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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

24 October 2006

(2006/C 257/01)

1 euro =

Currency			Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,2541	SIT	Slovenian tolar	239,60
JPY	Japanese yen	149,98	SKK	Slovak koruna	36,594
DKK	Danish krone	7,4552	TRY	Turkish lira	1,8462
GBP	Pound sterling	0,67015	AUD	Australian dollar	1,6570
SEK	Swedish krona	9,2002	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,4180
CHF	Swiss franc	1,5918	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	9,7594
ISK	Iceland króna	85,69	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,8933
NOK	Norwegian krone	8,3855	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,9761
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	KRW	South Korean won	1 202,05
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,5767	ZAR	South African rand	9,7225
CZK	Czech koruna	28,395	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	9,9105
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,3893
HUF	Hungarian forint	262,92	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	11 493,83
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4528	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,6107
LVL	Latvian lats	0,6960	PHP	Philippine peso	62,774
MTL	Maltese lira	0,4293	RUB	Russian rouble	33,7690
PLN	Polish zloty	3,8771	THB	Thai baht	46,676
RON	Romanian leu	3,5370			

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

Information procedure — Technical rules

(2006/C 257/02)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and of rules on Information Society services. (OJ L 204, 21.7.1998, p. 37; OJ L 217, 5.8.1998, p. 18).

Notifications of draft national technical rules received by the Commission

Reference ⁽¹⁾	Title	End of three-month standstill period ⁽²⁾
2006/0526/PL	Draft Order of the Minister of the Environment on the template of the annual report on the amount of product charges payable	⁽⁴⁾
2006/0527/PL	Draft Order of the Minister of the Environment on the template of a report on quantities of products and packaging introduced onto the market, the amount of packaging waste reutilised and recycled and revenues from product charges	⁽⁴⁾
2006/0528/PL	Order of the Minister of the Economy amending the Order on the type of measurement apparatus that is subject to legal metrological controls and the scope of such controls	28.12.2006
2006/0529/PL	Order of the Minister of the Economy amending the Order on the type of measurement apparatus that is subject to legal metrological controls and the detailed scope of inspections and checks to be made during controls of such measurement apparatus	28.12.2006
2006/0530/NL	Regulation on the discharge of household waste water	29.12.2006
2006/0531/UK	The Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Order 2007	29.12.2006
2006/0532/HU	Ministerial draft regulation to determine the group of goods that may only be marketed if accompanied by usage instructions or guidance for use	29.12.2006
2006/0534/FIN	Systems engineering requirements for power plants (VJV 2007)	1.1.2007
2006/0535/FIN	General service terms of Fingrid Oyj (YLE 2007)	1.1.2007
2006/0536/DK	Draft Order on technical requirements for particle filters etc.	4.1.2007
2006/0537/PL	Order of the Chief Commandant of the State Fire Service of ... 2006 on patterns and detailed requirements, technical and quality specifications of uniform elements, special clothing and personal protection used in the State Fire Service	4.1.2007
2006/0538/PL	Order of the Minister of the Economy on requirements to be met by road measuring tankers and the detailed scope of examinations and checks to be carried out during legal metrological control of these measuring instruments	5.1.2007
2006/0539/NL	Decree amending the Commodities Act Decree on herbal preparations regarding yohimbe/yohimbine, the Commodities Act Decree on the addition of micronutrients to foodstuffs and the Commodities Act Decree on administrative penalties (draft)	5.1.2007
2006/0540/DK	Nutritional Mark Order	8.1.2007

⁽¹⁾ Year — registration number — Member State of origin.

⁽²⁾ Period during which the draft may not be adopted.

⁽³⁾ No standstill period since the Commission accepts the grounds of urgent adoption invoked by the notifying Member State.

⁽⁴⁾ No standstill period since the measure concerns technical specifications or other requirements or rules on services linked to fiscal or financial measures, pursuant to the third indent of the second paragraph of Article 1(11) of Directive 98/34/EC.

⁽⁵⁾ Information procedure closed.

The Commission draws attention to the judgement delivered on 30 April 1996 in the 'CIA Security' case (C-194/94 — ECR I, p. 2201), in which the Court of Justice ruled that Articles 8 and 9 of Directive 98/34/EC (formerly 83/189/EEC) are to be interpreted as meaning that individuals may rely on them before national courts which must decline to apply a national technical regulation which has not been notified in accordance with the Directive.

