 1478/2000. Considering that Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 has only been amended once to include the conversion rate of the Greek drachma, the ECB proposes deleting the word 'substantially' in recital 1 of the proposal for a regulation.
6. The ECB further notes that Regulations (EC) Nos 2866/98 and 1478/2000 were adopted with unanimity on the basis of the first sentence of Article 123(4) and Article 123(5) of the Treaty, respectively. In contrast, the proposal for a regulation is intended to be adopted on the basis of the third sentence of Article 123(4) of the Treaty. This provides that the Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall take the **other** measures necessary for the rapid introduction of the euro as a single currency. The ECB considers that these 'other measures' do not include measures on the conversion rates.
7. The ECB notes that codification is a procedure whereby the acts to be codified are repealed and formally replaced by a new single legal act ⁽⁴⁾. The ECB considers that the fact that codification is not intended to change the substance of the acts does not prevent the codifying act from being adopted on the legal basis required by the contents of the act. In view of paragraph 6 regarding the scope of the measures referred to in the third sentence of Article 123(4) of the Treaty, the ECB raises the question whether this provision constitutes an appropriate legal basis for codifying regulations on conversion rates, such as Regulations (EC) Nos 2866/98 and 1478/2000. Considering that Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 has only been amended once, an alternative solution might be to codify Regulations (EC) Nos 2866/98 and 1478/2000 when the next Council regulation is adopted on the basis of Article 123(5) of the Treaty, i.e. if and when the derogation of a non-euro area Member State is abrogated. If, for whatever (policy) reason, an immediate codification is required, then a more appropriate basis for adopting the codified regulation might be the first sentence of Article 123(4) of the Treaty, preferably in conjunction with Article 123(5) of the Treaty.

Done at Frankfurt am Main, 31 March 2004.

The President of the ECB

Jean-Claude TRICHET

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 359, 31.12.1998, p. 1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1478/2000 (OJ L 167, 7.7.2000, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ OJ C 412, 31.12.1998, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 177, 27.6.2000, p. 11.

⁽⁴⁾ See Interinstitutional Agreement of 20 December 1994, paragraph 1 (OJ C 102, 4.4.1996, p. 2).

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EFTA STATES

Annotated presentation of regulated markets in accordance with Article 16 of Directive 93/22/EEC on investment services in the securities field (ISD)

(2004/C 88/11)

1. Council Directive 93/22 EEC on investment services in the securities field (ISD) authorises each Member State to confer the status of 'regulated market' on those markets constituted on its territory and which comply with its regulations.

2. Article 1(13) of Directive 93/22 EEC defines a 'regulated market' as a market for the financial instruments listed in section B of the annex to the ISD, which;

— is recognised as such by its home Member States (where Home Member State is determined in accordance with Article 1(6)c of the ISD);

— functions regularly;

— is characterised by the fact that regulations issued or approved by the competent authorities define the conditions for the operation of the market, the conditions for access to the market and where Directive 79/279/EEC on admission to official listing is applicable, the conditions governing admission to listing imposed in that Directive and, where that Directive is not applicable, the conditions that must be satisfied by a financial instrument before it can effectively be dealt with on the market;

— complies with all the reporting and transparency requirements laid down pursuant to Articles 20 and 21 of ISD.

3. Article 16 of Directive 93/22 EEC requires that each Member State maintain an updated list of regulated markets authorised by it. This information should be communicated to other Member States and the Commission. Under the same article, the Commission is required to publish a list of regulated markets notified to it on a yearly basis. An annotated presentation of regulated markets in the EU Member States was published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* on 16 November 2002 ⁽¹⁾.

4. Paragraph 6(b) of Protocol 1 to the EEA Agreement requires that where according to an act, facts, procedures, reports and the like are to be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* the corresponding information regarding the EFTA States shall be published in a separate section thereof.

