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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Interest rate applied by the European Central Bank to its main refinancing operations ⁽¹⁾:**4,75 % on 1 April 2001****Euro exchange rates ⁽²⁾****2 April 2001**

(2001/C 103/01)

1 euro	=	7,4616	Danish krone
	=	9,147	Swedish krona
	=	0,61800	Pound sterling
	=	0,8772	United States dollar
	=	1,3808	Canadian dollar
	=	110,83	Japanese yen
	=	1,5264	Swiss franc
	=	8,058	Norwegian krone
	=	80,84	Icelandic króna ⁽³⁾
	=	1,8165	Australian dollar
	=	2,201	New Zealand dollar
	=	7,0615	South African rand ⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ Rate applied to the most recent operation carried out before the indicated day. In the case of a variable rate tender, the interest rate is the marginal rate.

⁽²⁾ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

⁽³⁾ Source: Commission.

**NOTICE TO COMMUNITY IMPORTERS OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA SUBJECT TO QUANTITATIVE QUOTAS**

(2001/C 103/02)

In accordance with Article 3 of Council Regulation (EC) No 520/94 of 7 March 1994 establishing a Community procedure for administering quantitative quotas ⁽¹⁾, Community importers are informed of the following:

1. By Regulation (EC) No 542/2001 of 30 March 2001, the European Commission has laid down specific procedures for the redistribution in 2001 of portions unused in 2000 of certain Community quantitative quotas introduced in respect of the People's Republic of China by Council Regulation (EC) No 519/94 ⁽²⁾.
2. These quotas will be administered using the method based on traditional trade flows (Article 2(2)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 520/94). Under this method, the quotas are divided into two parts, one reserved for traditional importers and the other for other importers. The part reserved for other importers will, however, be allocated on a pro rata basis according to the quantities requested; the quantity requested by a non-traditional importer may not exceed the quantity or value indicated for each product in Annex I to this notice.

Traditional importers are those able to show that they imported into the Community the product or products covered by the quotas in question in either the calendar year 1998 or 1999.

3. In order to qualify for the allocation of these quotas, Community importers, no matter where they are established in the Community, may lodge with the competent authorities of the Member State of their choice a single licence application for each quota, drawn up in the official language or languages of the Member State concerned. The list of competent authorities can be found in Annex II to this notice.
4. In accordance with Article 3 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 738/94 of 30 March 1994 laying down certain rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 520/94 ⁽³⁾, the import licence application shall state only:
 - (a) the applicant's full name and address (including telephone and fax numbers and any identification number registered with the competent national authorities) and VAT registration number, if liable for VAT;

- (b) the quota period in question, i.e. 'unused quantities of 2000';
- (c) where applicable, the full name and address of the declarant or the applicant's representative (including telephone and fax numbers);
- (d) a description of the goods, giving:
 - their trade description,
 - combined nomenclature (CN) code,
 - details of their origin and place of consignment;
- (e) the quantities requested, expressed in the unit used to set the quota;
- (f) where the licence application relates to footwear and the quantitative quota covers two CN codes, a breakdown by CN code of the quantities requested;
- (g) the following statement followed by the date, the applicant's signature and his name printed in capital letters:

'I, the undersigned, declare that the information given in this application is correct and is given in good faith, that I am established in the European Community, and that this application is the only one made by me or on my behalf for the quota relating to the goods described in this application.

I undertake to return the licence to the issuing authority within 10 working days of its expiry.'

5. To qualify for the allocation of that part of the quota reserved for traditional importers, importers shall enclose with their licence applications certified copies of the entries for release for free circulation made out during either the 1998 or 1999 calendar year in their name or that of the operator whose activities they have taken over in respect of the release for free circulation of the products originating in the People's Republic of China covered by the quantitative quota referred to in the licence application.

Alternatively, applicants may enclose with their licence applications documents drawn up and certified by the competent national authorities on the basis of the customs information available to them showing that the applicants or the operators whose activities they have taken over imported the products concerned during either the 1998 or 1999 calendar year.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 66, 10.3.1994, p.1, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 138/96 of 22 January 1996 (OJ L 21, 27.1.1996, p. 6).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 67, 10.3.1994, p. 89; as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1138/98 of 28 May 1998 (OJ L 159, 3.6.1998, p. 1) (corrigendum OJ L 241, 28.8.1998, p 27).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 87, 31.3.1994, p. 47, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 983/96 of 31 May 1996 (OJ L 131, 1.6.1996, p. 47).

