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Information and Notices

<u>Notice No</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Page</u>
	<i>I Information</i>	
	Commission	
2003/C 125/01	Euro exchange rates	1
2003/C 125/02	Prior notification of a concentration (Case COMP/M.3155 — Deutsche Post/Securicor) ⁽¹⁾	2
2003/C 125/03	Prior notification of a concentration (Case COMP/M.3187 — Ente Vasco de la Energía/Hidrocantábrico/Naturcorp) — Candidate case for simplified procedure ⁽¹⁾	3
2003/C 125/04	Prior notification of a concentration (Case COMP/M.3125 — Huntsman/MatlinPatterson/Vantico) ⁽¹⁾	4
2003/C 125/05	Request of examination of a concentration (Case COMP/M.3136 — GE/AGFA NDT) ⁽¹⁾	5
	<i>II Preparatory Acts pursuant to Title VI of the Treaty on European Union</i>	
2003/C 125/06	Initiative of the Hellenic Republic with a view to adopting a Council Decision determining the minimum indications to be used on signs at external border crossing points	6

EN

<u>Notice No</u>	Contents (continued)	Page
	III <i>Notices</i>	
	Council	
2003/C 125/07	Texts published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> C 125 E	11
	Commission	
2003/C 125/08	Outcome of the invitations to tender (Community food aid)	12
2003/C 125/09	Open call for proposals — VP/2003/013 — Budget line B5-5020: Awareness raising for the European Employment Strategy	13
2003/C 125/10	Open call for proposals — No VP/2003/012 — Budget Line B5-5020: Projects contributing to the development of evaluation practice in the European Employment Strategy	16

I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

26 May 2003

(2003/C 125/01)

1 euro =

Currency		Exchange rate	Currency		Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,1813	LVL	Latvian lats	0,6586
JPY	Japanese yen	138,53	MTL	Maltese lira	0,4311
DKK	Danish krone	7,4246	PLN	Polish zloty	4,346
GBP	Pound sterling	0,721	ROL	Romanian leu	37 703
SEK	Swedish krona	9,1984	SIT	Slovenian tolar	233,245
CHF	Swiss franc	1,5262	SKK	Slovak koruna	41,149
ISK	Iceland króna	84,79	TRL	Turkish lira	1 722 000
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,868	AUD	Australian dollar	1,7953
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9463	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,6279
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,58661	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	9,2124
CZK	Czech koruna	31,395	NZD	New Zealand dollar	2,0242
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	SGD	Singapore dollar	2,0346
HUF	Hungarian forint	245,98	KRW	South Korean won	1 416,38
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4525	ZAR	South African rand	9,3264

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

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case COMP/M.3155 — Deutsche Post/Securicor)
(2003/C 125/02)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 15 May 2003 the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ⁽²⁾, by which the undertaking Deutsche Post AG, Germany ('Deutsche Post') acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation by way of purchase of shares sole control of the holding company, Securicor Omega Holdings Limited, United Kingdom ('SOH'), belonging to Securicor plc ('Securicor').

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Deutsche Post: national postal service in Germany; national and international parcel delivery service and express delivery service; contract logistics,
- SOH: distribution including domestic and international express and standard documents and parcels delivery; international and domestic express freight and freight forwarding; and logistics.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified concentration could fall within the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference COMP/M.3155 — Deutsche Post/Securicor, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
J-70,
B-1049 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3187 — Ente Vasco de la Energía/Hidrocantábrico/Naturcorp)****Candidate case for simplified procedure**