5. The present list was drawn up by the Standing Committee of the EFTA States on the basis of information supplied by the EFTA States concerned. The list indicates the title of the individual markets, which are recognised by national competent authorities as complying with the definition of 'regulated market'. In addition, it indicates the entity responsible for managing these markets and the competent authority responsible for issuing or approving the rules of the market.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 280, 16.11.2002, p. 2.

Country	Title of regulated market	Operating entity	Competent authority for designation and oversight of market
Iceland	1. Kauphöll Íslands hf. (Iceland Stock Exchange Ltd — official market) 2. Tilboðsmarkaður VÞÍ (Regulated OTC Market — not official listing)	1. Iceland Stock Exchange Ltd 2. Iceland Stock Exchange Ltd	Fjármálaeftirlitið (Financial Supervisory Authority)
Liechtenstein	N.A. (*)	N.A. (*)	N.A. (*)
Norway	Oslo Stock Exchange — Equity Market — Derivatives Market — Bonds Market	Oslo Børs ASA	Kredittilsynet (The Banking, Insurance and Securities Commission of Norway)

(*) There is no market and no stock exchange in Liechtenstein.

III

(Notices)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Call for proposals relating to the processing of papers of Members of the European Parliament accumulated in the exercise of their duties and handed over in the form of legal donations or legacies

(2004/C 88/12)

Publication reference: C 88, 8 April 2004.

As part of the policy of making information on the history of European integration available, each year the European Parliament identifies projects that contribute to the processing of the papers of Members and former members of the European Parliament accumulated in the exercise of their duties connected with the European Parliament and handed over in the form of legal donations and legacies to institutes, associations or foundations.

Legal basis

- Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.
- Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.
- Rules on processing the papers of Members of the European Parliament handed over in the form of legal donations or legacies to an institute, association or foundation, adopted by the Bureau of the European Parliament on 2 June 2003.

Programme and source of funding: processing of the papers of Members of the European Parliament

Budget item: 2271 of Section I — Parliament — of the general budget of the European Union.

I. NATURE OF PROJECT, GEOGRAPHICAL AREA AND DURATION OF THE PROJECT

1. **Objective of the project:** To facilitate the processing of and free access to the papers that Members of the European Parliament have assembled in connection with and during their term of office as an MEP. The work forms part of the policy of making information on the history of European integration available which Parliament is pursuing for the benefit of researchers and the citizens of Europe.

2. **Nature of project:** The archival processing of documents accumulated by Members or former Members of the European Parliament (and of the Common Assembly of the ECSC and the European Parliamentary Assembly) during their term of office as an MEP. These documents will have been handed over in the form of donations or legacies to an institute, association or foundation registered with the SPP-ICA and will not yet have been archivally processed. No grant shall be awarded for expenditure incurred before the signing of the specific financing agreement (Article 112 of the Financial Regulation). These activities shall break down as follows:

- Establishment of a filing plan
- Archival processing in accordance with ISAD(G) and ISAAR(CPF) standards
- Scanning and microfilming of documents.

3. **Geographical area:** European Union

4. **Maximum duration:** 30 June 2005 (deadline for submission of the request for payment of the grant balance, following completion of the project).

II. FUNDING

1. **Maximum budget allocated to this call for proposals (this amount may be reduced or increased on the basis of budgetary/practical requirements):** EUR 250 000

2. **Maximum and minimum amount of grants**

- Maximum percentage of the project cost that may be financed from Community funds: 50 % of costs calculated at a rate of up to EUR 9 900 per linear metre \pm 5 000 sheets) for textual documents and EUR 7 per unit for non-textual documents (this percentage shall apply only to expenditure eligible for funding — see point IV.2).
- Minimum amount of grants: EUR 4 950.

The maximum amount of grants shall be determined on the basis of the appropriations available under budget Item 2271.

3. Terms of funding

- 50 % after the list of beneficiaries has been drawn up and after the following two conditions have been met:
 - issue (possibly, at the European Parliament's request), by an authorised banking institution, of a performance bond for the work, executable at first call, and of an amount equal to the first funding instalment;
 - conclusion of a written agreement;
- 50 % after completion of the project and submission of the documents constituting evidence of completion.