- Alternatively, applicants already holding import licences issued for 2001 under Commission Regulation (EC) No 2339/2000 ⁽¹⁾, for products covered by the licence application may enclose a copy of their previous licences with their licence applications. In that case they shall indicate in their licence application the aggregate quantity of imports of the product in question in the year of the reference period chosen.
6. With respect to non-traditional importers, only importers who can prove that they imported at least 80 % of the volume of the product for which they were granted an import licence pursuant to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2201/1999 ⁽²⁾ shall be entitled to apply for import licences.
7. Applications for import licences may be lodged from the day after the publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* of Regulation (EC) No 542/2001 of 28 April 2001 at 3 p.m. Brussels time.
8. The provisions governing the quotas referred to in this notice result from the following Regulations:
- Council Regulation (EC) No 520/94 of 7 March 1994 (OJ No L 66, 10.3.1994, p. 1);
 - Council Regulation (EC) No 519/94 of 7 March 1994 (OJ L 67, 10.3.1994, p. 89);
 - Council Regulation (EC) No 538/95 of 6 March 1995 (OJ L 55, 11.3.1995, p. 1);
 - Council Regulation (EC) No 138/96 of 22 January 1996 (OJ L 21, 27.1.1996, p. 6);
 - Commission Regulation (EC) No 738/94 of 30 March 1994 (OJ L 87, 31.3.1994, p. 47);
 - Commission Regulation (EC) No 983/96 of 31 May 1996 (OJ L 131, 1.6.1996, p. 47);
 - Commission Regulation (EC) No 542/2001, of 30 March 2001 (OJ L 91, 31.3.2001, p. 51).
- ⁽¹⁾ OJ L 269, 21.10.2000, p. 28.
⁽²⁾ OJ L 268, 16.10.1999, p. 10.

ANNEX I

Maximum quantity which may be requested by each importer other than traditional

Product description	HS/CN code	Predetermined maximum quantity
Footwear falling within HS/CN codes	ex 6402 99 ⁽¹⁾	5 000 pairs
	6403 51 6403 59	5 000 pairs
	ex 6403 91 ⁽¹⁾ ex 6403 99 ⁽¹⁾	5 000 pairs
	ex 6404 11 ⁽²⁾	5 000 pairs
	6404 19 10	5 000 pairs
Tableware, kitchenware of porcelain or china falling within HS/CN code	6911 10	5 tonnes
Ceramic tableware, kitchenware, other household articles and toilet articles, other than of porcelain or china falling within HS/CN code	6912 00	5 tonnes

⁽¹⁾ Excluding footwear involving special technology: shoes which have a cif price per pair of not less than EUR 9 for use in sporting activities, with a single- or multi-layer moulded sole, not injected, manufactured from synthetic materials specially designed to absorb the impact of vertical or lateral movements and with technical features such as hermetic pads containing gas or fluid, mechanical components which absorb or neutralise impact or materials such as low-density polymers.

⁽²⁾ Excluding:

- (a) footwear which is designed for a sporting activity and has, or has provision for the attachment of, spikes, sprigs, stops, clips, bats or the like, with a non-injected sole;
- (b) footwear involving special technology: shoes which have a cif price per pair of not less than EUR 9 for use in sporting activities, with a single- or multi-layer moulded sole, not injected, manufactured from synthetic materials specially designed to absorb the impact of vertical or lateral movements and with technical features such as hermetic pads containing gas or fluid, mechanical components which absorb or neutralise impact or materials such as low-density polymers.)

