

Official Journal

of the European Communities

ISSN 0378-6986

C 29

Volume 39

2 February 1996

English edition

Information and Notices

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European University Institute (see page 3 of the cover)

I

(Information)

COMMISSION

**Rate of interest applied by the European Monetary Institute for its operations in ecus:
4,75 % for February 1996**

Ecu (')

1 February 1996

(96/C 29/01)

Currency amount for one unit:

Belgian and Luxembourg franc	38,8704	Finnish markka	5,78350
Danish krone	7,31555	Swedish krona	8,82496
German mark	1,89074	Pound sterling	0,839175
Greek drachma	311,968	United States dollar	1,27194
Spanish peseta	159,374	Canadian dollar	1,74968
French franc	6,49261	Japanese yen	136,008
Irish pound	0,811185	Swiss franc	1,54070
Italian lira	2010,91	Norwegian krone	8,26505
Dutch guilder	2,11752	Icelandic krona	85,2707
Austrian schilling	13,2943	Australian dollar	1,70776
Portuguese escudo	196,006	New Zealand dollar	1,88771
		South African rand	4,64486

The Commission has installed a telex with an automatic answering device which gives the conversion rates in a number of currencies. This service is available every day from 3.30 p.m. until 1 p.m. the following day. Users of the service should do as follows:

- call telex number Brussels 23789;
- give their own telex code;
- type the code 'cccc' which puts the automatic system into operation resulting in the transmission of the conversion rates of the ecu;
- the transmission should not be interrupted until the end of the message, which is marked by the code 'ffff'.

Note: The Commission also has an automatic telex answering service (No 21791) and an automatic fax answering service (No 296 10 97) providing daily data concerning calculation of the conversion rates applicable for the purposes of the common agricultural policy.

(¹) Council Regulation (EEC) No 3180/78 of 18 December 1978 (OJ No L 379, 30. 12. 1978, p. 1), as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1971/89 (OJ No L 189, 4. 7. 1989, p. 1).

Council Decision 80/1184/EEC of 18 December 1980 (Convention of Lomé) (OJ No L 349, 23. 12. 1980, p. 34).

Commission Decision No 3334/80/ECSC of 19 December 1980 (OJ No L 349, 23. 12. 1980, p. 27).

Financial Regulation of 16 December 1980 concerning the general budget of the European Communities (OJ No L 345, 20. 12. 1980, p. 23).

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3308/80 of 16 December 1980 (OJ No L 345, 20. 12. 1980, p. 1).

Decision of the Council of Governors of the European Investment Bank of 13 May 1981 (OJ No L 311, 30. 10. 1981, p. 1).

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ON SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS**

Rates for conversion of currencies pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2615/79

(96/C 29/02)

Article 107 (1), (2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72

Reference period: January 1996

Application period: April, May and June 1996

	Brussels (Bfrs)	Copenhagen (Dkr)	Frankfurt (DM)	Athens (Dr)	Madrid (Pta)	Paris (FF)	Dublin (£ Irl)	Milan/Rome (Lit)
Bfrs 100	100	18,8197	4,86487	800,638	410,096	16,6638	2,10266	5 273,11
Dkr 100	531,358	100	25,8499	4 254,26	2 179,08	88,5443	11,1727	28 019,1
DM 100	2 055,55	386,849	100	16 457,5	8 429,75	342,533	43,2214	108 392
Dr 100	12,4900	2,35059	0,607624	100	51,2212	2,08131	0,262624	658,614
Pta 100	24,3845	4,58909	1,18627	195,232	100	4,06338	0,512724	1 285,82
FF 100	600,104	112,938	29,1943	4 804,66	2 461,01	100	12,6182	31 644,2
£ Irl 1	47,5587	8,95041	2,31367	380,773	195,037	7,92508	1	2 507,83
Lit 1 000	18,9641	3,56899	0,922579	151,834	77,7712	3,16014	0,398752	1 000
Fl 100	1 835,50	345,436	89,2948	14 695,7	7 527,33	305,864	38,5944	96 788,1
Esc 100	19,8118	3,72853	0,963819	158,621	81,2476	3,30140	0,416576	1 044,70
£ 1	45,9656	8,65058	2,23616	368,018	188,503	7,65959	0,966501	2 423,82
Nkr 100	468,153	88,1049	22,7750	3 748,21	1 919,88	78,0119	9,84367	24 686,2
Skr 100	446,454	84,0212	21,7194	3 574,48	1 830,89	74,3960	9,38742	23 542
Fmk 100	676,115	127,243	32,8921	5 413,23	2 772,72	112,666	14,2164	35 652,3
ÖS 100	292,281	55,0065	14,2191	2 340,12	1 198,63	48,7051	6,14569	15 412,3
Ikr 100	45,4308	8,54994	2,21015	363,736	186,310	7,57049	0,955257	2 395,62
SFr 100	2 546,57	479,257	123,887	20 388,8	10 443,4	424,355	53,5458	134 284

