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## Information and Notices

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**Note** (see inside back cover)



<sup>(1)</sup> Text with EEA relevance

**NOTICE**

On 4 May 2001, in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* C 132 A, the 'Common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species — Eighth supplement to the 21st complete edition' will be published.

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## I

*(Information)*

## COMMISSION

**Interest rate applied by the European Central Bank to its main refinancing operations <sup>(1)</sup>:****4,77 % on 1 May 2001****Euro exchange rates <sup>(2)</sup>****2 May 2001**

(2001/C 131/01)

<b>1 euro</b>	=	7,4645	Danish krone
	=	9,1478	Swedish krona
	=	0,6225	Pound sterling
	=	0,8907	United States dollar
	=	1,3641	Canadian dollar
	=	108,81	Japanese yen
	=	1,5416	Swiss franc
	=	8,103	Norwegian krone
	=	89,17	Icelandic króna <sup>(3)</sup>
	=	1,7158	Australian dollar
	=	2,1109	New Zealand dollar
	=	7,1533	South African rand <sup>(3)</sup>

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<sup>(1)</sup> 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.

<sup>(2)</sup> Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

<sup>(3)</sup> Source: Commission.

**Information procedure — Technical rules**

(2001/C 131/02)

**(Text with EEA relevance)**

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

Notifications of draft national technical rules received by the Commission

Reference	Title	End of three-month standstill period
2001/161/FIN	Act on tendering of services of the information society and various related acts	5.7.2001
2001/162/FIN	Act on the protection of services of the information society and related acts	5.7.2001
2001/163/D	Requirements pertaining to reflective road marking studs (German designation: MLK)	23.7.2001
2001/164/NL	Decree, containing an amendment to the Inland Waterways Shipping Decree (technical regulations for bunker stations)	10.7.2001
2001/165/A	Act amending the Salzburg Provincial Electricity Act 1999 (2001 amendment to the Provincial Electricity Act)	6.7.2001
2001/166/NL	Draft Decree on DNA testing in criminal cases	18.7.2001

(<sup>1</sup>) Year — registration number — Member State of origin.

(<sup>2</sup>) Period during which the draft may not be adopted.

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

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

(<sup>5</sup>) Information procedure closed.

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

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

Accordingly, breach of the obligation to notify renders the technical regulations concerned inapplicable, so that they are unenforceable against individuals.

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

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# EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

## OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

of 6 April 2001

**at the request of the Council of the European Union concerning a Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 58/97 concerning structural business statistics**

(CON/2001/3)

(2001/C 131/03)

1. On 27 February 2001, the European Central Bank (ECB) received a request from the Council of the European Union for an ECB opinion on a draft regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 58/97 concerning structural business statistics (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. A common framework for the collection, compilation, transmission and evaluation of Community statistics on the structure, activity and performance of business related to monetary financial institutions (MFIs) and other financial intermediaries, except insurance corporations and pension funds falls within the ECB's field of statistical competencies as laid down in Article 5 of the Protocol on the Statute of the European System of Central Banks and the European Central Bank. In accordance with the first sentence of Article 17.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Central Bank, this ECB opinion has been adopted by the Governing Council of the ECB.
3. The objective of the draft Regulation is to complement the existing regulation concerning structural business statistics with two additional sector-specific annexes on credit institutions and pensions funds and, in Annex 1, a common module for annual structural statistics, to extend the coverage of the horizontal module to activities related to financial intermediation services, pension funds and financial auxiliaries. Finally, it introduces two additional variables in the area of environment to Annex 2 on a detailed module for structural statistics in industry.
4. The ECB welcomes the adoption of the draft Regulation as an important step towards the provision of high quality statistics on financial services. The ECB has an interest in the timely availability of indicators that may shed light on structural developments and on the stability of the banking and financial system and that may contribute to improvements in macroeconomic statistics. The ECB notes that there is only a limited overlap between these statistics and the statistics collected by the ECB mainly for monetary policy purposes.
5. The ECB takes note of the statement made in the explanatory memorandum that the additional burden on enterprises and national data providers caused by the collection of these statistics is limited or non-existent. However, the ECB understands that there are Member States that do not have the full set of required data at their disposal. Besides this, the ECB would like to point out that the additional statistics concerning Annex 6 (module on credit institutions) may indeed cause, in some countries, an increase in the reporting burden on national central banks as data providers. The ECB understands that the abovementioned statistical requirements are without prejudice to the timely and accurate provision of data to the ECB for the exercise of its tasks.
6. The ECB notes that the revision of the Council Regulation will in due course be followed by proposals for four Commission Regulations on the implementation of the regulation. The ECB expects to be consulted on these aspects.
7. This ECB opinion shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Done at Frankfurt am Main on 6 April 2001.

*The President of the ECB*

Willem F. DUISENBERG

## OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

of 11 April 2001

at the request of the Council of the European Union concerning a Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on quarterly non-financial accounts for general government

(CON/2001/4)

(2001/C 131/04)