ANNEX II

List of the competent national authorities

1. BELGIQUE/BELGIË
- Ministère des affaires économiques**
Administration des relations économiques
4^e division: Mise en œuvre des politiques commerciales
Services des licences
- Ministerie van Economische Zaken**
Bestuur van de Economische betrekkingen,
4e afdeling: Toepassing van de handelspolitiek.
Dienst Vergunningen
Generaal Lemanstraat 60, rue Général-Leman 60,
B-1040 Brussel/Bruxelles
Tél./Tel. (32-2) 206 58 16
Télécopieur/Fax (32 2) 230 83 22/231 14 84
- Viale America 341
I-00144 Roma
Tel. (39) 06 599 31 - 59 93 24 19 - 59 93 24 00
Fax (39) 06 592 55 56
9. LUXEMBOURG
- Ministère des affaires étrangères**
Office des licences
Boîte postale 113
L-2011 Luxembourg
Tél. (352) 22 61 62
Télécopieur (352) 46 61 38
2. DANMARK
- Erhvervsfremme Styrelsen**
Vejlssøvej 29
DK-8600 Silkeborg
Tlf. (45) 35 46 60 00
Fax (45) 35 46 64 01
10. NEDERLAND
- Belastingdienst/Douane**
Engelse Kamp 2
Postbus 30003
9700 RD Groningen
Nederland
Tel. (31-50) 523 91 11
Fax (31-50) 526 06 98/523 92 37
3. DEUTSCHLAND
- Bundesamt für Wirtschaft und Ausfuhrkontrolle (BAFA)**
Frankfurter Straße 29-35
D-65760 Eschborn
Tel. (49) 619 64 08-0
Fax (49) 619 69 42 26/619 69 08-800
11. ÖSTERREICH
- Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit**
Landstrasser Hauptstraße 55/57
A-1031 Wien
Tel. (43) 171 10 23 86
Fax (43) 171 102
4. GREECE
- Ministry of National Economy**
General Secretariat of International Economic Relations
Directorate for Foreign Trade Issues
1, Kornarou Street
GR-105-63 Athens
Tel. (30-1) 328 60 31/328 60 32
Fax (30-1) 328 60 94/328 60 59
12. PORTUGAL
- Ministério da Economia**
Direcção-Geral das Relações Económicas Internacionais
Avenida da República, 79
P-1069-059 Lisboa
Tel. (351-21) 791 18 00/19 43
Fax (351-21) 793 22 10, 796 37 23
Telex: 13 418
5. ESPAÑA
- Ministerio de Economía y Hacienda**
Dirección General de Comercio Exterior
Paseo de la Castellana, 162
E-28046 Madrid
Tel. (34) 913 49 38 94/913 49 37 78
Fax (34) 913 49 38 32/913 49 37 40
13. SUOMI
- Tullihallitus**
Erottajankatu 2
FIN-00101 Helsinki
P. (358) 961 41
F. (358) 9 614 28 52
6. FRANCE
- Service des titres du commerce extérieur**
8, rue de la Tour-des-Dames
F-75436 Paris Cedex 09
Tél. (33 1) 55 07 46 69/95
Télécopieur (33 1) 55 07 46 59
14. SVERIGE
- Kommerskollegium**
Box 6803
S-113 86 Stockholm
Tfn (46-8) 690 48 00
Fax (46-8) 30 67 59
7. IRELAND
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment**
Licencing Unit, Block C
Earlsfort Centre
Hatch Street
Dublin 2
Ireland
Tel. (353-1) 631 25 41
Fax (353-1) 631 25 62
15. UNITED KINGDOM
- Department of Trade and Industry**
Import Licensing Branch
Queensway House
West Precinct
Billingham
TS23 2NF
United Kingdom
Tel. (44-1642) 36 43 33/36 43 34
Fax (44-1642) 53 35 57
8. ITALIA
- Ministero del Commercio con l'estero**
Direzione generale per la Politica commerciale e la gestione del regime degli scambi — Divisione, VII

Notice of initiation of an expiry review of the anti-dumping measures applicable to imports of certain tube or pipe-fittings, of iron or steel, originating in the People's Republic of China and Thailand and an interim review of the anti-dumping measures applicable to the same imports originating in Thailand

(2001/C 103/03)

Following the publication of a notice of impending expiry ⁽¹⁾ of the anti-dumping measures in force on imports of certain tube or pipe-fittings, of iron or steel, originating, *inter alia*, in the People's Republic of China and Thailand ('countries concerned'), the Commission has received a request for a review pursuant to Article 11(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 384/96 ⁽²⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 2238/2000 ⁽³⁾ ('the Basic Regulation'). The Commission also has evidence which justifies the initiation of a review under Article 11(3) of the Basic Regulation regarding Thailand.

1. Request for review

The request was lodged on 20 December 2000 by the Defence Committee of EU Steel Butt-welding Fittings Industry ('the applicant') on behalf of producers representing a major proportion, in this case more than 70 %, of the total Community production of certain tube or pipe-fittings, of iron or steel.

2. Product

The product under review is certain tube or pipe-fittings (other than cast fittings, flanges and threaded fittings), of iron or steel (not including stainless steel), with a greatest external diameter not exceeding 609,6 mm, of a kind used for butt-welding or other purposes, originating in the People's Republic of China and Thailand ('the product concerned'), currently classifiable within CN code ex 7307 93 11 (Taric code 7307 93 11 90), ex 7307 93 19 (Taric code 7307 93 19 90) ex 7307 99 30 (Taric code 7307 99 30 91) and ex 7307 99 90 (Taric code 7307 99 90 91). These CN codes are given only for information.

3. Existing measures

The measures currently in force on the product concerned are a definitive anti-dumping duty imposed by Council Regulation (EC) No 584/96 ⁽⁴⁾, extended by Regulation (EC) No 763/2000 ⁽⁵⁾, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 2314/2000 ⁽⁶⁾, to cover certain imports of the product concerned which are consigned from Taiwan, and amended by Regulation (EC) No 1592/2000 ⁽⁷⁾. It should be noted that with regard to two exporters/producers from Thailand under-

takings have been accepted by Commission Decision 96/252/EC ⁽⁸⁾.