4. Number of grants

Only one set of papers may be the subject of grant applications per annum and per applicant.

III. CONDITIONS GOVERNING ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING

1. Conditions governing eligibility

Applicants must:

- (a) be a legal person and a member of the International Council on Archives — Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties (SPP/ICA);
- (b) have a substantial knowledge of archiving;
- (c) have a knowledge and understanding of the rules of professional conduct and the ISAD(G) and ISAAR(CPF) international standards;
- (d) have proven experience in the management of documents relating to parliamentary activities;
- (e) not to be in one of the situations laid down in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation (see grant application form, 'solemn declarations');
- (f) be in a position to produce all supporting documents required to prove that the eligibility, selection and award criteria laid down in this call for proposals and the legal basis have been met, in particular proof of the form, composition and historical significance (for the history of European integration) of the set of papers.

2. Minimum funding conditions

Funding may be awarded to an institute, association or foundation only if:

- (a) The documents have been donated or bequeathed free of charge and subject to the waiver, by their authors, of the

right to consideration for exercising their copyright and in particular their reproduction rights, so that the applicant has and can provide proof of a genuine right to use the set of papers free of charge;

- (b) The archival processing of textual documents is subject to the rules of professional conduct and notably the ISAD(G) and ISAAR(CPF) standards, in accordance with the instructions in Annex 1 to the Rules on processing the papers of Members of the European Parliament handed over in the form of legal donations or legacies to an institute, association or foundation, adopted by the Bureau of the European Parliament on 2 June 2003;
- (c) No other grant is being paid to the applicant, for the same reason, from the general budget of the European Union;
- (d) The documents are not used, after archival processing, for profit-making purposes;
- (e) The applicant undertakes to make a full list of the documents processed available to the European Parliament and to users (on paper and in electronic form and, if necessary, on its website) and to give them free access to the original documents;
- (f) The applicant has other sources of funding for the processing of the archives;
- (g) The applicant undertakes to handle the preparation and management of the project directly and not merely to act as an intermediary;
- (h) The documents for archival processing:
 - concern facts and people clearly linked to the history of European integration;
 - concern European integration since the inception of the ECSC (document collections dating from earlier than 1952 are excluded);
 - are linked to the personal experience of the Member gained during his or her term of office as an MEP (documents accumulated outside the term of office of Members or former Members of the Common Assembly of the ECSC, the European Parliamentary Assembly or the European Parliament shall be excluded);
 - are historical in nature (for this reason documents accumulated during the parliamentary term which began in 2004 shall be excluded);

- are substantial (sets of papers which amount to less than one linear metre = 5 000 pages and non-textual documents that are not part of a set of papers eligible for the minimum funding of EUR 4 950 shall be excluded).

IV. SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

1. Selection criteria

The applicant must demonstrate stable and adequate sources of funding to maintain its activity during the period of completion of the work and contribute to its financing (up to a minimum of 50 %) and prefinancing, before payment of the balance (up to a minimum of 25 %).

It must have recognised archiving skills, such as to enable it to carry out the archival processing in question. For this purpose, the curricula vitae of the personnel responsible for the processing must be attached. In addition, the external human resources and equipment the applicant intends to use through the award of contracts must be specified and documented.

NB: in view of section III.2(g), external resources may be used only for physical tasks.

Finally, the applicant must demonstrate its genuine capacity to make the list of documents available to users and to provide access to the originals free of charge.

2. Award criteria

The proposed project should seek to maximise the effectiveness of the policy being pursued by the European Parliament of ensuring that the most comprehensive body of information on the history of European integration is available to researchers and the citizens of Europe. To this end, the following award criteria, with the relative weightings indicated below, shall apply:

- (a) the aptitude of the set of papers (whether textual or otherwise) to constitute a significant addition to the history of European integration (with that aim in view, official European Parliament or European Union documents shall be excluded).