(2003/C 125/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 15 May 2003 the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ⁽²⁾, by which the Spanish undertaking Hidroeléctrica del Cantábrico SA ('Hidrocantábrico'), jointly controlled by the Portuguese undertaking Electricidade de Portugal, SA, the German undertaking Energie Baden-Württemberg Aktiengesellschaft and the Spanish undertaking Caja de Ahorros de Asturias, and the Spanish public entity Ente Vasco de la Energía ('EVE') acquire joint control of the Spanish undertaking Naturcorp I SA ('Nueva Naturcorp') by way of transfert of assets and purchase and transfert of shares in a newly created company constituting a joint venture.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Hidrocantábrico: generation, distribution and supply of electricity in Spain. Distribution and supply of gas in Asturias and Catalonia (Spain) and telecommunications in Asturias and Castile-Leon (Spain),
- EVE: planning, coordination and control of activities of the energy public sector in the Spanish Basque Country,
- Nueva Naturcorp: distribution and supply of gas in Spain mainly in Asturias, and the Basque Country and other energy related activities in the Spanish Basque Country.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified concentration could fall within the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. However, the final decision on this point is reserved. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽³⁾, it should be noted that this case is a candidate for treatment under the procedure set out in the Notice.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference COMP/M.3187 — Ente Vasco de la Energía/Hidrocantábrico/Naturcorp, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
J-70,
B-1049 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.

⁽³⁾ OJ C 217, 29.7.2000, p. 32.

Prior notification of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3125 — Huntsman/MatlinPatterson/Vantico)**

(2003/C 125/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 15 May 2003 the Commission received notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ⁽²⁾, by which the undertaking Huntsman Holdings, LLC ('Huntsman', United States) jointly controlled by MatlinPatterson Global Opportunities Partners LP ('MatlinPatterson', United States) and a private investor, acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation control of the whole of the undertaking Vantico Group SA ('Vantico', Luxembourg) by way of exchange of debts for shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- MatlinPatterson: investment fund,
- Huntsman: production of chemical products world-wide,
- Vantico: production of polymer products, adhesives and modeling products.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified concentration could fall within the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89. However, the final decision on this point is reserved.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference COMP/M.3125 — Huntsman/MatlinPatterson/Vantico, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
J-70,
B-1049 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.

Request of examination of a concentration**(Case COMP/M.3136 — GE/AGFA NDT)**

(2003/C 125/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 19 March, 24 March, 25 March, 7 April, 8 April and 23 April 2003, the Commission received joint referral requests from the authorities of Germany, Austria, Greece, Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Italy respectively, pursuant to Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1310/97 ⁽²⁾ to investigate a proposed concentration by which the undertaking General Electric Aircraft Engines (GEAE), United States of America, belonging to the General Electric Company (GE) United States of America, acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation sole control of AGFA's non-destructive testing business (AGFA NDT), Belgium, by way of purchase of assets.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- GE: diversified industrial corporation active in numerous fields including aircraft engines, NDT equipment, power systems, transportation systems, industrial systems, plastics, lighting, medical systems, appliances, media, financial services, software and Internet services,
- AGFA NDT: development, production and distribution of a wide range of analogue testing equipment to test all types of materials without deforming or damaging them in order to guarantee their safety and quality.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the requests pursuant to Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4064/89 are admissible, as they meet the requirements laid down by this provision. On 13 May 2003, the joint request became complete within the meaning of Article 10(1) of the Council Regulation, following the receipt of the complete information.

4. The Commission invites interested third parties to submit their possible observations on the proposed operation to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference COMP/M.3136 — GE/AGFA NDT, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Directorate B — Merger Task Force,
J-70,
B-1049 Brussels.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 395, 30.12.1989, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 257, 21.9.1990, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 180, 9.7.1997, p. 1; corrigendum: OJ L 40, 13.2.1998, p. 17.

II

(Preparatory Acts pursuant to Title VI of the Treaty on European Union)

Initiative of the Hellenic Republic with a view to adopting a Council Decision determining the minimum indications to be used on signs at external border crossing points

(2003/C 125/06)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 62, point (2)(a) thereof,

Having regard to the initiative of the Hellenic Republic ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament ⁽²⁾,

Whereas:

(1) It is necessary to update the existing indications on signs at external air border crossing points marking the channels for persons entering and/or leaving the territory of the Member States contained in Schengen Executive Committee Decision SCH/COM-EX(94) 17, rev 4 of 22 December 1994, in order to take account of the Agreement on the European Economic Area and of the Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other part, on the free movement of persons.