4. Grounds for the review

4.1. Grounds for the expiry review (People's Republic of China and Thailand)

The request is based on the grounds that the expiry of measures would be likely to result in a continuation or recurrence of dumping and injury to the Community industry.

The applicant alleges that the exports from Thailand to the Community have continued to be made at substantial dumping margins.

The allegation of continuation of dumping in respect of Thailand is based on a comparison of normal value, established on the basis of domestic prices, with the export prices of the product concerned to the Community.

For the People's Republic of China, given the negligible quantities imported into the Community no continuation of dumping could be established.

With regard to the recurrence of dumping, evidence was presented that the exports worldwide from both countries are made at very low and dumped prices. The applicant further alleges that, should measures be allowed to lapse, the flow of imports at dumped prices to the Community is likely to increase due to the existence of unused production capacity in the countries concerned and to the anti-dumping measures in force in traditional markets other than the EU (i.e. the USA) against these countries. Also, with regard to the People's Republic of China, the fact that measures were circumvented (see below) shows a structural propensity to dump.

Concerning injury aspects, the applicant alleges that the situation of the Community industry is still fragile and that any continuation or recurrence of substantial imports at dumped prices from the countries concerned would likely lead to a continuation or recurrence of further injury of the Community industry.

Furthermore, the applicant points out that during the period of imposition of measures, the exporters/producers of the product concerned from the People's Republic of China tried to undermine the existing measures by circumvention practices, which were counteracted by Council Regulation (EC) No 763/2000.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 271, 22.9.2000, p. 4. The notice of impending expiry also referred to certain tube or pipe-fittings of iron or steel originating in Croatia, which are not subject to review.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 56, 6.3.1996, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 257, 11.10.2000, p. 2.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 84, 3.4.1996, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 94, 14.4.2000, p. 1.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 267, 20.10.2000, p. 15.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 182, 21.7.2000, p. 1.

⁽⁸⁾ OJ L 84, 3.4.1996, p. 46, as amended by Decision 2000/453/EC (OJ L 182, 21.7.2000, p. 25).

4.2. *Grounds for the interim review (Thailand)*

The Commission has decided on its own initiative to initiate an interim review pursuant to Article 11(3) in order to examine the appropriateness of the form of the measure for the product concerned originating in Thailand. In this respect it should be noted that enforcement problems have been encountered in the monitoring of the undertaking, with consequences on the remedial effect of the measures.

5. Procedure

Having determined, after consulting the Advisory Committee, that sufficient evidence exists to justify the initiation of an expiry and an interim review, the Commission hereby initiates a review in accordance with Article 11(2) and 11(3) of the Basic Regulation.

5.1. *Procedure for the determination of likelihood of dumping and injury*

The investigation will determine whether the expiry of the measures would be likely, or unlikely, to lead to a continuation or recurrence of dumping and injury. It will also examine the need for the continuation or removal of the existing measures, as well as the need to amend the form of the measures concerning Thailand.

(a) *Questionnaires*

In order to obtain the information it deems necessary for its investigation, the Commission will send questionnaires to the Community industry and to any association of producers in the Community, to the exporters/producers in the People's Republic of China and Thailand to any association of exporters/producers, to the importers, to any association of importers named in the request or which cooperated in the investigation leading to the measures subject to the present review, and to the authorities of the exporting countries concerned.

In any event, all parties should contact the Commission forthwith by fax in order to find out whether they are listed in the request and if necessary request a questionnaire within the time limit set in point 6(a)(i), given that the time limit set in point 6(a)(ii) of this notice applies to all interested parties.

(b) *Collection of information and holding of hearings*

All interested parties are hereby invited to make their views known, submit information other than questionnaire replies and to provide supporting evidence. This information and supporting evidence has to reach the Commission within the time limit set in point 6(a)(ii) of this notice.

Furthermore, the Commission may hear interested parties, provided that they make a request showing that there are particular reasons why they should be heard. This request must be made within the time limit set in point 6(a)(iii) of this notice.

(c) *Selection of the market economy country*

In the previous investigation Thailand was used as an appropriate market economy country for the purpose of establishing normal value in respect of the People's Republic of China. The Commission envisages using Thailand again for this purpose in accordance with Article 2(7) of the Basic Regulation. Interested parties are hereby invited to comment on the appropriateness of this country within the specific time limit set in point 6(b) of this notice.