	Amsterdam (Fl)	Lisbon (Esc)	London (£)	Oslo (Nkr)	Stockholm (Skr)	Helsinki (Fmk)	Vienna (ÖS)	Reykjavik (Ikr)	Vaduz (SFr)
Bfrs 100	5,44810	504,749	2,17554	21,3606	22,3987	14,7904	34,2136	220,115	3,92685
Dkr 100	28,9489	2 682,02	11,5599	113,501	119,018	78,5900	181,797	1 169,60	20,8656
DM 100	111,989	10 375,4	44,7195	439,078	460,418	304,025	703,279	4 524,58	80,7185
Dr 100	0,680470	63,0433	0,271726	2,66794	2,79761	1,84733	4,27329	27,4924	0,490465
Pta 100	1,32849	123,081	0,530496	5,20867	5,46183	3,60657	8,34282	53,6740	0,957543
FF 100	32,6943	3 029,02	13,0555	128,186	134,416	88,7578	205,317	1 320,92	23,5652
£ Irl 1	2,59105	240,052	1,03466	10,1588	10,6526	7,03412	16,2716	104,684	1,86756
Lit 1 000	1,03318	95,7212	0,412573	4,05084	4,24773	2,80487	6,48831	41,7429	0,744692
Fl 100	100	9 264,68	39,9321	392,074	411,130	271,478	627,992	4 040,21	72,0774
Esc 100	1,07937	100	0,431015	4,23192	4,43760	2,93025	6,77834	43,6088	0,777981
£ 1	2,50425	232,011	1	9,81850	10,2957	6,79849	15,7265	101,177	1,80500
Nkr 100	25,5054	2 362,99	10,1849	100	104,860	69,2416	160,172	1 030,47	18,3836
Skr 100	24,3232	2 253,47	9,71279	95,3650	100	66,0322	152,748	982,711	17,5316
Fmk 100	36,8354	3 412,68	14,7092	144,422	151,441	100	231,323	1 488,23	26,5500
ÖS 100	15,9238	1 475,29	6,35871	62,4329	65,4674	43,2296	100	643,355	11,4774
Ikr 100	2,47512	229,312	0,988367	9,70428	10,1759	6,71940	15,5435	100	1,78400
SFr 100	138,740	12 853,8	55,4017	543,962	570,400	376,648	871,274	5 605,38	100

1. Regulation (EEC) No 2615/79 determines that the rate of conversion into a national currency of amounts shown in another national currency shall be the rate calculated by the Commission and based on the monthly average, during the reference period defined in paragraph 2, of the exchange rates of those currencies, which are notified to the Commission for the purposes of the European Monetary System.
2. The reference period shall be:
 - the month of January for rates of conversion applicable from 1 April following,
 - the month of April for rates of conversion applicable from 1 July following,
 - the month of July for rates of conversion applicable from 1 October following,
 - the month of October for rates of conversion applicable from 1 January following.

The rates for the conversion of currencies shall be published in the second *Official Journal of the European Communities* ('C' series) of the months of February, May, August and November.

Guidelines for state aid in connection with investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products

(96/C 29/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

By the following letter, the Commission notified the Member States, pursuant to Article 93 (1) of the EC Treaty, of the Community guidelines for state aid in connection with investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products.

Article 93 (1) of the Treaty requires the Commission to propose to the Member States any appropriate measures required by the progressive development or by the functioning of the common market. Following joint consideration with the Member States at the meeting of the working party on conditions of competition in agriculture held on 3 May 1995, the Commission, acting under Article 93 (1) of the Treaty, is proposing to the Member States the guidelines and appropriate measures annexed to this letter.

