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⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

COUNCIL

Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the importance of family-friendly policies in Europe and the establishment of an Alliance for Families

(2007/C 163/01)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

which have achieved high female labour force participation and the most progress in gender equality are today also experiencing relatively high fertility rates;

RECALLING:

(1) that at its Spring 2007 ⁽¹⁾ meeting the European Council agreed that the establishment of an 'Alliance for Families' will serve as a platform for the exchange of views and knowledge on family-friendly policies as well as of good practices between Member States, in order better to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of demographic change;

(2) the importance accorded by the Commission in its communication entitled 'The demographic future of Europe — from challenge to opportunity' ⁽²⁾ to the assertion that Member States can and must find successful political responses to demographic changes and to low birth rates, in particular, and increase labour participation through family-friendly policies;

(3) the Council Resolution of 22 February 2007 ⁽³⁾, which stresses that demographic change requires further efforts to allow those men and women who wish to work and to raise families to have children without having to sacrifice their careers, by promoting gender equality and by facilitating the reconciliation of work, family and private life, taking into consideration the equal participation of fathers in family tasks;

(4) the demography report submitted by the Commission services on 14 May 2007 which shows that countries

(5) the Decision of the Commission ⁽⁴⁾ to set up a High-Level Group on Demography with the mandate to advise the Commission in the process of monitoring demographic change and policy responses to it;

(6) that it is the responsibility of the Member States to formulate policies for the support for families consistent with national public policy;

(7) the Commission's Roadmap for equality between women and men ⁽⁵⁾ and the Pact on Gender Equality adopted by the European Council in March 2006 where policies to reconcile work and private and family life are set as priorities for achieving equality between women and men, and also the Report on equality between women and men 2007 ⁽⁶⁾ where it is highlighted that policy responses to demographic change should take into account the principle of gender equality;

(8) the European Pact for Youth adopted by the European Council in March 2005, which emphasises the need for better reconciling work, family and private life to enable young people, who so wish, to start a family and to participate fully in training and education or to enter into working life at the same time;

⁽¹⁾ Doc. 7224/07.

⁽²⁾ Doc. 14114/06 [COM(2006) 571 final].

⁽³⁾ Doc. 6216/1/07.

⁽⁴⁾ Expected on 25 May 2007.

⁽⁵⁾ Doc. 7034/06.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2007) 49.

- (9) the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee of 14 March 2007 ⁽¹⁾, which states that families are a source of economic prosperity, especially when both parents can be gainfully employed, that the EU should therefore encourage the Member States to incorporate the family dimension in its economic and social policies and that the EU should use best practice to promote a sustainable family policy;
- (10) the tools and targets already agreed in the European Union in recent years under the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs and the open method of coordination for social protection and social inclusion, that are of high relevance for a better reconciliation of family, private and working life and the development of policy responses to demographic change:
- the target agreed by the Lisbon European Council in 2000 of increasing the proportion of women in employment to more than 60 % by 2010,
 - the call by the Stockholm European Council in 2001 for the development of indicators on the provision of care facilities for children and other dependants and on family benefit systems,
 - the commitment made by the Barcelona European Council in 2002 to provide childcare by 2010 to at least 90 % of children between 3 and 6 years old and at least 33 % of children under 3 years old,
 - the call upon Member States by the Spring European Council in 2006 ⁽²⁾, reaffirmed in March 2007 ⁽³⁾, to take necessary measures to rapidly and significantly reduce child poverty, giving all children equal opportunities, regardless of their social background;
- (11) the announcement by the Commission that it will present in 2008 a communication on child care assessing the Member States' progress in achieving the childcare development goals.