5.2. *Procedure for the assessment of Community interest*

In accordance with Article 21 of the Basic Regulation and in the event that a likelihood of a continuation or recurrence of dumping and injury is found, as well as a need to change the form of the measures for Thailand, a decision will be reached as to whether the maintenance, repeal or, in respect of Thailand, the amendment of the existing anti-dumping measures would not be against the Community interest. For this reason the Community industry, importers, their representative associations, representative users and representative consumer organisations, provided that they prove that there is an objective link between their activity and the product concerned, may, within the general time limits set in point 6(a)(ii) of this notice, make themselves known and provide the Commission with information. It should be noted that any information submitted pursuant to Article 21 will only be taken into account if supported by factual evidence at the time of submission.

6. Time limits

(a) *General time limits*

(i) For parties to request a questionnaire

All interested parties who did not cooperate in the investigation leading to the measures subject to the present review should request a questionnaire as soon as possible, but not later than 15 days after the publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

(ii) For parties to make themselves known, to submit questionnaire replies and any other information

All interested parties, if their representations are to be taken into account during the investigation, must make themselves known by contacting the Commission, present their views and submit questionnaire replies or any other information within 40 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, unless otherwise specified.

(iii) Hearings

All interested parties may also apply to be heard by the Commission within the same 40-day time limit.

(b) *Specific time limit for the selection of the market economy country*

Parties to the investigation may wish to comment on the appropriateness of Thailand which, as mentioned in point 5.1(c) of this notice, is envisaged as a market-economy country for the purpose of establishing normal value in respect of the People's Republic of China. These comments must reach the Commission within 10 days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

7. Written submissions, questionnaire replies and correspondence

All submissions and requests made by interested parties must be made in writing (not in electronic format, unless otherwise specified), and must indicate the name, address, e-mail address, telephone and fax, and/or telex numbers of the interested party.

Commission address for correspondence:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Trade
Directorates B and C
TERV — 0/13
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200
B-1049 Brussels
Fax (32-2) 295 65 05
Telex COMEU B 21877.

8. Non-cooperation

In cases in which any interested party refuses access to or otherwise does not provide the necessary information within the time limits, or significantly impedes the investigation, findings, affirmative or negative, may be made in accordance with Article 18 of the Basic Regulation, on the basis of the facts available.

Where it is found that any interested party has supplied false or misleading information, the information shall be disregarded and use may be made of the facts available.

Notification of joint ventures

(Case COMP/38.089 — TF6 and Série Club)

(2001/C 103/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 19 February 2001 the Commission received notification pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation No 17 of agreements between Télévision française 1 and Métropole Télévision on the setting-up of two joint ventures. The joint ventures will be responsible for the joint production of two special interest channels, TF6 and Série Club.
2. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified agreements could fall within the scope of Regulation No 17.
3. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit any observations they might wish to make on the proposed operation.
4. Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. They can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 98 04) or by post, under reference COMP/38.089, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate C,
Media and Music Publishing Unit,
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200,
B-1049 Brussels.

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

of 2 March 2001

at the request of the Council of the European Union concerning a proposal for a European Parliament and Council Regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 on the reclassification of settlements under swap arrangements and under forward rate agreements

(CON/00/10)

(2001/C 103/05)

1. On 27 March 2001 the European Central Bank (ECB) received a request from the Council of the European Union for an opinion on Commission proposal COM(1999) 749 final of 10 January 2000 for a European Parliament and Council Regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 of 25 June 1996 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community ⁽¹⁾. This opinion is based both on the text of the Commission proposal and on the text of the draft Regulation annexed to the outcome of proceedings of the working group Ecofin statistics of 8 November 2000 (doc. 13583/00 Ecofin 343 dated 29 January 2001) (hereinafter referred to as the 'draft Regulation').
2. The ECB's competence to deliver an opinion is based on Article 105(4) of the Treaty establishing the European Community. In accordance with the first sentence of Article 17.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the ECB, this opinion has been adopted by the Governing Council of the ECB.
3. The objective of the draft Regulation is to bring the recording of settlements under swap arrangements and forward rate agreements in the European system of accounts 1995 (ESA 95) in line with international standards, as currently laid down in the system of national accounts 1993 ⁽²⁾ and the balance of payments fifth manual ⁽³⁾. The proposal would exclude such settlements from the compilation of interest and, consequently, of net lending/net borrowing, recording them as financial transactions. For the purposes of the excessive deficit procedure ⁽⁴⁾ (EDP), however, the current ESA 95 methodology would be retained and settlements under swaps and forward rate agreements would be treated as interest and be included in the compilation of government interest expenditure and therefore of government deficit (net lending/net borrowing).
4. The ECB welcomes this change in the ESA 95 methodology that would correct the asymmetric treatment of settlements under swap arrangements and forward rate agreements compared to the statistical treatment of other types of financial derivatives. This change would enhance the usefulness of ESA 95 statistics for macroeconomic analysis of the economy as a whole.
5. While the ECB prefers to lay down in legal acts only one definition for important statistical indicators such as government net lending/net borrowing and government interest expenditure, the ECB accepts two definitions for government net lending/net borrowing and interest given the necessity of reflecting the cost of government borrowing in the EDP figures and at the same time remaining consistent with international standards. The ECB considers however that it is important to monitor and to explain the differences in the data compiled and published according to each of the two definitions in order to provide transparency in the EDP.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 310, 30.11.1996, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Submitted for approval to the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1999 and officially approved in 2000.