The Commission will authorize no further aid measure for investment in the processing and marketing of agricultural products notified to it under Article 93 (3) EC which does not comply with these guidelines and appropriate measures, which apply or will continue to apply after 1 January 1996.

If Commission Decision 94/173/EC is subsequently amended or replaced so that the field currently covered by the second and third indents of paragraph 1.2 and paragraph 2 of the Annex to this Decision is affected, such amendment shall apply to these guidelines and appropriate measures from the date of notification to the Member States of the amendments or replacements in question.

Pursuant to Article 93 (1), the Commission is requesting the Member States to confirm within two months from the date of receipt of this letter that they will comply no later than 1 January 1996 with the annexed communication by amending their existing aids where such aids do not comply with these guidelines and appropriate measures. If it does not receive such confirmation, the Commission reserves the right to open the procedure provided for in Article 93 (2) of the EC Treaty.

1. Introduction

In assessing compatibility with the common market of State aid in connection with investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products, the

Commission has an established policy of applying by analogy the sectoral restrictions governing Community part-financing of such investments.

In a communication on this policy⁽¹⁾, the Commission restated the rationale of this approach and stressed that, since the sectoral restrictions on Community aid in this field had been amended by Commission Decision 94/173/EC⁽²⁾, it intended to make corresponding amendments to State aid policy. This point was reiterated in its communication of March 1995⁽³⁾. This policy, and in particular the amendments thereto, are considered in these guidelines and appropriate measures pursuant to Article 93 (1) of the EC Treaty. Also considered are the maximum rates of State aid for such investments which the Commission considers compatible with the common market (see Annex) and the relationship between these guidelines and appropriate measures and certain non-sector-specific provisions applicable in the field of State aid.

2. Philosophy of Commission policy

To the extent that State aid granted in connection with investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products distorts or threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or certain types of production, it is, in so far as it affects trade between Member States, incompatible with the common market under Article 92 (1) of the EC Treaty.

While State aid in connection with investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products may of course benefit from one of the exceptions provided for in Article 92 (3), it is established Commission policy to ensure that, in certain specific sectors of agricultural production, State aid may not enjoy one of these exceptions and that in other sectors it may enjoy such an exception only where certain strict conditions are met.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 189, 12. 7. 1994.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 79, 23. 3. 1994.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 71, 23. 3. 1995.

These sectoral restrictions, introduced following analysis of representative markets at Community level, are applied by the Commission in assessing whether any public aid in connection with investment in this field, whether at Community or national level, is in the Community interest. In this way, the Commission seeks to ensure consistency between the common agricultural policy and State aid policy so that investment is not encouraged where, for structural reasons, it is contrary to the Community interest.

This basic philosophy remains valid and is thus applied in the context of these guidelines and appropriate measures.

3. Commission policy concerning State aid in connection with investments in processing and marketing of agricultural products

(a) For the purposes of these guidelines and appropriate measures the following definitions apply without prejudice to paragraphs 4 (b) and 4 (c):

(i) "agricultural product": the products listed in Annex II to the Treaty, excluding those products covered by Council Regulation (EEC) No 4042/89 of 19 December 1989 (fisheries products), those products falling under CN codes 4502, 4503 and 4504 (cork products) and products intended to imitate or substitute milk and milk products ⁽¹⁾;

(ii) "investment": acquisition of material property (land, buildings, plant equipment) in connection with processing and/or marketing activities regardless of where these activities take place (including, for example, on agricultural holdings);

(iii) "processing": physical operation on an agricultural product where the product(s) resulting from the operation remain(s) such a product, for example the extraction of juice from fruit or the slaughter of animals for meat;

⁽¹⁾ For the purposes of these provisions, products to imitate or substitute for milk and/or milk products means products which could be confused with milk and/or milk products but whose composition differs from such products in that they contain fat and/or protein of non-milk origin with or without components derived from milk ("Products other than milk products" as referred to in Article 3 (2) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1898/87 on the protection of designations used in marketing of milk and milk products (OJ No L 182, 3. 7. 1987, p. 36)).