This judgement confirms the Commission's communication of 1 October 1986 (OJ C 245, 1.10.1986, p. 4).

Accordingly, breach of the obligation to notify renders the technical regulations concerned inapplicable, and consequently unenforceable against individuals.

For more information on the notification procedure, please write to:

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Also consult the website: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tris/>

If you require any further information on these notifications, please contact the national departments listed below:

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Publication of decisions by Member States to grant or revoke operating licenses pursuant to Article 13(4) of Regulation No 2407/92 on licensing of air carriers ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾

(2006/C 257/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

AUSTRIA

Operating licences revoked

Category B: Operating licences including the restriction of Article 5(7)(a) of Regulation No 2407/92

Name of air carrier	Address of air carrier	Permitted to carry	Decision effective since
HELI-RENT Helicopter Service GmbH & Co KG	Waaggasse 14/1 A-9020 Klagenfurt	passengers, mail, cargo	14.09.06

DENMARK

Operating licences granted

Category A: Operating licences without the restriction of Article 5(7)(a) of Regulation No 2407/92

Name of air carrier	Address of air carrier	Permitted to carry	Decision effective since
Danish Air Transport a/S	Postbox 80 Kolding/Vamdrup Flyveplads DK-6580 Vamdrup	passengers, mail, cargo	07/09/06

GERMANY

Operating licences revoked

Category B: Operating licences including the restriction of Article 5(7)(a) of Regulation No 2407/92

Name of air carrier	Address of air carrier	Permitted to carry	Decision effective since
Heli-Aircraft-Charter GmbH	Entenmoos 343	passengers, mail, cargo	15/08/06

SPAIN

Operating licences granted

Category A: Operating licences without the restriction of Article 5(7)(a) of Regulation No 2407/92

Name of air carrier	Address of air carrier	Permitted to carry	Decision effective since
CATAIR LINEAS AEREAS S.A.	C/ Solsones 2 Parc de Negocis Mas Blau E-08820 El Prat de Llobregat (Barcelona)	passengers, mail, cargo	27/09/06

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 240, 24.8.1992, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Communicated to the European Commission before 31.8.2005.

Category B: Operating licences including the restriction of Article 5(7)(a) of Regulation No 2407/92

Name of air carrier	Address of air carrier	Permitted to carry	Decision effective since
CAT HELICOPTERS S.L	Passeig de l'Escullera Moll Adossat S/N E-08039 Barcelona	passengers, mail, cargo	11/08/06

LITHUANIA

Operating licences revoked*Category A: Operating licences without the restriction of Article 5(7)(a) of Regulation No 2407/92*

Name of air carrier	Address of air carrier	Permitted to carry	Decision effective since
JSC APATAS	Chemijos str. 5A LT-51327 Kaunas	passengers, mail, cargo	29.09.06

Information communicated by Member States regarding State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 2204/2002 of 12 December 2002 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to State aid for employment

(2006/C 257/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Aid No	XE 13/06	
Member State	Hungary	
Region	Entire country	
Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving individual aid	Benefit premium in connection with job creation	
Legal basis	1. 2005. évi CLXXX. törvény amely „a foglalkoztatás bővítése és rugalmasabbá tétele érdekében szükséges intézkedésekről” szól, 1-3 §-a, 13. §, 14. §, 15. § és 17 §-a alapján. 2. 55/2005. (XII.29.) PM-FMM együttes rendelete	
Annual expenditure planned or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company	Annual overall amount	EUR 0,5 million
	Loans guaranteed	
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Articles 4(2)-(5), 5 and 6 of the Regulation	Yes
Date of implementation	1.1.2006	
Duration of scheme or individual aid award	31.12.2006	
Objective of aid	Art. 4 Creation of employment	Yes
	Art. 5 Recruitment of disadvantaged and disabled workers	
	Art. 6 Employment of disabled workers	
Economic sectors concerned	— All Community sectors ⁽¹⁾ eligible for employment aid	Yes
Name and address of the granting authority	Foglalkoztatáspolitikai és Munkaügyi Minisztérium	
	Alkotmány u. 3 H-1054 Budapest	
Aid subject to prior notification to the Commission	In conformity with Article 9 of the Regulation	Yes

(¹) With the exception of the shipbuilding sector and any other sectors subject to special rules in regulations and directives governing total state aid within the sector.