Relative weighting: ... /60 points;

- (b) importance of the duties performed by the Member or former Member during his or her term of office as an MEP.

Relative weighting: ... /15 points;

- (c) novelty of the sources of information. This criterion shall be assessed on the basis of the percentage of the set of papers made up by non-published documents, a figure which must be substantiated in the grant application.

Relative weighting: ... /15 points;

- (d) ability of the applicant to offer the general public access to the set of papers. This criterion will be assessed on the basis of the following parameters:

- creation of an electronic database:

Relative weighting: ... /5 points;

- placing of the scanned documents on the web (in keeping with any legal requirements concerning personal data protection):

Relative weighting: ... /5 points.

3. Procedure

The assessment committee shall classify the proposals on the basis of the points awarded in keeping with the relative weighting of the criteria, as outlined above.

The information substantiating compliance with the criteria must be clearly set out on the application form and proven by means of any supporting documents required. The assessment committee may ask the applicant to clarify supporting documents, or provide additional supporting documents, by a time-limit it shall lay down. All the information contained in the grant application must be substantiated, where appropriate, by means of supporting documents. Information which has not been substantiated shall not be taken into account when compliance with the criteria is assessed.

The European Parliament reserves the right to verify on the spot, where appropriate, information submitted by applicants in the context of this call for proposals.

4. Provisional date for notification of the results of the award procedure

September/October 2004.

V. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS/GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Submitting an application

Applications must be submitted on the grant application form (attached); all parts of the form must be completed, failing which the application shall be declared inadmissible.

Applications and accompanying documentation must be presented on paper (one signed original and five copies) and in electronic format (two diskettes or two CDs).

2. Closing date for the submission of applications

The closing date for receiving applications is: **7 June 2004**. Applications received by the contracting authority after this closing date shall not be considered.

3. Forwarding proposals

Proposals must:

- be drawn up on the grant application form;
- be signed by the applicant or his/her duly authorised representative;
- be perfectly legible so as to rule out any uncertainty as to the wording and figures;
- be sent under double cover. The two envelopes shall be sealed. In addition to the address of the recipient service as given in the call for proposals, the inner envelope must bear the following:

'CALL FOR PROPOSALS — Processing of the papers of Members of the European Parliament — NOT TO BE OPENED BY THE MAIL SERVICE OR ANY UNAUTHORISED PERSON'.

If self-adhesive envelopes are used, they shall be sealed using strips of adhesive tape bearing the signature of the sender. The official stamp of his or her body shall also be regarded as the sender's signature;

- be forwarded by registered mail at the latest by the closing date laid down in the call for proposals, as evidenced by the postmark or handed in, in return for a dated receipt issued by the Mail Service at the place of work of the European Parliament indicated in the call for proposals. Proposals submitted in this way must be handed in at the latest by 12.00 on the closing date.

Proposals sent by private courier service shall be regarded as having been handed in. It shall be for the applicant to make sure that its proposal has been delivered, at the latest by 12.00 on the closing date, to the European Parliament's Mail Service, at the address given below, and that a receipt has been issued.

The outer envelope shall bear the following address:

**PARLEMENT EUROPEEN
Service du Courrier Officiel
Bâtiment KAD
Bureau 00D008
L-2929 Luxembourg**

This envelope shall also bear the sender's address.

The inner envelope shall bear the following address:

**Centre Archivistique et Documentaire (CARDOC)
Bâtiment Schuman
Bureau 00A015
L-2929 Luxembourg**

Proposals which do not comply with these requirements shall be declared inadmissible.

4. Detailed information

The following documents are available on the following Internet page: <http://www.europarl.ep.ec/tenders/default.htm>:

- rules on processing the papers of Members of the European Parliament handed over in the form of legal donations or legacies to an institute, association or foundation
- grant application form
- model performance bond
- model agreement.