(iv) "marketing": physical presentation for the market and/or physical movement to the market of agricultural products, for example packaging or the construction of port silos designed to handle such products.

(b) Without prejudice to paragraphs 3 (d) and 4 (a) of these guidelines and appropriate measures, no State aid granted in connection with any of the investments referred to in the second and third indents of point 1.2 of the Annex to Commission Decision 94/173/EC or excluded unconditionally by point 2 of that Annex may be considered compatible with the common market. All investments referred to in point 2 of the Annex to Decision 94/173/EEC are also excluded unless the special conditions are met.

Where State aid subject to the special conditions referred to in point 2 of the Annex to Decision 94/173/EEC is granted in the framework of a general, regional or sectoral aid scheme to which the Commission has raised no objection under Articles 92 and 93 of the EC Treaty, an annual report is to be provided to the Commission giving details of any instance of grant of such aid during the year in question, and in particular, containing all information necessary to enable the Commission to conclude, without recourse to additional enquiry, that each of the conditions attached to the grant of such aid referred to in point 2 of the Annex to Decision 94/173/EEC has in fact been met. This reporting requirement is additional to any other requirements set by the Commission, for example in the context of a decision not to raise objections to a regional aid scheme.

(c) No State aid (national, regional, local or other) in connection with the processing and/or marketing of agricultural products may be considered compatible with the common market if it exceeds the rates set out in the Annex to these guidelines and appropriate measures, or if, in cumulation with other aid, it would cause those rates to be exceeded.

(d) These guidelines and appropriate measures are without prejudice to the application of Article 92 (2) of the EC Treaty. The Commission will consider, on a case-by-case basis, the extent to which aid qualifies for one of the exceptions

therein. The Commission also considers, on a case-by-case basis, any aid measure which should be rejected under these guidelines and appropriate measures but which would in principle be eligible for Community part-financing under Regulation (EEC) No 2328/91 ⁽¹⁾.

(e) The following texts are hereby cancelled and replaced by these guidelines and appropriate measures:

- (i) appropriate measures concerning the prohibition of the award of aid to glucose syrup with a high fructose content (iso-glucose) ⁽²⁾;
- (ii) framework system for investment aids relating to the manufacture and marketing of certain dairy products and substitute products ⁽³⁾.
- (iii) National aid to investments at processing and marketing level: modification of maximum rates of aid accepted by the Commission in the framework of Article 93 (3) of the Treaty ⁽⁴⁾.
- (iv) Commission communications regarding State aid for investments in the processing and marketing of agricultural products ⁽⁵⁾.

4. Relationship between these guidelines and appropriate measures and certain non-sector-specific provisions applicable in the field of State aid

(a) These guidelines and appropriate measures do not affect the provisions of the:

- (i) Community guidelines on State aid for environmental protection ⁽⁶⁾.

Aid which complies with the terms of the Community guidelines on State aid for environmental protection is considered by the Commission compatible with the common market even if it is granted in respect of a product sector or activity where aid is otherwise restricted or excluded under the terms of these guidelines and appropriate

measures. The maximum permissible rate of aid applicable to such investments is 55 % (75 % where the investment takes place within an Objective 1 region), except for investments on agricultural holdings, where the maximum permissible rates of aid are those specified in the Community guidelines on State aid for environmental protection (point 3.2.3, footnote 14);

- (ii) framework for State aid for research and development ⁽⁷⁾.

Aid which complies with the terms of the framework for State aid for research and development — and in particular where any investments are aided only to the extent that they are used exclusively for the purpose of the research and development work in question — is considered compatible with the common market even if it is granted in respect of a product sector or activity where aid is otherwise restricted or excluded under the terms of these guidelines and appropriate measures. The maximum permissible rates of aid applicable to such investments are determined according to the criteria of the framework for State aid for research and development.

(b) The following rules in the field of State aid are not applicable to the products covered by these guidelines and appropriate measures:

- (i) Community guidelines on State aid for small and medium-sized enterprises ⁽⁸⁾, and in particular the *de minimis* rule.

All measures concerning aid to be granted in connection with the production, processing and/or marketing of agricultural products is subject to prior notification to the Commission in accordance with Article 93 (3) of the Treaty, irrespective of the degree to which the undertaking in question is involved in production, processing and/or marketing of such products.