(2) Accordingly, it is necessary to determine, in a uniform manner, the minimum indications for new signs marking the passenger channels at external land and sea borders, where such channels are used.

(3) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on the position of Denmark annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision, and is not bound by it or subject to its application. Given that this decision aims to implement the provisions of the Schengen acquis in accordance with the provisions of Title IV of Part Three of the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark shall, in accordance with Article 5 of the said Protocol, decide within a period of six months after the Council has adopted this Decision whether it will implement it in its national law.

(4) As regards Iceland and Norway, this Decision constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen acquis within the meaning of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the

Kingdom of Norway concerning the association of those two States with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis ⁽³⁾, which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, point A of Council Decision 1999/437/EC of 17 May 1999 on certain arrangements for the application of that Agreement ⁽⁴⁾.

(5) This Decision constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen acquis in which the United Kingdom does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2000/365/EC of 29 May 2000 concerning the request of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen acquis ⁽⁵⁾; the United Kingdom is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

(6) This Decision constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen acquis in which Ireland does not take part, in accordance with Council Decision 2002/192/EC of 28 February 2002 concerning Ireland's request to take part in some of the provisions of the Schengen acquis ⁽⁶⁾; Ireland is therefore not taking part in its adoption and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

(7) This Decision constitutes an act building on the Schengen acquis or otherwise related to it within the meaning of Article 3(2) of the 2003 Act of Accession,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Member States shall provide separate lanes at authorised air border crossing points at their external borders in order to carry out the necessary border checks on persons entitled under Community law and other persons. The lanes shall be differentiated by means of the signs referred to in Article 2.

The same signs shall be used if Member States wish to provide separate lanes at land and sea border crossing points at their external borders.

⁽¹⁾ ...

⁽²⁾ ...

⁽³⁾ OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 36.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 31.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 131, 1.6.2000, p. 43.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 64, 7.3.2002, p. 20.

Article 2

The indications on the signs, which may be displayed electronically, shall be as follows:

- The emblem of the European Union with the letters 'EU', 'EEA' and 'CH' within the circle of stars and the word 'CITIZENS' beneath the circle of stars, as shown in Annex I.
- The words 'ALL NATIONALITIES', as shown in Annex II.

Article 3

Citizens of the EU, nationals of States parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area and nationals of the Swiss Confederation shall, as a general rule, use the lane indicated by the sign in Annex I. All other third-country nationals shall use the lane indicated by the sign in Annex II.

However, in the event of a temporary imbalance in the traffic flows at a particular border crossing point, this general rule may be waived by the competent authorities for the time necessary to eliminate such imbalance.

Article 4

At land border crossing points, Member States may separate vehicle traffic into different lanes for light and heavy vehicles, by using signs as shown in Annex III.

Article 5

Point 2 of the Annex (SCH/I-Front (94) 39 rev 9) to Schengen Executive Committee Decision SCH/COM-EX(94) 17, rev 4 of 22 December 1994, together with point 2 of the decision attached to that Annex on introducing and applying the Schengen arrangements in airports and aerodromes (secondary airports), shall be repealed.

Article 6

This Decision shall enter into force on ... 2003.

Article 7

This Decision is addressed to the Member States in accordance with the Treaty establishing the European Community.

Done at ...

For the Council

The President

...

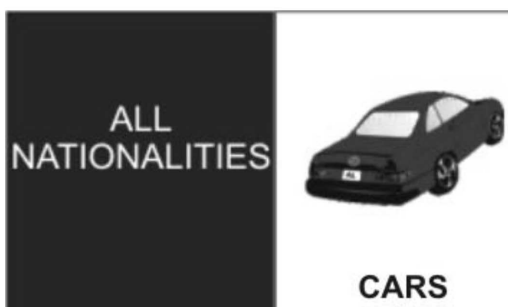
ANNEX I



ANNEX II



ANNEX III



III

(Notices)