All questions concerning this call for proposals with a view to the awarding of grants must be sent by electronic mail, giving the publication reference, to the following address:

BudgCARDOC@europarl.eu.int

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR THE PRESIDENCY

DIRECTORATE C

ARCHIVE AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE (CARDOC)

GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Budget Item 2271

(Processing of the papers of Members of the European Parliament handed over in the form of legal donations or legacies to an institute, association or foundation)

Name of applicant:	
--------------------	--

File No:	
For contracting authority use only	

I. ARCHIVAL PROCESSING ACTION

1. **Description**1.1. **Name of Member of the European Parliament who has handed over the documents:**1.2. **Date handed over:**1.3. **Handed over as:**☐ legacies☐ donations1.4. **Have the documents been bequeathed free of charge and subject to the waiver, by their authors, of the right to consideration for exercising their copyright and in particular their reproduction rights?** Can the documents therefore be used free of charge?

YES

☐

NO

☐**If yes, please attach proof.**1.5. **Composition of the set of papers:**

(a) Linear metres paper copy

(b) Number of documents audio copy — types

(c) Number of documents audiovisual copy — types

(d) Number of Kb/Mb/Gb on electronic medium — types.

1.6. **Reasons justifying the importance of the set of papers** (*maximum one page*), on the basis of the following criteria:(a) Form and composition of the set of papers (*all relevant supporting documents to be attached*).

(b) Duties performed during his or her term of office as an MEP by the Member who handed over the papers.

(c) Importance of the papers as an addition to the history of European integration. Specify whether official European Parliament or European Union documents are present and to what extent (*all relevant supporting documents to be attached*).

(d) Facts and people concerned.

(e) Novelty of source. Specify what percentage of the papers have already been published (*all relevant supporting documents to be attached*).

(f) Period concerned (documents dating from before 1952 and after the 1999-2004 parliamentary term are excluded).

(g) State the link between the papers and the personal experience of the Member gained during his or her term of office as an MEP.

1.7. **Description of any work already completed on the same set of papers (specify the number of pages already processed)** (*maximum half a page*)

1.8. **Detailed description of work anticipated** (see section I of the call for proposals) (*maximum one page*)

1.9. **Methodology** (*maximum one page*):

- (a) Division into phases
- (b) Evaluation procedures by phase
- (c) Proposed team for each phase

1.10. **Duration and action plan:**

2. **Expected results** (*maximum one page*)

II. APPLICANT

1. Identity

Full legal name:	
Acronym (if appropriate):	
Legal status confirming legal personality:	
Evidence of powers to represent the legal person (attach supporting documents):	
Documents justifying SPP/ICA registration:	
VAT No (if appropriate):	
Official address:	
Postal address:	
Contact person:	
Telephone No:	
Fax No:	
E-mail address:	
Website:	

2. Bank references

The bank must have its head office in the country in which the applicant is registered.

Bank name:	
Bank address:	
Account name:	
Name(s) of signatory/ies:	
Position(s) of signatory/ies:	
Bank code:	
IBAN account No of applicant:	
SWIFT code:	

3. **Description of applicant** (*maximum 1 page*)

3.1. **When was your organisation set up and when did it commence activities?**

3.2. **What are the principal activities of your organisation at present?**

3.3. **Management bodies and list of members**

BODY

Name	Profession	Sex	Position	Number of years within body

3.4. **Knowledge of archiving**

3.4.1. Brief list of previous archiving experience (*maximum one page*).

3.4.2. Curricula vitae of archivists (*maximum one page per archivist*).

3.4.3. Ability to apply ISAD(G) and ISAAR(CPF) methods, in accordance with the instructions in Annex 1 to the Rules on processing the papers of Members of the European Parliament handed over in the form of legal donations or legacies to an institute, association or foundation, adopted by the Bureau of the European Parliament on 2 June 2003.