Aid No	XE 15/06	
Member State	Estonia	
Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving individual aid	Implementation of the Employment Services and Subsidies Act	
Legal basis	Tööturuteenuste ja- toetuste seaduse § 18, 20 ja 23	
Annual expenditure planned or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company	Annual overall amount	Up to EUR 650 000
	Loans guaranteed	
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Articles 5 and 6 of the Regulation	Yes

Date of implementation	1.1 2006	
Duration of scheme or individual aid award	31.12.2006	
Objective of aid	Art. 4 Creation of employment	No
	Art. 5 Recruitment of disadvantaged and disabled workers	Yes
	Art.6 Employment of disabled workers	Yes
Economic sectors concerned	— All Community sectors ⁽¹⁾ eligible for employment aid	Yes
	— All manufacturing ⁽¹⁾	Yes
	— All services ⁽¹⁾	Yes
	— Other	Yes
Name and address of the granting authority	Tööturuamet	
	Gonsiori 29 EE-15156 Tallinn	
Other information	The employment services provided for by the Employment Services and Subsidies Act are funded from the national budget	
Aid subject to prior notification to the Commission	In conformity with Article 9 of the Regulation	Yes

⁽¹⁾ With the exception of the shipbuilding sector and of other sectors subject to special rules in regulations and directives governing all state aid within the sector.

Aid No	XE 16/06	
Member State	Hungary	
Region	Dél-Alföld	
Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving individual aid	Aid programme to improve the employment situation in Békéscsaba Municipality	
Legal basis	— Békéscsaba Megyei Jogú Város Közgyűlése 645/2005.(XII.15.) sz. közgy. határozata	
	— 48/2006.(II.13.) közgy. sz. határozat Békéscsaba Megyei Jogú Város foglalkoztatási helyzetének javítását szolgáló támogatási program elfogadásáról	
Annual expenditure planned or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company	Annual overall amount	EUR 112 000
	Loans guaranteed	
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Articles 4(2)-(5), 5 and 6 of the Regulation	Yes
Date of implementation	13.2.2006	
Duration of scheme or individual aid award	End of implementation: 31.12.2006	
Objective of aid	Art. 4 Creation of employment	Yes
	Art. 5 Recruitment of disadvantaged and disabled workers	
	Art. 6 Employment of disabled workers	
Economic sectors concerned	— Other: financial, IT and administrative services	Yes
Name and address of the granting authority	Békéscsaba Megyei Jogú Város Önkormányzata	
	Szent István tér 7 H-5600 Békéscsaba	
Other information	If co-financed by Community funds, please add: The aid scheme is co-financed under (reference)	
Aid subject to prior notification to the Commission	In conformity with Article 9 of the Regulation	Yes

Aid No	XE 17/06	
Member State	Spain	
Region	Catalonia	
Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving individual aid	Incentive programme aimed at creating jobs in connection with new business investment considered to be of strategic importance for the Catalan economy	
Legal basis	Orden TRI/68/2006, de 23 de febrero, por la que se aprueban las bases reguladoras del programa de incentivos para la creación de ocupación ligada a proyectos de nueva inversión empresarial considerados estratégicos para la economía catalana y se abre la convocatoria para el año 2006 (DOGC núm. 4586 de 6.3.2006)	
Annual expenditure planned or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company	Annual overall amount	EUR 3 million
	Loans guaranteed	
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Articles 4(2)-(5), 5 and 6 of the Regulation	Yes
Date of implementation	Since 7.3.2006	
Duration of scheme or individual aid award	Until 31 December 2001	
Objective of aid	Art. 4 Creation of employment	Yes
	Art. 5 Recruitment of disadvantaged and disabled workers	
	Art. 6 Employment of disabled workers	
Economic sectors concerned	— All Community sectors eligible for employment aid ⁽¹⁾	Yes
Name and address of the granting authority	Centro de Innovación y Desarrollo Empresarial (CIDEM)	
	Paseo de Gràcia, 129 E-08008 Barcelona	
Aid subject to prior notification to the Commission	In conformity with Article 9 of the Regulation	Yes

⁽¹⁾ With the exception of the shipbuilding sector and of other sectors subject to special rules in regulations and directives governing all state aid within the sector.