COUNCIL

Texts published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* C 125 E

(2003/C 125/07)

These texts are available on:

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

Notice No	Contents	Page
Council		
2003/C 125 E/01	Common Position (EC) No 24/2003 of 18 February 2003 adopted by the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, with a view to adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 with respect to the time limit for transmission of the main aggregates of national accounts, to the derogations concerning the transmission of the main aggregates of national accounts and to the transmission of employment data in hours worked ⁽¹⁾	1
2003/C 125 E/02	Common Position (EC) No 25/2003 of 24 March 2003 adopted by the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered to the public or admitted to trading and amending Directive 2001/34/EC ⁽¹⁾	21
2003/C 125 E/03	Common Position (EC) No 26/2003 of 17 March 2003 adopted by the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, with a view to adopting a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the production and development of Community statistics on science and technology ⁽¹⁾	58
2003/C 125 E/04	Common Position (EC) No 27/2003 of 18 March 2003 adopted by the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, with a view to adopting a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights, and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 295/91 ⁽¹⁾	63
2003/C 125 E/05	Common Position (EC) No 28/2003 of 18 March 2003 adopted by the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 251 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Community and amending Council Directive 96/61/EC ⁽¹⁾	72

⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

COMMISSION

Outcome of the invitations to tender (Community food aid)

(2003/C 125/08)

as provided for in Article 9(7) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 2519/97 of 16 December 1997 laying down general rules for the mobilisation of products to be supplied under Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 as Community food aid

(Official Journal of the European Communities L 346, 17.12.1997, p. 23)

13 May 2003

Regulation (EC) No/ Decision of	Lot	Action No	Beneficiary/ Destination	Product	Quantity (t)	Delivery stage	Successful tenderer	Awarded price (EUR/t)
737/2003	A	1/03	Ethiopia	BLT	32 500	DEST	MIDGULF SERVICES — LONDON (UK)	189,42
	B	2/03	Ethiopia	BLT	30 000	DEST	MIDGULF SERVICES — LONDON (UK)	190,33
738/2003	A	99/02	UNRWA/Israel	SUB	683	DEB	MUTUAL AID ADM. SERVICES NV — ANTWERP (B)	307,00
	B	100/02	UNRWA/Lebanon	SUB	294	DEST	MUTUAL AID ADM. SERVICES NV — ANTWERP (B)	337,00
	C	101/02	UNRWA/Syria	SUB	235	DEB	n.a.	(¹)
	D	102/02	UNRWA/Jordan	SUB	442	DEST	n.a.	(¹)
	E	103/02	UNRWA/Israel	SUB	277	DEB	n.a.	(¹)

n.a. No contract was awarded.

(¹) The invitation to tender is closed.

BLT:	Common wheat	FABA:	Broad beans (<i>Vicia faba major</i>)	WSB:	Wheat/soya blend
DUR:	Durum wheat	FEQ:	Horse beans (<i>Vicia faba equina</i>)	Lsub1:	Infant formula
ORG:	Barley	PISUM:	Split peas	Lsub2:	Follow-on formula
MAI:	Maize	SUB:	White sugar	LHE:	High energy milk
SEG:	Rye	HCOLZ:	Rape seed oil	AC:	Compound food
SOR:	Sorghum	HTOUR:	Sunflower oil	PAL:	Pasta
CBR/M/L:	Milled round, medium or long grain rice	HOLI:	Olive oil	SAR:	Tinned sardines
RPR/M/L:	Parboiled round, medium or long grain rice	HMAI:	Maize oil	CM:	Tinned mackerel
BRI:	Broken rice	HSOJA:	Soya oil	CB:	Corned beef
FBLT:	Common wheat flour	LEP:	Skimmed milk powder	BPJ:	Canned beef
FMAI:	Maize flour	LEPv:	Vitaminized skimmed milk powder	PFB:	Beef liver pâté
FSEG:	Rye flour	LDEP:	Semi-skimmed milk powder	CP:	Canned pork
SDUR:	Durum wheat meal	LENP:	Whole milk powder	PPF:	Pig liver pâté
SMAI:	Maize gritz	B:	Butter	CV:	Canned poultrymeat
FHAF:	Oat flakes	BO:	Butteroil	DEST:	Free at destination
CT:	Tomato concentrate	FETA:	Feta-type cheese	DEB:	Free at port of landing — landed
PT:	Tomato powder	FROf:	Processed cheese	DEN:	Free at port of landing — ex ship
COR:	Currants	BABYF:	Cereal-based weaning food	EMB:	Free at port of shipment
		BISC:	Biscuits	EXW:	Ex works