YES

NO

3.4.4. Estimate the external human and material resources which the applicant expects to use, to perform actual archiving work, through the award of contracts (specify which).

3.5. **Indicate the relationship with the users of your set of papers (proportion of researchers, students, general public?)**

3.6. **Availability of processed documents**

3.6.1. Are you able to make the list of processed documents available to the European Parliament and users free of charge and give them access to the originals of these documents? How?

3.6.2. Do you plan to create a database with the scanned documents?

3.6.3. Do you plan to publish the documents on a website (in keeping with any legal requirements concerning personal data protection)?

4. Budget

- 4.1. Attach the applicant's operating budget for the financial year 2004. The applicant must indicate sources of funding to cover at least the 50 % of the cost of the work not covered by the grant being applied for and at least 25 % of the cost of the work to be financed by the payment of the balance (50 % of the grant) once the work is complete.
- 4.2. Attach profit and loss account and balance sheet for the financial year 2003.
- 4.3. Does the applicant have or has it applied for other sources of funding during the financial year 2004 for the same work as in paragraph 1, for other work or for its current activities, from the general budget of the European Union.

YES

☐

NO

☐

If yes: — what is the amount?

— please state the nature, origin and purpose of the funding.

SOLEMN DECLARATIONS

The applicant declares that it is not in any of the following situations (which constitute a reason for exclusion from funding under the terms of Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation):

- (a) bankrupt or being wound up, having its affairs administered by the courts or in an arrangement with creditors, suspension of its business activities, or the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) convicted of an offence concerning its professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of *res judicata*;
- (c) guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- (d) guilty of failure to fulfil its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established;
- (e) the subject of a judgement which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- (f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, it has been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with its contractual obligations.
- (g) subject to a conflict of interest;
- (h) guilty of failure to supply the information required in this application form or guilty of misrepresentation.

I am in one of the above situations

YES

☐

NO

☐

If yes, specify which:

The applicant undertakes, if a grant is awarded, not to use the papers for profit-making purposes

YES

☐

NO

☐

The applicant undertakes, if a grant is awarded, to make a full list of the personal documents processed available to users (on paper and electronic media, and if necessary, on its website) and to provide access to the original documents.

YES

☐

NO

☐

The applicant undertakes to handle the preparation and management of the project directly and not to act merely as an intermediary.

YES

☐

NO

☐

The applicant undertakes, if a grant is awarded, to accompany the request for the balance, following completion of the work, by the documents indicated in Article 6.2(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the Rules on processing the papers of Members of the European Parliament handed over in the form of legal donations or legacies to an institute, association or foundation, adopted by the Bureau of the European Parliament on 2 June 2003.

The applicant undertakes, if a grant is awarded, not to incur any expenditure before a specific financing agreement has been signed.

The applicant undertakes, if a grant is awarded, to respect in full the rules and regulations that constitute the legal basis for work covered by the funding (paragraph 'Legal basis' of the call for proposals:

- Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities;
- Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities;
- Rules on processing the papers of Members of the European Parliament handed over in the form of legal donations or legacies to an institute, association or foundation, adopted by the Bureau of the European Parliament on 2 June 2003.

Signature of the legal representative certifying the accuracy of the information provided above

Done on ... at ...

.....

Signature

COMMISSION

Call for proposals VP/2004/05 for National awareness raising actions on social inclusion (under budget line 04040202)

(2004/C 88/13)

This call is for proposals which aim to increase information and awareness within Member States, candidate countries and EFTA/EEA countries of the Union's social inclusion process so as to mobilise support for and participation of all relevant actors in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of National Action Plans against poverty and social exclusion (NAPs/inclusion) and Joint Memoranda on Social Inclusion (JIMs).

The NAPs/inclusion are a key element of the Union's social inclusion process, the Open Method of Co-ordination on poverty and social exclusion, which was adopted at the Lisbon European Council of 2000 with a view to making a decisive impact on the eradication of poverty and social exclusion by 2010. They are prepared on a two yearly basis by all Member States.