Aid No	XE 26/06	
Member State	Poland	
Region	Południowo-Zachodni	
Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving individual aid	Exemption of businesses from property tax as part of horizontal aid — Lwówek Śląski	
Legal basis	Art. 7 ust. 3 ustawy z dnia 12 stycznia 1991 r. o podatkach i opłatach lokalnych (Dz.U. z 2002 r. nr 9, poz. 84 ze zm.)	
Annual expenditure planned or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company	Annual overall amount	EUR 0,13 million
	Loans guaranteed	
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Articles 4(2)-(5), 5 and 6 of the Regulation	Yes
Date of implementation	4.3.2006	
Duration of scheme or individual aid award	31.12.2006	

Objective of aid	Art. 4: Creation of employment	Yes
	Art. 5: Recruitment of disadvantaged and disabled workers:	Yes
	Art. 6: Employment of disabled workers:	
Economic sectors concerned	— All Community sectors ⁽¹⁾ eligible for employment aid	Yes
Name and address of the granting authority	Burmistrz Gminy i Miasta Lwówek Śląski	
	Aleja Wojska Polskiego 25 a PL-59-600 Lwówek Śląski	
Other information	If the aid programme is co-financed by Community funds, please insert the following sentence: The aid programme is co-financed by (please indicate).	
Aid subject to prior notification to the Commission	In conformity with Article 9 of the Regulation	Yes

⁽¹⁾ With the exception of the shipbuilding sector and of other sectors subject to special rules in regulations and directives governing all state aid within the sector.

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case COMP/M.4429 — AIG/GIP/Stratfield)
Candidate case for simplified procedure

(2006/C 257/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 17 October 2006, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the undertakings American International Group Inc ('AIG' USA), and Global Infrastructure Partners — A, L.P. ('GIP' USA) [jointly controlled by General Electric ('GE', USA), the Credit Suisse Group ('CSG', Switzerland) and Global Infrastructure Management Participation LLC ('GIMP', USA)], acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the whole of Stratfield Limited ('Stratfield' UK) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for AIG: insurance and insurance-related activities;
- for GIP: investing in equity and equity-related investments in infrastructure and infrastructure-related assets;
- for GE: a company with interests in diversified technology and services;
- for CSG: a global financial services institution;
- for GIMP: a holding company;
- for Stratfield: a holding company which owns the entities that own and operate London City Airport ('LCA').

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004. However, the final decision on this point is reserved. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽²⁾ 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 to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (fax No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number Case COMP/M.4429 — AIG/GIP/Stratfield, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition
Merger Registry
J-70
B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32.

Adoption of five reference documents for the purpose of Council Directive 96/61/EC from 24 September 1996 concerning integrated pollution prevention and control ⁽¹⁾

(2006/C 257/06)

On 16 August 2006, the Commission adopted the complete texts of the reference documents on

- best available techniques for waste incineration
- best available techniques for waste treatment industries
- best available techniques for the surface treatment of metals and plastics
- best available techniques for organic fine chemicals
- best available techniques for food, drink and milk industries

These documents are available on the Internet site <http://eippcb.jrc.es>

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 257, 10.10.1996, p. 26.

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

of 6 October 2006

on the adoption of certain measures to protect euro banknotes more effectively against counterfeiting

(ECB/2006/13)

(2006/C 257/07)

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 106(1) thereof,

Having regard to the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank, and in particular Article 16 and Article 34.1 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Treaty and the Statute have entrusted the European Central Bank (ECB) and, subject to the ECB's authorisation, the national central banks (NCBs) of Member States without a derogation, with issuing euro banknotes.
- (2) Ensuring the integrity and preservation of euro banknotes in circulation and, by implication, the public's trust in euro banknotes forms part of this task.
- (3) The Eurosystem Framework for the detection of counterfeits and fitness sorting by credit institutions and other professional cash handlers ⁽¹⁾ (hereinafter the 'Framework') establishes harmonised standards and procedures for banknote recycling within the euro area. In particular, when authenticity and fitness checks are to be performed by banknote handling machines, only those machines successfully tested by an NCB may be used to perform checks of the banknotes to be recirculated. In this context, NCBs offer manufacturers common tests for banknote handling machines, valid throughout the euro area and conducted by using common test decks, containing, inter alia, selected classes of euro counterfeits. Such tests thus necessitate the availability of counterfeit notes of the same class both for the initial constitution and for the replenishment of the common test decks and, therefore, regular exchange and transport of such notes within the European Union between NCBs.
- (4) Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001 of 28 June 2001 laying down measures necessary for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting ⁽²⁾ obliges competent national authorities to provide national analysis centres (NACs) without delay with the necessary requested examples of each type of suspected counterfeit note, for analysis and identification. NACs are moreover obliged to send the ECB every new type of suspected counterfeit note corresponding to ECB criteria for analysis and classification purposes.