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

VP/2003/013 — Budget line B5-5020: Awareness raising for the European Employment Strategy

(2003/C 125/09)

1. Context

Decision No 1145/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 June 2002 on Community incentive measures in the field of employment (OJ L 170, 29.6.2002) calls in Article 3(1)(g) for the implementation of 'an active information policy responding to the public's need for transparency and recognising the importance of ensuring that European citizens can be fully informed on all aspects of the European Employment Strategy'. Further information on the EES can be found on http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/index_en.htm

2. Objectives

To **support dissemination and awareness raising initiatives** concerning the EES (European Employment Strategy). Such initiatives should aim at providing **information of a general nature** on the EES (objectives and rationales, results achieved, implementation and monitoring, respective roles of institutions involved), while clearly indicating the interplay between the European context and employment policies at national, regional and local levels. The **key messages of the EES** should be presented, explained and put in the respective national context. Building on that, **specific information needs of specific target groups** (e.g. assemblies of regional and local authorities, social partners, civil society) **or with regard to specific themes** (e.g. equal opportunities, prevention and activation of the long-term unemployed, mobility, lifelong learning, quality of work, active ageing, inclusive labour markets, immigration, employment participation and making work pay) should be addressed in more detail with the aim of **fostering better knowledge and understanding**, which would **facilitate the involvement of potential stakeholders in the development and implementation of the EES** in their respective contexts. All initiatives should contribute to an increased understanding of the main objectives and policy priorities of the reformed EES (2003-2010) and of the added value of employment policy coordination at EU level.

Proposed **actions** should develop awareness raising initiatives relevant for specific groups and themes. All relevant media and instruments can be used for that purpose, e.g. conferences, seminars, workshops, Internet, written and audio-visual material, special events. Initiatives should ideally allow for interactive flow of information,

thus stimulating discussion instead of top-down provision of information only. On the basis of self-assessment and evaluation, projects should come up with proposals for future information and dissemination strategies.

3. Total available budget

EUR 500 000 on budget line B5-5020.

4. Eligibility criteria

Proposals which do not comply with the following criteria are not eligible and will be rejected.

Proposals must:

- be made in writing, on the form distributed by the Authorising Officer,
- comply with objectives and actions in item 2,
- be submitted by moral persons representing central, regional or local public authorities or agencies or by organisations representing social partners or civil society. Proposals from accession countries are excluded from this call since the envisaged activities are not covered by the memorandum of understanding on the participation of accession countries in the Decision on the Incentive Measures in the field of Employment,
- include proof of co-financing of at least 25 % of the project's budget,
- not be eligible for support by other Community Programmes.

Applicants must certify that they are not in one of the following situations:

- (a) bankrupt or being wound up, having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

- (b) convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- (d) not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- (f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Furthermore, the applicants who

- are subject to a conflict of interest,
- are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the contract procedure, or who fail to supply this information

will be excluded.

5. Selection criteria

Applicants must provide evidence of their technical, economic, financial and professional standing, based on the following criteria:

- **The applicant's technical capacity for performing the information and communication work must be confirmed by:**
 - a list of the main projects carried out in the last five years relating to the subject fields to be communicated. In the case of work done for the European Commission, applicants must also indicate the reference number of the contract with the Commission and the department for which the contract was performed,
 - a list of the coordinators and experts to be used for the information/communication, together with their CVs and qualifications (see point 7 for the requisite skills),
 - a declaration by the coordinator certifying the competence of the team to carry out the information/communication,

- in the case of proposals from consortia: clear identification of the coordinator, who will also be the contractor, plus written confirmation from each member of the consortium that they are ready and willing to participate in the project, and briefly describing their role,

- a brief description of the applicant's work done in the provision of similar services; in the case of bids from consortia, this description must be provided for each member of the consortium.