- (ii) Communication of the Commission on regional aid systems ⁽⁹⁾.

Regional aid schemes which include aid for investment in the processing and marketing of agricultural products are subject to these

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 218, 6. 8. 1991.

⁽²⁾ Commission letter to Member States of 29 March 1977.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 302, 12. 11. 1987.

⁽⁴⁾ Commission letter to the Member States of 30 October 1985.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No C 189, 12. 7. 1994; OJ No C 71, 23. 3. 1995.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No C 72, 10. 3. 1994.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ No C 83, 11. 4. 1986.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ No C 213, 19. 8. 1992.

⁽⁹⁾ OJ No C 31, 3. 2. 1979.

guidelines and appropriate measures as far as such investments are concerned. The implementation of a regional aid scheme will be subject to the intensity of the aid approved under that scheme.

- (iii) Commission communication on the cumulation of aid for different purposes ⁽¹⁾.

As long as an investment aid granted under a general, regional, and/or sectoral scheme in connection with the production, processing and/or marketing of agricultural products listed in Annex II to the EC Treaty complies strictly with the terms of the present guidelines and appropriate measures, it is considered compatible with the common market, irrespective of the financial scale of the investment in absolute terms. Thus for Annex II products there is no pre-set threshold in terms of the amount of aid expressed in absolute terms or as a percentage of total investment costs which

triggers notification of individual cases of application of general, regional or sectoral schemes.

- (c) Attention is drawn to the following:

Communication to the Member States on the accelerated clearance of aid schemes for small and medium-sized enterprises and of amendments of existing schemes ⁽²⁾.

Point 2 of this communication (certain types of minor amendment to existing schemes to which the Commission has raised no objection) applies, *inter alia*, to aid in connection with production, processing and/or marketing of agricultural products listed in Annex II to the EC Treaty. Point 1 of this communication (certain types of aid to small and medium-sized enterprises) does not apply, *inter alia*, to aid in the agricultural sector thus defined.³

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 3, 5. 1. 1985.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 213, 19. 8. 1992.

ANNEX

Maximum permissible rates of State aid in connection with investments in processing and marketing of agricultural products

Characteristics of State aid in connection with the investment	Rate of aid (gross) expressed as a percentage of total investment costs potentially eligible for State aid
1. Does not comply with the terms of these guidelines and appropriate measures or concerns the manufacture and marketing of products which imitate or substitute milk and milk products	0 %
2. Complies with the terms of these guidelines and appropriate measures and the investment in question takes place in an Objective 1 region	75 %
3. Complies with the terms of these guidelines and appropriate measures and the investment in question takes place outside an Objective 1 region	55 %

II

(Preparatory Acts)

COMMISSION

Amended proposal for a Council Decision on the fourth medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for men and women (1996 to 2000) ⁽¹⁾

*(96/C 29/04)**(Text with EEA relevance)**COM(95) 602 final — 95/0206(CNS)**(Submitted by the Commission pursuant to Article 189a (2) of the EC Treaty on 27 November 1995)*

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 306, 17. 11. 1995, p. 2.

INITIAL PROPOSAL

REVISED PROPOSAL

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions,

INITIAL PROPOSAL

REVISED PROPOSAL

Whereas the Council has adopted six directives, two recommendations and nine resolutions in the area of equal opportunities for men and women ⁽¹⁾,

⁽¹⁾ Council Directive 75/117/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women (OJ No L 45, 19. 2. 1975, p. 19);

Council Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions (OJ No L 39, 14. 2. 1976, p. 40);

Council Directive 79/7/EEC on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (OJ No L 6, 10. 1. 1979, p. 24);

Council Directive 86/378/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in occupational social security schemes (OJ No L 225, 12. 8. 1986, p. 40);

Council Directive 86/613/EEC on the application of the principle of equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity, including agriculture, in a self-employed capacity, and on the protection of self-employed women during pregnancy and motherhood (OJ No L 359, 19. 12. 1986, p. 56);

Council Directive 92/85/EEC on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding (OJ No L 348, 28. 11. 1992, p. 1);