⁽¹⁾ Available on www.ecb.int.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 181, 4.7.2001, p. 6.

- (5) The obligations addressed to both competent national authorities and NACs in Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001 apply without prejudice to national criminal law. In particular, they may not prevent suspected counterfeit notes from being used or retained as evidence in criminal proceedings. In several Member States, this severely hampers the availability of counterfeit notes for NACs and NCBs that are not NACs.
- (6) The use of cash handling machines, their testing and constant improvement are a means of facilitating the detection of counterfeit notes and thus contributing to uttering euro notes in such a manner as to protect them against counterfeiting.
- (7) It is therefore crucial for the transport of counterfeit notes by NACs and NCBs that are not NACs to also be permitted for Framework purposes, whereby due regard is given to pending criminal proceedings.
- (8) Article 10 of the Treaty requires the Member States, including police and judicial authorities, to take all measures necessary to ensure the effectiveness of Community law.
- (9) The effective protection of the euro against counterfeiting is an important element of Community law. The efforts to prevent counterfeiting concern both the Community, by virtue of its competence in respect of the single currency, and the Member States, by virtue of their competence in the sphere of criminal law and policies to combat organised crime.
- (10) Generally, criminal law and the rules of criminal procedure do not fall within the competence of the Community, unless necessary to ensure the effectiveness of Community law. In all other cases, the adoption of measures pursuant to Title VI of the Treaty on European Union on police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters may be required.
- (11) Article 29 of the Treaty on European Union provides that the EU's objective of providing citizens with a high level of safety within an area of freedom, security and justice by developing common action among the Member States is achieved, inter alia, through approximation of rules on criminal matters in the Member States.
- (12) The Eurosystem's responsibility to ensure the integrity and preservation of euro banknotes in circulation requires formulating recommendations on certain policy objectives, whilst leaving the EU and national authorities to consider such objectives and to adopt the appropriate measures for their implementation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION:

1. The European Commission should consider proposing an extension of the powers of NACs and of NCBs that are not NACs, so that they may retain identified and analysed examples of counterfeit notes and also request and legitimately transport such notes intra-EU for the purposes of the Framework. In particular, Article 4(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001 should be amended, and Article 4(3) accordingly deleted. As a minimum, this latter paragraph should be amended so that the full application of Article 4(2) is not prevented by the use or retention of counterfeit notes as evidence in criminal proceedings, except when such an application is impossible, taking into account the quantity and type of seized counterfeits.
2. While the amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001 is indispensable in order to allow the transport of counterfeits for the purposes of the Framework, as well as the release of counterfeits by national authorities, the extent to which common action under Title VI of the EU Treaty may be helpful in that respect could be examined. Concretely, the applicability of Article 31(1)(e) of the EU Treaty could be considered, as the seized counterfeits are used as evidence in pending penal procedures before national judicial authorities. In particular, Member States should ensure that, to the extent the rights of suspects and defendants are not prejudiced, the staff of NACs and NCBs that are not NACs may legitimately transport and retain a quantity of seized counterfeit notes for the purposes of the Framework, on condition of immediately returning them to the prosecutorial or judicial authorities on demand.

3. Irrespective of the adoption of the above measures, Member States may need to amend their national legislation to facilitate retention and transportation of seized counterfeit notes for the purposes of the Framework. Member States should consider in particular abolishing national rules providing that seized counterfeit notes must at all times remain in a court's archives, be destroyed, be handed exclusively to the police or remain on national territory.
4. Irrespective of the adoption of the above measures, Member States should consider fostering and promoting practical arrangements with their NCBs, whereby counterfeit notes are provided to the latter for the purposes of the Framework, and exchanged between NCBs, potentially through the exercise of prosecutorial or judicial discretion.

This recommendation is addressed to the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, the Commission of the European Communities and the Member States.

Done at Frankfurt am Main, 6 October 2006.