EMPHASISE THAT:

1. the basic changes in the composition of the population as a result of demographic change will have consequences for the structure of social life and for the economy, posing challenges that must be met with coherent, long-term strategies;
 2. low birth rates in many European countries very often do not reflect the personal wishes of women and men, but are in many cases the expression of their social situation and of the social imbalance characterised by the fact that equality of opportunity, gender equality and suitable conditions to reconcile work, family and private life are not sufficiently put into practice, that families, and in particular women, are overburdened by the constraints and costs that raising children or caring for dependents may involve and by the lack of affordable child and other care services of high quality, and thus do not have sufficiently reliable bases on which to plan ahead and organise their lives;
3. with full awareness of the diversity of families and of family policies in the European Union, better support for families and enhancing the well-being of children are [...] crucial to a better quality of life and to Europe's economic development. Such measures should encourage equality of opportunity for children and young people of all backgrounds in terms of education, training and entry into a highly productive working life. They should also allow the reconciliation of work, family and private life for women and men with caring responsibilities, thus enhancing the chances of European businesses of finding qualified workers;
 4. sustainable family policies have a part to play in improving social cohesion and in sound economic development, and to that end national measures in particular in the following areas have to be borne in mind:
 - improvement of the social infrastructure for families, allowing people with care responsibilities to enter and stay in employment, providing affordable and accessible high quality care services for children and other dependents in particular, including the availability of counselling, parental education and training for carers as well as day care and leisure-time facilities for young people,
 - more precise targeting of support for families, with the aim of better compensating the costs of raising children, including during the periods immediately following their birth, and taking due account of the specific needs of single parent families and of families with a large number of children, as well as helping them to fulfil care responsibilities for other dependents,
 - better conditions governing the organisation of work and time, and a better balance between employment security and flexibility ('flexicurity') over the life cycle to the benefit of family life, including in particular appropriate arrangements for parental and care leave for both women and men, better access to lifelong learning opportunities and ensuring gender equality in employment, notably by tackling gender stereotypes;

⁽¹⁾ Doc. SOC/245 — CESE 423/2007.

⁽²⁾ Doc. 7775/1/06 REV 1 (paragraph 72).

⁽³⁾ Doc. 7224/07 (paragraph 19).

5. the European Union must take into account the fact that Member States are responsible for formulating appropriate sustainable family policies, yet it also ought to take advantage of the decisive contribution that European exchanges in this field can make to achieving the goals of the renewed Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs and the European Union's social cohesion objectives;

6. the Alliance for Families constitutes a platform for the exchange of views and knowledge and represents a sustainable commitment of the European Union and its Member States to address, within the context of demographic change, issues related to family-friendly policies, to support each other in the search for forward-looking political responses and to make knowledge and experience available for all actors, so as to reinforce shared efforts. At the European level, no new structures shall be created but existing instruments, resources and bodies should be used to that end in a coherent, effective and targeted way.

CALL ON THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION:

1. to take into consideration the needs of families, in particular those with care responsibilities, in the work of the relevant European policy-formulating committees and expert groups.

The work of the Social Protection Committee and the Employment Committee will help to understand which support policies are most effective in securing adequate living standards for families, in reconciling work and family life and in preventing poverty. Within their respective remits, this could include the promotion of the labour-market participation of parents, family friendly working arrangements, the provision of enabling services, including care for dependents, services adapted to the needs of people with caring responsibilities who want to participate in the labour market, day-care and pre-school education, cash benefits and tax benefits.

The High Level Group on Demography, as an advisory body to the Commission, will contribute to the overall assessment of how to address demographic challenges and should, in particular, stimulate the exchange of good practice on family-friendly policies. In so doing, it will also support the Social Protection Committee and the Employment Committee in the above-mentioned areas of work. The Commission will ensure the complementarity of the work of the High Level Group with the activities of the two other Committees as well as with the High Level Group on gender mainstreaming;

2. to bring together the measures taken and progress made in the context of the Alliance for Families in a public internet portal which also includes relevant information provided by the Member States, the social partners and non-governmental organisations.