Council Recommendation 84/635/EEC of 13 December 1984 on the promotion of positive action for women (OJ No L 331, 19. 12. 1984, p. 34);

Council Recommendation 92/241/EEC of 31 March 1992 on child care (OJ No L 123, 8. 5. 1992, p. 16);

Council Resolution of 12 July 1982 on the promotion of equal opportunities for women (OJ No C 186, 21. 7. 1982, p. 3);

Council resolution of 7 June 1984 on action to combat unemployment among women (OJ No C 161, 21. 6. 1984, p. 4);

Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council of 3 June 1985 containing an action programme on equal opportunities for girls and boys in education (OJ No C 166, 5. 7. 1985, p. 1);

Second Council resolution of 24 July 1986 on the promotion of equal opportunities for women (OJ No C 203, 12. 8. 1986, p. 2);

Council resolution of 16 December 1988 on the reintegration and late integration of women into working life (OJ No C 333, 28. 12. 1988, p. 1);

Council resolution of 29 May 1990 on the protection of the dignity of men and women at work (OJ No C 157, 27. 6. 1990, p. 3);

Council resolution of 21 May 1991 on the third medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for men and women (1991 to 1995) (OJ No C 142, 31. 5. 1991, p. 1);

Council resolution of 22 June 1994 on the promotion of equal opportunities for men and women through action by the European Structural Funds (OJ No C 231, 20. 8. 1994, p. 1);

Council resolution of 27 March 1995 on the balanced participation of men and women in decision-making (OJ No C ..., p. ...).

INITIAL PROPOSAL

Whereas the Council's directives and measures in the field of equal opportunities for men and women have played a major part in improving the situation for women;

Whereas equality for women and men is a basic principle recognized by Community law;

Whereas the Heads of State or Government, meeting within the European Council at Essen on 10 and 11 December 1994, emphasized that equality of opportunities for men and women, together with the fight against unemployment, is a paramount task of the European Union and its Member States;

Whereas in the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, the Commission underlines the need to strengthen equal opportunities policies for men and women in employment ⁽¹⁾;

Whereas in the White Paper on European social policy the Commission undertakes to present during 1995 a fourth action programme on equal opportunities for men and women, to come into force in 1996 ⁽²⁾;

Whereas the European Parliament has strongly and repeatedly urged the Union to strengthen its policy in the field of equal opportunities for men and women ⁽³⁾;

REVISED PROPOSAL

Whereas the Council's directives and measures in the field of equal treatment and opportunities for men and women have played a major part in improving the situation for women;

Whereas equal treatment and opportunities for men and women is a basic principle recognized by Community law;

Whereas the Heads of State or Government, meeting within the European Council at Essen on 10 and 11 December 1994 and at Cannes on 26 and 27 June 1995, emphasized that equality of opportunities for men and women, together with the fight against unemployment, is a paramount task of the European Union and its Member States;

Whereas this programme must, as a minimum, build on the perspectives laid out in the conclusions, final declaration and action platform from the World Conference on Women in Beijing, and must be implemented as part of the follow-up to the Beijing Conference

⁽¹⁾ Bulletin of the European Communities, Supplement 6/93.

⁽²⁾ COM(94) 333 of 27 July 1994.

⁽³⁾ Resolution on the evaluation of the third Community action programme on equal opportunities for men and women and proposals for the fourth Community action programme A4-0104/95 of 14 June 1995.

INITIAL PROPOSAL

Whereas the first three medium-term Community action programmes on equal opportunities for men and women (1982 to 1985, 1986 to 1990, 1991 to 1995) have played an important role in improving the situation of women and in promoting cooperation at all levels in this respect;

Whereas it is necessary to consolidate and build upon the results of the three programmes and whereas, despite the efforts made both at national and Community level, there is still gender bias, particularly with regard to employment and pay;

Whereas boosting education and vocational training and increasing the number of working women can help to enhance the competitiveness of the European economy;

Whereas there is a need to develop measures taking into account the social and economic changes, and in particular to respond to changes in family structures, in the roles of men and women in society, in the organization of working life and in the demographic composition of society;

Whereas active partnership between the Commission, the Member States, the social partners and all other organizations concerned needs to be promoted in this area and synergy between all the relevant policies and measures encouraged;