This call for proposal is funded under the Community action programme to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion. This programme supports and underpins the social inclusion process and its objectives include promoting the participation of the various actors and developing their capacity to address social exclusion and poverty effectively.

The Commission is keen to receive applications which adopt a strategic and planned approach to raising awareness and mobilising actors. Thus proposals are likely to involve a mix of actions which are tailored to meet the needs of different audiences. These should include both the general public and relevant stakeholders such as the media, national, regional and local authorities, non-governmental organisations, trade unions, businesses, specialised bodies and those directly experiencing poverty and social exclusion. There should be a programme of work covering a period of up to 18 months rather than once off actions.

Applications will be particularly welcome which make a clear link to the implementation of the 2003 NAPs/inclusion or to the development and implementation of the NAPs/inclusion that will be adopted by the new Member States in 2004 or to the development and follow up of the Joint Inclusion Memoranda to be agreed by the Commission and Candidate Countries in 2004.

Proposals may come from all public and/or private bodies and institutions involved in the fight against social exclusion. The Commission will be particularly interested in proposals from

those organisations with an active interest in promoting the development of National Action Plans such as national, regional or local authorities, social partners or non-governmental organisations. Applications may come from either single organisations or from a number of organisations involving several different sectors working together in partnership. A specific co-operation with the media will also be of great interest. Applicants must be from organisations registered in either one of the Member States or one of the acceding or candidate countries or an EFTA/EEA country.

In the region of EUR 800 000 will be available through this call and it is envisaged that between 10 and 20 projects will be selected. The Community's financial contribution will not exceed 80 % of the eligible costs. The promoter must guarantee co-financing in cash of the remaining 20 %. Contributions in kind are not accepted.

Proposals must be submitted and postmarked **not later than 4 June 2004** in order to be accepted. The application forms must also be sent in by e-mail by that date. The proposed duration of the actions must not exceed 18 months. They must be scheduled to start before 31st December 2004.

More detailed guidelines, instructions on how to apply and an application form can be obtained as follows:

1. By downloading them directly from the DG Employment and Social Affairs website at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-prot/soc-incl/calls_en.htm

2. By sending an e-mail to empl-e2@cec.eu.int (please include 'Call for proposals VP/2004/05 — Info' in the subject of your e-mail).
3. By writing to:

Unit E2: Call for proposals VP/2004/05 — Info
European Commission
DG Employment and Social Affairs
J27 1/33
B-1049 Brussels

4. Or by sending a fax to (32-2) 295 65 61 (please include 'Call for proposals VP/2004/05 — Info' in the title of your fax).

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Call for expression of interest in membership of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency

(2004/C 88/14)

This call is addressed to scientists wishing to be considered for membership of the Scientific Committee of the European Environment Agency (EEA) established by the Council Regulation (EEC) No 1210/90 of 7 May 1990 ⁽¹⁾ as amended by Council Regulations (EC) No 933/1999 of 29 April 1999 and No 641/2003 of 22 July 2003. The Agency is located in Copenhagen.

The Scientific Committee assists the EEA Management Board and the Executive Director in providing scientific advice and delivering professional opinion on any scientific matter in the areas of work undertaken by the Agency.

The European Environment Agency

The EEA main objective is to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy-making agents and the public.

The Agency both gathers and distributes its data and information through the European environment information and observation network (Eionet). Eionet is a collaborative network of the EEA and its 31 member countries, connecting National Focal Points (NFPs) in the EU and third countries, including accession countries, European Topic Centres (ETCs), National Reference Centres (NRCs).

The work of the Agency includes collecting and analysing shared environmental data from the European Commission services, EEA member countries, international organisations, conventions and agreements, producing policy relevant advice and making this information widely available.

The role of the EEA Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee (SC) assists the EEA Management Board and the Executive Director in providing scientific advice and delivering professional opinion on any scientific matter in the areas of work undertaken by the Agency.