The President of the ECB

Jean-Claude TRICHET

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
of 9 October 2006
to the Council of the European Union on the external auditors of Banka Slovenije
(ECB/2006/14)
(2006/C 257/08)

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK,

Having regard to the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and of the European Central Bank, and in particular Article 27.1 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The accounts of the European Central Bank (ECB) and of the national central banks of the Euro-system are audited by independent external auditors recommended by the Governing Council of the ECB and approved by the Council of the European Union.
- (2) Pursuant to Article 1 of Council Decision 2006/495/EC of 11 July 2006 in accordance with Article 122(2) of the Treaty on the adoption by Slovenia of the single currency on 1 January 2007 ⁽¹⁾, Slovenia now fulfils the necessary conditions for the adoption of the euro and the derogation in favour of Slovenia referred to in Article 4 of the 2003 Act of Accession ⁽²⁾ is abrogated with effect from 1 January 2007.
- (3) The external auditors recommended herein are Banka Slovenije's current auditors, who were appointed for the financial years 2006 to 2008,

HAS ADOPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Deloitte & Touche revizija d.o.o. should be appointed as the external auditors of Banka Slovenije for the financial years 2007 and 2008.

Done at Frankfurt am Main, 9 October 2006.

The President of the ECB
Jean-Claude TRICHET

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 195, 15.7.2006, p. 25.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 236, 23.9.2003, p. 33.

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Culture (2007-2013) — Conditional call for proposals — EACEA No 06/ 2006**‘Support for bodies active at European level in the field of culture’**

(2006/C 257/09)

PRECAUTIONARY CLAUSE

The Commission's proposal relating to the Culture programme has not yet been formally adopted by the European legislature. Nevertheless, to enable prompt implementation of this programme after the adoption of its legal basis by the European legislature, which should take place soon, and to enable potential beneficiaries of Community grants to prepare their proposals as soon as possible, the Commission has decided to publish this call for proposals.

This call for proposals does not legally bind the Commission. It may be cancelled and calls for proposals with different specifications may be issued, with appropriate reply periods, if there is a substantial change in the legal basis by the European legislature.

More generally, the implementation of the calls for proposals in 2007 is subject to the following conditions, the meeting of which is not dependent on the Commission:

- the adoption by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union of the final text of the legal basis establishing the Programme without any substantial modifications;
- the adoption of the annual work programme relating to the Culture programme and of the general implementation guidelines and the selection criteria and procedures, after referral to the programme committee; and
- the adoption of the 2007 budget for the European Union by the budgetary authority.

1. LEGAL BASIS

This call for proposals is based on the decision of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁽¹⁾ establishing a single multi-annual programme for Community measures in the field of culture for the period between 2007 and 2013 (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Programme’).

The Programme is based on Article 151 of the Treaty establishing the European Community which states that the Community shall contribute to the flowering of the cultures of the Member States, while respecting their national and regional diversity and at the same time bringing the common cultural heritage to the fore.

2. OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

The Programme shall help to enhance the cultural area shared by Europeans through the development of cultural cooperation between the participating Member States with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship through transnational mobility of persons working in the cultural sector, transnational circulation of artistic and cultural works and products, and an intercultural dialogue.

⁽¹⁾ See Precautionary Clause

3. PURPOSE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

In order to meet the objectives of the Programme, this call for proposals aims to award operating grants to co-finance expenditure associated with the permanent work programme of bodies pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of culture or an objective forming part of the European Union's policy in this area.

4. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget granted for this call for proposals should be EUR 4,8 million.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Bodies must have a real European dimension. In this respect, they must carry out their activities at a European level, on their own or in the form of various coordinated associations, and their structure (registered members) and their activities must have an influence throughout the European Union or cover at least seven countries participating in the Programme.

Eligible applicants must be non-profit-making bodies with legal status which have been in existence for at least two years, pursuing an aim of general European interest in the field of culture or an objective forming part of the European Union's policy in this area. These bodies must have their registered offices in one of the countries taking part in the Programme ⁽¹⁾.

6. DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

22 December 2006.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The specifications which complete this call for proposals are available on the Internet sites of the European Commission and of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. The application pack and all the relevant forms are available on the Internet site of the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency.

European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/index_fr.html

EAC Executive Agency:

<http://eacea.cec.eu.int/static/index.htm>

Applications must satisfy the requirements laid down in the specifications and must be submitted using the application forms provided for this purpose.

⁽¹⁾ The 25 Member States of the European Union; Romania and Bulgaria are in the process of joining and it is envisaged that they will become Member States as of 1 January 2007, the EEA countries, subject to the adoption of the appropriate decision by the EEA mixed committee; the candidate countries and the Western Balkan states subject to the conclusion of the relevant Memorandum of Understanding laying down the procedures for their participation.