- **Economic and financial capacity** to carry out the tasks set out in the specifications of the call for proposals must be demonstrated as follows:

- the applicant (or consortium) must provide proof of turnover in the last financial year at least equivalent to 100 % of the proposed price of the contract,

- balance sheets from the last three financial years, where publication of the balance sheets is required under company law in the country in which the service provider is established; in the case of proposals from consortia, these balance sheets must be provided by each member of the consortium,

- a statement of the applicant's overall turnover and turnover in respect of services to which the contract relates for the previous three financial years; in the case of proposals from consortia, this statement must be provided by each member of the consortium,

- a bank declaration providing evidence of sound financial standing; in the case of proposals from consortia, this declaration must be provided by each member of the consortium.

6. Award criteria

The grants will be awarded following a comparative assessment of the proposals in order to determine those which (i) best meet the objectives of this call and which (ii) have an adequate cost/efficiency ratio; this procedure will take approximately four months after the date for submission. In its evaluation the Commission will take into account the criteria listed hereunder

(i) Quality of the proposal

- **Approach**

- **Methodological Quality**

- **Work Organisation**

(ii) Cost/efficiency ratio

The proposal must include a detailed budget breakdown enabling the Commission to identify the efficiency in relation to the cost of the various tasks.

7. Financial conditions

The total available budget for funding for 2003 is EUR 500 000.

Community contribution 75 % of eligible costs maximum, with an average of EUR 100 000 and not less than EUR 50 000 per project. Sources of co-financing can be public or private.

Only costs directly linked to achieving the objectives of the call will be accepted. Contributions in kind, e.g. salaries of the agents directly involved in the running and implementation of the projects, are not eligible, but may be included in the total cost of the project. However, costs for staff recruited specifically for the purpose and the duration of the project are eligible.

8. Start date and duration of projects

Start after finalisation of contract, expected as of October 2003. Duration of each project is 12 months maximum.

9. Date for submission

The proposals may be sent in to the Commission up to 14 August 2003.

10. Practical modalities

Further information

The application form and further information is provided on this website http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/employment_social/tender_en.htm. Questions can also be sent to empl-a2-unit@cec.eu.int

Proposals

Proposals must be

— presented in triplicate (i.e. one should be marked 'original' and two should be marked 'copy'),

— signed by the applicant's legal representative,

— submitted in accordance with the requirements of the letter of invitation and before the date indicated in the said letter.

They must include:

— all information and documents necessary to enable the Commission to conduct an appraisal of the offer on the basis of the selection criteria and the award criteria (see points 5 and 6),

— a 'financial identification' form duly completed and signed,

— the detailed budget,

— the detailed curriculum vitae of the proposed expert(s),

— the name of the Contractor's legal representative (i.e. the person duly authorised to act legally on behalf of the Contractor in relation to third parties),

— contact points.

Submission

Proposals should be submitted directly to the

European Commission
Directorate General Employment and Social Affairs
Unit A/2 Employment Strategy
empl-a2-unit@cec.eu.int

With a paper confirmation to

European Commission
Directorate General Employment and Social Affairs
Unit A/2 Employment Strategy
Ms Hélène Clark, Head of Unit
B-1049 Brussels.

OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

No VP/2003/012 — Budget Line B5-5020: Projects contributing to the development of evaluation practice in the European Employment Strategy

(2003/C 125/10)

1. Context

Decision No 1145/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 June 2002 on Community incentive measures in the field of employment (OJ L 170, 29.6.2002) stipulates in Article 3(1)(c) that the objectives of the Decision is among others: '... to evaluate the European Employment Strategy with a strong forward-looking emphasis'.