CALL ON THE COMMISSION:

1. to establish a framework in which interested Member States, social partners, civil society organisations and other stakeholders can learn from each others' experience and use it to improve conditions for families. The following measures should in particular be envisaged:

— invite the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, to set up under its aegis and for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of experience, good practice and innovative approaches on family friendly policies, an observatory which will, in cooperation with the Member States and the social partners, gather information, process it and make it available; of particular importance is information on local, regional and company initiatives to increase family-friendliness, especially concerning a better reconciliation of work, family and private life,

— promote research on the situation of families and on family-friendly policies in order to enhance knowledge of the effectiveness of such policies and how they interact with related policy areas and the effects of social, economic and cultural conditions; such research should be promoted under the 7th Framework Research Programme, taking particular account of European diversity, and should also involve the European Institute for Gender Equality and the OECD in particular,

— support the role of the High-Level Group on Demography in facilitating the exchange of views with social partners and civil society, in order to involve them in the establishment of the Alliance for Families,

— take appropriate account of family issues in future demography reports and in the future fora on demography starting in 2008,

— ensure that local and regional players in Europe who are willing to organise fora and the establishment of city and regional partnerships can benefit from international exchanges of on-the-ground experience to be identified through the above-mentioned research activities, the work of the demography forum, the High-Level Group on Demography and the observatory;

2. to use the information provided by the Member States to describe their state of preparation for demographic change, every two years using its annual progress report;

3. to evaluate progress achieved by the Alliance for Families and present its findings on the occasion of the 2010 European Demography Forum.

CALL ON THE MEMBER STATES:

1. to make intensive use of the opportunities for exchanges of opinion and experience offered by the Alliance for Families and, in particular, make the necessary contributions to the work of the High-Level Group on Demography;

2. when preparing and organising local, regional and national fora on demographic and family-related issues, to establish close cooperation with the social partners, and involve undertakings and non-governmental organisations; the fora could be used to create lasting and action-oriented alliances for more family-friendliness, taking into account all the major determinants of the quality of family life;
 3. to make use of the possibilities offered by the European Structural Funds and of other relevant European funding instruments for securing appropriate financial support for local, regional and national family-friendly initiatives such as the organisation of national, regional or local fora and partnerships seeking to promote employment through better reconciliation of work, family and private life by facilitating access to child care and care for dependent persons and by adapting the organisation of work to the needs of families;
 4. to take the appropriate measures to promote an equal sharing of care responsibilities between women and men;
 5. against the background that the diversity of national family policies and traditions provides a good resource for mutual learning between Member States, to use the information and experience made available through an intensified European exchange to identify possible improvements of their own frameworks for supporting families.
-

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

16 July 2007

(2007/C 163/02)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate		
USD	US dollar	1,3781	RON	Romanian leu	3,1275
JPY	Japanese yen	167,84	SKK	Slovak koruna	33,151
DKK	Danish krone	7,4413	TRY	Turkish lira	1,7545
GBP	Pound sterling	0,67655	AUD	Australian dollar	1,5774
SEK	Swedish krona	9,1503	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,4419
CHF	Swiss franc	1,6556	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	10,7765
ISK	Iceland króna	82,65	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,7409
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,9025	SGD	Singapore dollar	2,0894
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	KRW	South Korean won	1 265,37
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,5842	ZAR	South African rand	9,59
CZK	Czech koruna	28,205	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	10,4292
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,2805
HUF	Hungarian forint	245,5	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	12 464,91
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4528	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,742
LVL	Latvian lats	0,6974	PHP	Philippine peso	62,635
MTL	Maltese lira	0,4293	RUB	Russian rouble	35,094
PLN	Polish zloty	3,7493	THB	Thai baht	41,55

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

Statement by the Commission concerning Article 7(4) of Protocol 3 on ACP sugar of Annex V to the ACP-CE Partnership Agreement

(2007/C 163/03)

As a result of a decision taken by the Government of Saint Christopher and Nevis to cease sugar production, 15 590,9 tons of sugar were available for reallocation. The Commission hereby gives notice that, pursuant to the provisions of Article 7(4) of that Protocol, it has allocated by Decision C/2007/3381 of 13 July 2007, 15 590,9 tonnes of sugar (expressed as white sugar), with effect from 1 July 2006, to the countries listed below. This means that, with effect from the 2006/2007 delivery period, the agreed quantities specified in Article 3(1) of the said Protocol will be amended as follows (expressed in tons of white sugar):