⁽³⁾ Financial derivatives: a supplement to the fifth edition of the balance of payments manual, 2000. International Monetary Fund, Washington.

⁽⁴⁾ Treaty establishing the European Community and Council Regulation (EC) No 3605/93 of 22 November 1993 on the application of the protocol on the excessive deficit procedure annexed to the Treaty establishing the EC (OJ L 332, 31.12.1993, p. 7).

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

Done at Frankfurt am Main on 2 March 2001.

The President of the ECB

Willem F. DUISENBERG

III

(Notices)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Written questions with answer published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* C 103 E

(2001/C 103/06)

These texts are available on:

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

EUDOR: <http://eudor.eur-op.eu.int>

CELEX: <http://europa.eu.int/celex>

COMMISSION

CALL FOR COURSES FOR THE COMENIUS AND GRUNDTVIG CATALOGUE (SOCRATES PROGRAMME)

(2001/C 103/07)

1. PURPOSE OF CALL

The purpose of this call is to gather proposals from course providers for suitable high quality courses to be included in the Comenius and Grundtvig Catalogue. This is a list of all those in-service training courses for school and adult education staff, attendance at which, may in principle, be fundable under the Comenius or Grundtvig actions of the Socrates programme. The catalogue will be valid for courses, which will take place between 1 June 2002 and 31 July 2003.

2. BACKGROUND

The second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education, Socrates was adopted by Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and Council for a period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2006. Both the Comenius (school education) and Grundtvig (adult education) parts of the programme include the provision of in-service training courses for updating and improving the skills and promoting the European dimension in the training of educational staff in the two sectors concerned.

It is proposed to compile a catalogue of all the relevant European in-service training courses, which are available to educational staff, which will be widely disseminated to all potential applicants. The courses to be included in the catalogue must meet the criteria outlined below and the course provider must accept the special conditions outlined in point 8 below.

Please note that inclusion in the catalogue has **no direct funding implications**. However, courses included in the catalogue are eligible to take on applicants wishing to undertake in-service training funded by Comenius or Grundtvig grants. It is anticipated that, over time the catalogue will become the sole list of courses considered eligible for this purpose. National agencies will give priority to eligible applicants applying to attend courses included in the catalogue. Note that inclusion in the catalogue will not guarantee full attendance at courses. It is intended that the catalogue will be compiled and updated regularly.

3. OBJECTIVES

The aim of developing a comprehensive catalogue is twofold:

- to inform teachers and other educational staff from all the countries participating in the Socrates programme of

European in-service training opportunities which are open to them,

- to contribute to improving the quality and range of European in-service training available for school and adult education staff.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4.1. Eligibility of applicant course providers

Applicant course providers must fulfil the following criteria:

- applicants must be institutions and/or organisations that have legal status and work in the area of in-service training provision for school or adult education staff,
- applicants must be from, and courses delivered in, one of the 15 Member States of the European Union or from Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway or from one of the other participating countries in the programme; Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta, Turkey ⁽¹⁾,
- applicants must show evidence of prior experience of working with multinational groups. Experience in implementing policies, or of appropriately integrated structures, relating to equality between men and women, boys and girls, integration of disabled persons, eliminating racism and xenophobia, promotion of social and economic cohesion, is highly recommended,
- applicants must give proof of financial and technical capacity to successfully offer the proposed course. These capacities will be judged principally on the basis of the following documents:
 - the 2000 activity report,
 - the accounts for the financial year 2000,
 - the curricula vitae of the course organiser.

⁽¹⁾ The participation of the countries listed above which are not Member States of the European Union is dependent on completion of formal legal procedures. However, course participants' attention will be drawn to the fact that participation in these courses cannot be funded under the Socrates programme unless the legal formalities are completed prior to the commencement of the course.

4.2. Formal criteria

Only those proposals that are properly and fully completed and received within the deadline stipulated (see point 6) will be taken into consideration. However, the national agency, which has received your application, may require you to submit further information if it considers it appropriate and necessary.