REVISED PROPOSAL

Whereas the increasing feminization of poverty in the Member States of the European Union is a worrying development which calls for Community action alongside national measures;

Whereas access to education and vocational training, and the promotion of a wider choice of jobs for girls and women are vital if women are to develop to the full their role in the economic, social, political and cultural spheres and if they are to be integrated into the labour market on an equal footing;

Whereas information and training on equal treatment must be geared to specific national, regional and local conditions and targeted at all social players in accordance with social, economic and cultural factors in order to facilitate women's access to and use of information and structures, which enable them to exercise their rights to the full;

Whereas active partnership needs to be promoted in this area between the Commission, the national, regional and local authorities, the social partners, non-governmental organizations concerned, including European women's organizations, and all other relevant players in civil society;

INITIAL PROPOSAL

Whereas the present programme can, in accordance with Article 3b of the Treaty, and without prejudice to the competences of the Member States for promoting equal opportunities, bring Community added-value by identifying and stimulating good practice and policies, encouraging innovation and exchanging relevant experience;

Whereas the Treaty does not provide, for the adoption of the programme, powers other than those of Article 235.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

This Decision establishes the fourth medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (hereinafter called the programme) for the period from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 2000.

The programme is intended to promote integration of equal opportunities in the process of preparing, implementing and monitoring all policies, measures and activities at Community, national, regional and local level.

Article 2

The programme has the following six aims:

- to mobilize all the actors in economic and social life to promote equal opportunities;
- to promote equal opportunities in a changing economy;
- to encourage a policy to reconcile family and working life for men and women;
- to promote a gender balance in decision-making;
- to make conditions more conducive to exercising equality rights;
- to support implementation, monitoring and assessment of activities in order to achieve the above aims.

REVISED PROPOSAL

Whereas the present programme can, in accordance with Article 3b of the Treaty, and without prejudice to the competences of the Member States for promoting equal opportunities and treatment, bring Community added-value by identifying and stimulating good practice and policies, encouraging innovation and exchanging relevant experience, not least with regard to positive action;

INITIAL PROPOSAL

Article 3

In order to achieve the aims set out in Article 2, the following measures may be implemented, enhanced and/or supported under the programme:

- (a) Methodological, technical and financial support for integrated projects for identifying and transferring good practice in the domains of the economy, enterprises and employment, reconciling working and family life, and participation by women in decision-making;
- (b) Setting-up facilities for observing and monitoring relevant policies with regard to equal opportunities and conducting studies on all the economic, social and legal issues arising in connection with equal opportunities;
- (c) Ongoing assessment of activities undertaken under the programme;
- (d) Implementation of any action designed to promote the widest possible exchange of information and dissemination of the *acquis communautaire* on equal pay, equal treatment and equal opportunities and the results of the programme's initiatives.

Article 4

The Commission and the Member States shall encourage consistency and complementarity between the initiatives undertaken under the present programme and under the Structural Funds and other Community policies or activities, including those concerning education and vocational training.

Article 5

The activities under the programme which will be open to participants from the countries of the European Economic Area, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Cyprus and Malta and the Union's partner countries in the Mediterranean will be defined in the context of the Union's relations with these countries.

REVISED PROPOSAL

- (a) Methodological, technical and financial support for integrated projects for identifying and transferring good practice in the economic, social and cultural domains, reconciling working and family life, and participation by women in decision-making.

- (d) Implementation and support of any action needed to promote the widest possible exchange of information and dissemination of the *acquis communautaire* on equal opportunities and the results of the programme's initiatives, on the understanding that such actions must take careful account of national, regional and local differences in order to maximize their impact.

INITIAL PROPOSAL

Article 6

The Commission shall implement the programme in accordance with this decision. To this effect, it shall cooperate in a spirit of partnership with the Member States.

Article 7

1. The Commission shall submit an interim report on the implementation of the programme to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions by 31 December 1998 at the latest.

2. The Commission shall submit a final report on implementation of the programme to the European Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions by 31 December 2001 at the latest.

Article 8

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

REVISED PROPOSAL

The Commission shall implement the programme in accordance with this decision. To this effect, it shall cooperate in a spirit of partnership with players in civil society involved in the promotion of equal opportunities including non-governmental organizations active at EU level, and the authorities of the Member States.