State	Agreed quantities		New agreed quantities (1.7.2006)
	Reallocated	Abandoned	
Barbados	0		32 097,40
Belize	6 331,30	0	46 680,10
Congo	0	0	10 186,10
Fiji	0	0	165 348,30
Guyana	5 721,30	0	165 131,40
Ivory Coast	0	0	10 186,10
Jamaica	3 538,30	0	122 234,30
Kenya	0	0	5 000,00
Madagascar	0	0	10 760,00
Malawi	0	0	20 824,40
Mauritius	0	0	491 030,50
Mozambique	0	0	6 000,00
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	15 590,90	0
Suriname	0	0	0
Swaziland	0	0	117 844,50
Tanzania	0	0	10 186,10
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	43 751,00
Uganda	0	0	0
Zambia	0	0	7 215,00
Zimbabwe	0	0	30 224,80
TOTAL	15 590,90	15 590,90	1 294 700,00

V

(Announcements)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

COMMISSION

CALL FOR PROPOSALS — EAC/17/07

Culture programme

Organisation and implementation of an annual European Union Prize for Literature

(2007/C 163/04)

1. Introduction

The Culture Programme ⁽¹⁾ is a single multi-annual programme for Community measures in the field of culture, open to all cultural sectors (non-audio visual) and all categories of cultural operators.

It is based on Article 151 of the EC Treaty, which stipulates that the Community will 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.

In relation to strand 1.3 of the programme, which deals with 'special actions', the aim of this call for proposals is to select a body which will be responsible for organising and awarding an annual European prize for contemporary literature.

2. Objectives and description

Books and literature play a special role in culture and in helping people to learn about others. Beyond the support being provided for the translation of literary works, however, little is being done at European level to promote literature. This prize aims to put the spotlight on the wealth of contemporary literature (fiction) created in Europe.

The aim of this call for proposals is to select a body capable of organising the award of a European Union prize for literature in 2008. This body could also be in charge of the subsequent prizes (2009 to 2013), on an annual basis, with the explicit agreement of the European Commission.

⁽¹⁾ Decision 1855/2006/EC of the European Parliament and the Council (OJ L 372 of 27.12.2006, p. 1).

The body which is selected must do the following:

- (a) Select new European talents in the field of contemporary literature (fiction) from all the countries participating in the Culture Programme and to promote them in participating countries outside their own;
- (b) Appoint a well-known personality from the field of European literature to take on the role of Ambassador for this prize. This person's role will be to support and promote the new talents referred to in point (a);
- (c) Organise an award ceremony for these prizes which puts the spotlight on this initiative and its European dimension.

3. Timetable and eligibility period

Applications for organising the 2008 prize must reach the Commission by **12 October 2007** at the latest.

For the organisation of the 2008 prize, the measure to be cofinanced must start by **15 March 2008** at the latest. Expenditure incurred before **1 January 2008** will not be taken into consideration.

Costs will be eligible under each Community agreement for a maximum of 12 months.

The result of the selection procedure is expected to be announced in the fourth quarter of 2007.

It is expected that the agreement will be signed in the first quarter of 2008.

4. Budget available

The budget earmarked for this action is a maximum of EUR 200 000 towards the total organisation and implementation costs of each annual prize (including the money for the prizes and special mention). This contribution must not exceed 60 % of the total eligible organisation and implementation costs proposed by the successful applicant for each annual prize ⁽¹⁾.

Community support will be granted on condition that the administrative and financial procedures are properly completed.

The amounts mentioned in the present document are subject to the release of the necessary appropriations by the budgetary authority.

The European Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

5. Eligible organisations

Applicant organisations must be public- or private-law organisations whose activity lies in the field of literature and which have at least two years proven experience in organising activities at European level in this sector.

Applications from legal entities established in one of the following countries are eligible:

- the 27 Member States of the European Union on 1 January 2007 (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom),
- the three EEA countries: Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein ⁽²⁾,
- the candidate countries for accession to the EU (Turkey, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) ⁽³⁾,
- the Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, including Kosovo (pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1244)) ⁽⁴⁾.