1. On 21 March 2001, the European Central Bank (ECB) received a request from the Council of the European Union for an opinion on a draft regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on quarterly non-financial accounts for general government (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 European Central Bank, this opinion has been adopted by the Governing Council of the ECB.
3. The objective of the draft Regulation is to specify the transmission of quarterly data on general government expenditure and revenue by the Member States to the European Commission (Eurostat), in addition to those data already covered by Commission Regulation (EC) No 264/2000 of 3 February 2000 on the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with respect to short-term public finance statistics<sup>(1)</sup>. The breakdown of general government expenditure and revenue is defined by reference to Commission Regulation (EC) No 1500/2000 of 10 July 2000 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with respect to general government expenditure and revenue<sup>(2)</sup>.
4. The ECB welcomes the draft Regulation which is part of the action plan on economic and monetary union (EMU) statistical requirements (hereinafter referred to as 'EMU action plan'), established at the request of the (Ecofin) Council by the European Commission (Eurostat) in close collaboration with the ECB. The EMU action plan is a response to the report of the Monetary Committee on information requirements in EMU, endorsed by the (Ecofin) Council on 18 January 1999, and the second progress report on information requirements in EMU drawn up by the Economic and Financial Committee and endorsed by the (Ecofin) Council on 5 June 2000.
5. While the provision of quarterly data on general government expenditure and revenue does not alter in any way the reporting requirements in the context of the excessive deficit procedure as set out in 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 European Community<sup>(3)</sup>, as amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 475/2000 of 28 February 2000<sup>(4)</sup>, it broadens the short-term macro-economic analysis in the framework of ESA 95 national accounts. In this respect, the draft Regulation is a further step to a limited set of ESA 95 quarterly sector accounts also required under the EMU action plan.
6. The ECB therefore strongly supports the timetable for the transmission of quarterly data on general government expenditure and revenue as envisaged under the draft Regulation. The ECB also calls upon the Member States to abstain from derogations and to provide the quarterly data in line with ESA 95 concepts, in particular for the compilation of euro-zone aggregates.
7. The draft Regulation might however be improved in some technical respects: (a) In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1500/2000, the title 'quarterly non-financial accounts for general government' would best be changed to 'quarterly data on general government expenditure and revenue'; (b) The first sentence of Article 3(2) might be amended to read 'Quarterly data shall be transmitted for the following categories (or groups of categories) of general government expenditure and revenue as defined in Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 of 25 June 1996, as amended'; (c) Article 3(2) should also require the transmission of quarterly data on total general government expenditure (TE) and total general government revenue (TR), as well as general government gross saving (B.8g); (d) Article 4(1)(c) might be amended to read 'The quarterly data and the corresponding annual and quarterly ESA 95 data shall be consistent.'
8. This opinion shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

Done at Frankfurt am Main on 11 April 2001.

*The President of the ECB*

Willem F. DUISENBERG

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 29, 4.2.2000, p. 4.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 172, 12.7.2000, p. 3.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ L 332, 31.12.1993, p. 7.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ L 58, 3.3.2000, p. 1.



## III

(Notices)

## COMMISSION

**Call for proposals VP/2001/014 for preparatory actions to combat and prevent social exclusion  
(under budget line B3-4105)**

(2001/C 131/05)

This call is for proposals which will prepare action to encourage cooperation between Member States in order to combat social exclusion and promote social inclusion under budget line B3-4105.

The Amsterdam Treaty includes provisions for the Community to adopt measures designed to encourage cooperation in combating social exclusion. The Lisbon European Council concluded that 'policies for combating social exclusion should be based on an open method of coordination combining national action plans and a Commission initiative for cooperation in this field to be presented by June 2000'.

In keeping with this mandate, on 16 June 2000 the Commission presented a proposal for a programme of Community action to encourage cooperation between Member States to combat social exclusion. A European Parliament and Council Decision is expected this year. The Nice European Council adopted appropriate objectives to combat social exclusion and eliminate poverty on the basis of which Member States were invited to determine their priorities and present a two-year national action plan by June 2001.

This call seeks proposals for various kinds of action to facilitate transnational cooperation among the players involved in combating social exclusion, in particular Member States' administrations, local and regional authorities, the agencies in charge of combating social exclusion, the two sides of industry, organisations providing social services, non-governmental organisations, universities and research institutes, national statistical offices, the media and actual or potential victims of exclusion.

Three strands of action have been chosen. The first involves conducting and disseminating studies making for a better understanding of social exclusion. The second covers action to assist the most vulnerable. The third is aimed at fostering innovative approaches in policies combating exclusion through exchanging good practice. As the aim of Community action is to foster cooperation between Member States, priority will be given to proposals which have active involvement of Member States' national, regional or local administrations.

Approximately EUR 9 million is expected to be available through this call. Proposals must be for projects of more than EUR 100 000 in total, and for **up to an 80 % subsidy rate** of the project as a whole. Contributions in kind **can** be taken into account, but the proposals must include a **minimum cash contribution of 10 %** from outside the Community budget. Assuming the average assistance provided per project to be EUR 150 000, it will be possible to co-fund some 60 projects. There is no fixed maximum for either project size or Community grant.

Proposals must be submitted and postmarked **not later than 10 July 2001** in order to be accepted. The application forms must also be sent in by e-mail before that date. The proposed duration of the actions must not exceed 18 months; they must be scheduled to start before 31 December 2001 at the applicant's own risk in the absence of a Commission decision, but must not start before the date of the submission of the proposal.

More detailed guidelines and an application form can be obtained as follows:

1. By downloading them directly from the Directorate-General for Employment and Social Affairs website at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment\\_social/soc-prot/soc-incl/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/soc-prot/soc-incl/index_en.htm)

2. By writing to:

Unit E2: Call for proposals VP/2001/014 — Info  
European Commission  
DG Employment and Social Affairs  
Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 200  
B-1049 Brussels.

3. By sending a fax to (32-2) 295 65 61 or (32-2) 299 05 09 (please include '**Call for proposals VP/2001/014 — Info**' in the title of your fax).
4. By sending an e-mail to [empl-e2@cec.eu.int](mailto:empl-e2@cec.eu.int) (please include '**Call for proposals VP/2001/014 — Info**' in the subject line of your e-mail).

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