The EEA Scientific Committee was set up by Article 10 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1210/90 on the establishment of the European Environment Agency and the European environment information and observation network (Eionet). The functions of the SC include: delivering an opinion on the multiannual and annual work-programmes, on the recruitment of scientific staff, and on any scientific matter concerning the EEA's activities.

The below fields are recognized to be currently needed in the expertise of the Scientific Committee, subject of the present call:

1. political science,
2. monitoring systems based on spatial application,
3. chemicals,
4. energy and environment.

Composition of the EEA Scientific Committee

The EEA Scientific Committee is composed of independent scientists from EEA member-countries, covering all environmental fields relevant for the Agency's areas of activity. The SC members are identified through an open selection process. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Scientific Committee are elected from amongst its own members.

The number of members in the Scientific Committee shall not exceed 20 experts.

Attending meetings

Members should be prepared to attend meetings of the Scientific Committee on a regular basis — at least three times per year. Meetings of the Scientific Committee shall normally be held at the Agency's venue.

The members of the Scientific Committee are not to be remunerated but will be entitled to an indemnity for each full day meeting. Members will also receive travel and subsistence allowance in accordance with the scales laid down by the Agency's Regulations. The chairman and rapporteurs are entitled to an indemnity to defray costs related to the coordination of draft opinions.

Eligibility

Applicants for Scientific Committee members in the above areas must have:

- a university degree in a relevant scientific area, preferably at postgraduate level,
- at least 10 years' professional experience at a level to which the qualifications give admission,
- be a national of one of the member-countries of the EEA.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 120, 11.5.1990, p. 1.

Selection criteria

Preference will be given to applicants who possess:

- experience in carrying out scientific assessments and/or providing scientific advice in the required areas of competence and expertise,
- experience in peer reviewing scientific work and publications, preferably related to the fields of interest of EEA,
- ability to analyse complex information and dossiers and to prepare draft scientific opinions and reports,
- ability in quality assurance process,
- proven scientific excellence in the area covered by the applicant,
- professional experience in a multidisciplinary environment, preferably in an international context.

Good knowledge of English would be an asset. An ability to use modern, electronic means of document exchange and communications would be an advantage, given the Agency's intention to make best use of these techniques.

Independence and declarations of interest

The members of the Scientific Committee will be appointed on a personal basis. Applicants will be required to declare that they will undertake to act independently and outside any influence in the work of the Scientific Committee.

Selection process, appointment and term

Applications meeting the eligibility requirements will be submitted to a comparative evaluation carried out by the Agency on the basis of the selection criteria given above.

The Executive Director can call on a panel to assess the professional experience of applicants.

Applicants meeting the requirements for membership but who are not designated may be invited to be placed on a reserve list in case vacancies occur.

The office is for a four years term, renewable once.

Equal opportunity

The Agency applies the EU policy of equality between men and women and well-balanced geographical representation in the Scientific Committee across the EEA member-countries.

Application procedure

The Agency encourages the submission of applications by e-mail. However, applications sent by post will be accepted.

Interested candidates should mail a letter of interest together with a detailed curriculum vitae, containing a list of the applicant's scientific publications, preferably in English.

Applications should be sent by e-mail to: sc.com.call04@eea.eu.int, or by post to the following address:

Human resource management group/SC.com.call04
European Environment Agency
Kongens Nytorv 6
DK-1050 Copenhagen K

Supporting documents may be requested at a later stage.

All applications will be treated as confidential.

Closing date

Applications should be sent by e-mail to: sc.com.call04@eea.eu.int, or by post to the above address not later than 14 May 2004.

The Agency reserves the right to disregard any expressions of interest sent after that date.

CORRIGENDA**Corrigendum to the list of holidays in 2004: Member States of the European Union***(Official Journal of the European Union C 284 of 27 November 2003)*

(2004/C 88/15)

On page 8 in the column headed 'NL' add 12 April.