4.3. Eligibility of courses

Content of the courses:

- eligible courses, including those aimed at language teachers, must concentrate on providing participants with practical teaching skills, techniques and methodologies,
- courses concerned with the management of adult education institutions/organisations, as well as topics on European integration, gender education and intercultural education (teaching of anti-racism, education of migrant workers, gypsies, travellers, occupational travellers, etc.) are also eligible for inclusion in the catalogue,
- in the case of language courses in the less widely used and least taught languages ⁽¹⁾, courses focusing on language learning may be allowed. In the case of other languages, such courses will not be eligible ⁽²⁾ (for example, pure English language courses are not eligible),
- in the course description form, course providers are required to provide detailed information under each of the following headings:
 - Target group. Course organisers must clearly identify the eligible target group for which the course is organised.
 - Preparation. Course organisers must ensure that participants are provided with a suitable pre-departure preparation programme (i.e. suggested reading material, teaching modules, self-evaluation materials, questionnaires, etc.).
 - Objectives. These should be clearly and concisely stated with specific reference to the target group envisaged.
 - Methodology. This should be closely related to the objectives and target group envisaged.
 - Outcomes. These should be described in terms of the skills to be acquired or improved and should be clearly defined (e.g. as 'can do' statements).

⁽¹⁾ Language teaching within the context of Comenius concerns the teaching and learning as foreign languages, of all the official Community languages as well as Irish and Luxembourgish. Particular attention is paid to the development of skills in the least widely used and taught languages. These are defined with reference to how widely taught any particular language is (with the exception of English) within a given participating country.

⁽²⁾ However, courses for teachers of these languages focused on the methodology of learning and teaching are eligible.

- Accreditation. Course organisers must accredit attendance at courses by certificate or otherwise (e.g. credits as part of a diploma or Masters programme). All certificates must clearly state the topic and number of teaching hours of the programme. In some countries, national authorities may take this accreditation into account for the purposes of the participant's career progression, salary, etc.
- Follow-up phase. Course organisers should ensure that participants are provided with a range of activities for use in their professional contexts which will enable them to draw maximum benefit from the course (distance learning activities, telephone/e-mail contact with trainers, self-evaluation of lessons taught after the period abroad etc.). Training providers are especially encouraged to establish networks of trainees for the purpose of mutual support and study.
- Clear procedures. Course organisers should ensure that clear information is provided on the procedures to be observed in relation to booking of course places by participants, cancellation of participation etc. Course organisers should note that any such procedures must be in accordance with the financial and grant management procedures laid down in the guidelines for applicants, the annual Socrates call for proposals and this call for catalogue courses.
- Appropriately resourced venue. With a view to providing equality of opportunities for all potential participants, course organisers should ensure that appropriate measures are taken and facilities provided to ensure full participation by women, ethnic and religious minorities, physically impaired people and those with special needs.

4.4. Programme of the course

In the course description form, the course provider must provide a detailed programme: description day-by-day of the activities envisaged, conferences, practical workshops, etc.

4.5. Duration of the courses

Courses must be for a **minimum duration of one week (five full-course days)**; arrival and departure days will not be part of these five days). If the pedagogical objectives of the course require it to be of a longer duration course organisers are free to organise courses up to a **maximum duration of four weeks**.

4.6. Location of the courses:

- courses must take place in one of the participating countries in the Socrates programme,
- in the case of language courses or courses for training of teachers of a specific foreign language, these courses must normally take place in a country where the target language is widely spoken,

- the course may in some cases take the form of a placement in an enterprise, where this is considered to be conducive to achieving the objectives mentioned above.

4.7. Target group

The target group for general in-service training should include at least one of the following sub-groups:

- teachers (including those in pre-school, school and adult education), teacher trainers,
- teachers/trainers working with adults, and the trainers of such teachers/trainers,
- heads and managerial staff of institutions/organisations providing adult learning opportunities,
- head teachers, school management staff, school inspectors, counsellors, mentors, tutors or careers advisors,
- staff working with pupils/persons at risk, for example, mediators and street educators,
- staff involved in intercultural education at all levels and working with (children of) migrant workers, gypsies and travellers, and occupational travellers,
- staff working with pupils/persons with special educational needs,
- additional categories of school or adult education staff at the discretion of national authorities (for example mediators, educators, school psychologists, etc.).

For language teacher training the target audience should include at least one of the following groups:

- qualified and practising teachers of an official language of the EU (or Irish or Luxembourgish) as a foreign language,
- trainers of foreign language teachers,
- teachers retraining as a foreign language teacher,
- primary or pre-primary teachers whose responsibilities include or will in the future include teaching foreign languages,
- teachers of other subjects through the medium of a foreign language,
- language teachers re-entering the profession after a period away from teaching,
- inspectors or advisors in the field of language teaching.