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INTEREST GROUPING

Notices published pursuant to Council Regulation (EEC) No 2137/85 of 25 July 1985 ⁽¹⁾ —
Formation

(96/C 29/05)

1. **Name of grouping:** Nissan European Data Centre
EEIG
2. **Date of registration of grouping:** 11. 1. 1996
3. **Place of registration of grouping:**
 - (a) **Member State:** UK
 - (b) **Place:** UK-Cardiff CF4 3UZ
4. **Registration number of grouping:** GE 93
5. **Publication(s):**
 - (a) **Full title of publication:** The London Gazette
 - (b) **Name and address of publisher:** HMSO Publications, HMSO Publications Centre, 59 Nine Elms Lane, UK-London SW8 5DR
 - (c) **Date of publication:** 19. 1. 1996

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 199, 31. 7. 1985, p. 1.

Study on the shipping sector of the Middle East

(VII/DI-01/96)

(96/C 29/06)

1. **Name and address of the awarding authority:**
European Commission, Directorate-General for Transport, Unit VII/D1, for the attention of Mr D. Petropoulos (BU 33 2/35), rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Bruxelles/Brussel.

Tel. (32-2) 296 83 46/296 32 45.
Facsimile (32-2) 296 04 21.
 2. **Service category:** The Commission plans to commission a study on the shipping sector of the Middle East, with special reference to access to cargoes and participation in the trade by EU shipowners.

The objective is to give an update on the evolution of the shipping sector of the Middle East.
 3. **Delivery programme:** After approximately 2 and 5 months, intermediate reports are to be delivered, and 8 months after signature of the contract a final report is to be delivered, as well as an executive summary. All reports will be delivered to the address specified in point 1.
 4. Not applicable.
 5. The contract cannot be subdivided.
 6. **Envisaged number of firms to be invited to tender:**
5-10.
 7. Not applicable.
 8. **Final date for execution:** 30. 12. 1996.
 9. Not applicable.
 10. a) **Final date for receipt of requests to participate:**
28. 2. 1996.

b) **Address to which request must be sent:** Mr D. Petropoulos at the address specified in point 1.
 11. **Final date for dispatch of invitation to tender by the Commission:** 22. 3. 1996.
 12. Not applicable.
 13. **The following criteria shall be taken into consideration when selecting consultants to be invited to tender:**
 - experience in the shipping sector,
 - experience with country or sectoral analyses,
 - experience with projects in the Gulf.

Applicants are to include with their request (to comply with the provisions in 10. a) and b) all documents, evidence and information necessary for analysing their application on the basis of the aforementioned selection criteria. Candidates who do not comply with this requirement will be excluded from consideration.
 14. **The criteria for the award of the contract will be as follows:**
 - proposed methodology;
 - proposed study team;
 - innovative features;
 - price.
 15. **Period during which the tenderer is bound to keep open his contract:** 6 months after the receipt of the tender.
 16. **Date of dispatch of the notice:** 24. 1. 1996.
 17. **Date of receipt by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities:** 24. 1. 1996.
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EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

Department of Economics

CHAIRS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

The Department of Economics at the European University Institute, Florence, invites applications for four chairs in the Department, which will be available from September 1997, or possibly earlier.

1. Two posts are available in macroeconomics and related specializations, including, for example, trade, international economics, and development economics.
2. Two posts are available in microeconomics and related specializations, including, for example, industrial economics, public economics, and labour economics.

In both cases, applications are encouraged from economic theorists, applied economists and econometricians. Appointments at all levels of seniority will be possible.

Applications, including *curriculum vitae*, a brief statement of research plans, and the names of at least three referees should be sent to the Chair of the Department of Economics, European University Institute, Badia Fiesolana, San Domenico di Fiesole (FI), I-50016 and should arrive by **Wednesday 1 May 1996**. Applicants should state whether they wish to be considered for the 'macro and related' jobs, the 'micro and related' jobs, or both.

Further details may be obtained from John Micklewright, Chair of the Department of Economics, at the above address (tel: 39-55-46 85 22 1/228, fax: 39-55-46 85 202) or from <http://www.iue.it/ECO/Welcome.html>.