6. Award criteria

Eligible projects will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- ⁽¹⁾ Article 113 of the Financial Regulation; Articles 167 and 172 of the Implementing Rules.
- ⁽²⁾ Subject to the entry into force of the decision of the EEA Joint Committee on the participation of each of these countries in the new 2007 Culture programme.
- ⁽³⁾ Subject to the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding regulating the participation of each of these countries in the new 2007 Culture programme.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Subject to the conclusion of the Memorandum of Understanding regulating the participation of each of these countries in the new 2007 Culture programme.

A. Compliance with the objectives of the call for proposals (0-5 points)

- nature and suitability of partnerships and mechanisms for selecting books to be awarded prizes at national level,
- nature and suitability of criteria and mechanisms for appointing the European personality to be awarded a prize for his/her work,
- suitability of the concept for the prize-giving ceremony.

B. Experience gained and ability to mobilize the support in the field of literature at a European level (0-5 points)

- experience in organising similar initiatives in the field of contemporary literature at European level,
- ability to mobilize the support of the books sector as a whole (authors, translators, publishers, booksellers, librarians, readers) and at a European level in order to boost the impact of the operation.

C. Management of the project (0-5 points)

- ability to organise, coordinate and implement the various aspects of the prize-giving process, in particular the selection process at national level, in line with the objectives of this call for proposals,
- quality of the work plan and planning process, including decision-making structures and the organisation of potential partnerships,
- relevance of the budget with regard to the planned activities.

D. Communication plan and visibility (0-5 points)

The level of visibility, dissemination and exploitation of the planned activities will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

- the level of promotion of the planned activities in particular via the different sorts of publicity tools used (website, magazines, brochures, newspapers, radio, TV, etc.) in order to make the activities visible to European citizens,
- the level of visibility of the European Commission in the different promotion tools and during the prize-giving ceremony,
- the relevance and quality of the 'media plan' with regard to the planned activities and the target audience,

- the number of people who are reached (directly and indirectly) by the planned activities (target audience/beneficiaries, attendance, number of participants, readership, etc.).

The projects will be evaluated by a European Commission's internal evaluation committee. A ranked list of the projects which receive at least four points for criterion A and at least 14 points in total will be compiled. The Commission will use this list when deciding on the award of the grant.

7. Full details

The full text of this call for proposals and the application forms are available on the following website:

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

Applications must comply with the requirements set out in the full text and be submitted using the form provided.

EUROPEAN PERSONNEL SELECTION OFFICE (EPSO)

NOTICE OF OPEN COMPETITION EPSO/AST/41/07

(2007/C 163/05)

The European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) is organising the following open competition: EPSO/AST/41/07 — Assistants (AST3) in the field of information and communication technologies (informatics).

Professional experience of three or six years is required depending on the type of degree.

This competition is published in English, French and German in *Official Journal of the European Union* C 163 A. All the information is available in these three languages on EPSO's website at: <http://europa.eu/epsa>

The closing date for registration is **12 September 2007**.

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPETITION
POLICY

COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.4762 — Autogrill/Alpha Airports Group)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2007/C 163/06)

1. On 9 July 2007 the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the undertaking Autogrill S.p.A ('Autogrill', Italy) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation control of the whole of the undertaking Alpha Airports Group plc ('Alpha', UK) by way of purchase of shares.
2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
 - Autogrill is a provider of food and beverage and retail services for travellers,
 - Alpha provides catering and retailing services to airlines and airports.
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.
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 ((32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.4762 — Autogrill/Alpha Airports Group to the following address:

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

⁽¹⁾ OJL 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case COMP/M.4792 — RREEF/Monterey/DRH)
Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2007/C 163/07)

1. On 10 July 2007, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the fund RREEF Two Lux (Luxembourg), which is ultimately managed by Deutsche Bank, and Monterey Capital IV S.à.r.l. ('Monterey', Luxembourg), a company belonging to the Terra Firma Group, will acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of Deutsche Raststätten Holding ('DRH') by way of purchase of shares. Currently, DRH is solely controlled by Monterey.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

— RREEF Two Lux: fund, managed by Deutsche Bank who is active in banking, financial and related services worldwide;

— Monterey/Terra Firma: private equity investor, active worldwide;

— DRH: running and leasing of motorway service stations in Germany;

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 ((32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.4792 — RREEF/Monterey/DRH, 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.