Providers should note that they are free to recruit participants from any source they wish, provided that they endeavour to ensure that trainees constitute a multinational group (from at least three countries participating in the Socrates programme).

4.8. Course trainers:

- trainers must have appropriate qualifications and experience. CVs of trainers should, where possible, be attached to the application form. Where one or more trainers' CVs are not available at the time of application, then the organisers must clearly indicate the qualifications that the trainers they intend to recruit will hold,
- the training team must be multinational, or, at the very least, the team of trainers must have significant experience of more than one European education system. (The requirement for a multinational training team does not apply to courses with a significant language content aimed at language teachers),
- for Grundtvig courses the training teams must have significant experience of intercultural education with adults and of working in European adult education environments.

4.9. Language issues

For all courses, participants must be given materials in at least one of the 11 official European Union languages or Luxembourgish or Irish.

However, it is highly recommended that such materials be provided in a variety of languages to ensure maximum dissemination and usage possibilities.

4.10. Evaluation

Course providers must commit themselves to having an evaluation session at the end of the course. They must provide at least one computer with an Internet connection at the disposal of participants so that participants can input their opinion on the quality of the course. The European Commission will make this evaluation public via Internet. It is intended to be a quality check and a valuable information tool for future participants. If the evaluation of the majority of participants is negative on two successive occasions, the course concerned will be deleted from the catalogue. In such cases course providers may inform the Directorate-General for Education and Culture (Socrates programme) of any explanation they consider necessary before any final decisions are taken in this respect.

4.11. Dates of courses

Courses for inclusion in this catalogue should be scheduled to take place between 1 June 2002 and 31 July 2003.

5. LENGTH OF TIME IN THE CATALOGUE

Courses included in the catalogue will remain in it until all the scheduled courses have been held, subject to satisfactory evaluations from course participants and receipt of a satisfactory written report from the provider. For inclusion in subsequent years, all providers will need to submit a new, full application.

6. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

6.1. Forms

Forms can be obtained on the Internet at the following address:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/courses.html>

or by contacting the Socrates national agency in your country. The addresses of the national agencies can be downloaded from the Internet site:

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/socrates/nat-est.html>

6.2. Submission of the application

Applications must be sent to the appropriate national agency of the country of origin of the course provider by ordinary or registered mail by 31 May 2001 **at the latest**. The date on the postmark will be considered the official date of dispatch.

Course providers should note that one application form will be sufficient even if they wish to submit one course for different dates or in different places. However, if they wish to submit different courses, providers must use different forms and all documentation requested will need to be provided for each course.

All course providers must send the application form and all requisite annexes in one of the 11 official languages of the European Union to the national agency of the country of origin of the course provider.

Course providers should note that the **course description form (Annex 3)** must be completed in the language in which the course will be held with the exception of boxes which explicitly demand translation into English or French. For example, where a course organiser intends to offer a course in which the language of tuition will be Italian, he/she should ensure that the Italian version of this form (Annex 3) is completed in Italian. Failure to comply with this requirement will render the application invalid.

The application, duly completed, dated and signed, must be sent in duplicate. It must provide comprehensive and

verifiable information with regard to the criteria listed above.

Two paper copies of the course description form must accompany the application as well as a copy in electronic format. Applications, which do not provide an electronic format of the course description form, will not be considered for inclusion in the catalogue.

7. PROCESSING OF THE APPLICATIONS

Following the deadline, the national agencies will arrange for the assessment of each application on the basis of the documentation received in accordance with this call for proposals. The selected courses will then be forwarded to the European Commission, which will include them in the catalogue.

8. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Once the Comenius and Grundtvig catalogue is published, educational staff will contact course providers in order to pre-register. This pre-registration does not create any obligation of payment if the participant is not awarded a grant.

Therefore course providers are advised to have a sufficient reserve list of participants. At least five weeks before the beginning of the course the national agency will inform each participant of the results of the grant awarding process. Only at this stage will the participant be able to confirm his/her attendance at the course. Course providers should ensure that they inform both potential participants and national agencies of the importance of finalising lists of course participants sufficiently in advance to ensure that there is an efficient management of the highly complex task of organising multi-lateral transnational training courses.

Course providers are reminded that programme funds may not, under any circumstances be used to reimburse any expenses arising from participants cancellation of their attendance for any reason other than *force majeure* (certified serious illness or the death of a close relative only).

At no stage will the European Commission intervene in relation to resolving issues of disagreement between course participants, course organisers and/or national agencies or any other matter relating to the operational aspects of the management of courses advertised in the catalogue.