Since the launch of the **Luxembourg process** by the Jobs Summit of November 1997, the **European Employment Strategy (EES)** has been developed around common objectives on the basis of working principles laid down in the Employment Title of the Treaty (TEU). An impact evaluation of the EES was therefore launched in 2001 and concluded in mid-2002 by a Commission Communication taking stock of the experience of five years of the Strategy ⁽¹⁾. The evaluation was carried out through national evaluation projects and an EU level assessment of the contribution of the Strategy in achieving the objectives of the EES as well as EU level surveys.

All information on the European Employment Strategy can be found on the site http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/empl&esf/ees_en.htm

2. Objectives of the call for proposal

There are two objectives of the call for proposal:

- (1) To gather **complementary evaluation evidence** on the impact of employment policies promoted through the EES, notably in areas that were not well covered by the previous call VP/2001/011 (e.g. lifelong learning, adaptability, administrative reform aspects of entrepreneurship and equal opportunities), and through involvement of other organisations not present during the previous call. All information on the VP/2001/011 call can be found on the site http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/tender_en.htm#project2001
- (2) To **contribute to the development of national evaluation practice**, in particular through a continuous approach for assessing the effects (outcome and cost-effectiveness) of national employment policy measures implemented as part of the National Action Plans on Employment, as well as the development of methods and tools for reinforcing an evaluation culture in the Member States.

More details can be found in the 'Guidelines for applicants' available on the site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/tender_en.htm#project2003

3. Total available budget

EUR 500 000 on budget line B5-5020.

4. Eligibility criteria

Proposals which do not comply with the following criteria are not eligible and will be rejected.

Proposals must:

- be made in writing, on the standard application form,
- address one of or both objectives of the call (as described under point 2),
- be submitted by moral persons representing central, regional or local public authorities or agencies or other non-profit organisations or networks dealing with employment issues or with an established interest in employment, representing e.g. social partners or civil society. Research bodies can apply working in association with one of the aforementioned groups. Proposals from accession countries are excluded from this call since the envisaged activities are not covered by the memorandum of understanding on the participation of accession countries in the Decision on the Incentive Measures in the field of Employment,
- include proof of co-financing of at least 25 % of the project's budget,
- not be eligible for support by other Community Programmes.

Applicants must certify that they are not in one of the following situations ⁽²⁾:

- (a) bankrupt or being wound up, having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

⁽¹⁾ COM(2002) 416 final of 17 July 2002.

⁽²⁾ In conformity with article 93 of the Financial Regulations.

- (b) convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- (d) not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- (f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Furthermore, the applicants who ⁽¹⁾

- are subject to a conflict of interest,
- are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or who fail to supply this information

will be excluded.

5. Selection criteria

Applicants must provide evidence of their technical, economic, financial and professional standing, based on the following criteria:

- the applicant's technical capacity for performing the required work must be confirmed by a list of the main projects carried out in the last five years relating to the objectives of the call. In the case of work done for the European Commission, applicants must also indicate the reference number of the contract with the Commission and the department for which the contract was performed,
- economic and financial capacity to carry out the tasks set out in the specifications of the call for proposals.

More details can be found in the 'Guidelines for applicants' available on the site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/tender_en.htm#project2003

⁽¹⁾ In conformity with Article 94 of the Financial Regulations.

6. Awarding criteria

The grants will be awarded following a comparative assessment of the proposals in order to determine those which (i) best meet the objectives of this call and which (ii) have an adequate cost/efficiency ratio. This procedure will approximately take four months after the date for submission. In its evaluation the Commission will take into account the criteria listed hereunder.

(i) Quality of the proposal

- (a) the relation of the proposal to the objectives of the call;
- (b) the methodological quality of the proposal;
- (c) the work organisation.

(ii) The cost/efficiency ratio

The proposal must include a detailed budget breakdown enabling the Commission to identify the efficiency in relation to the cost of the various tasks.

7. Financial conditions

The total available budget for funding for 2003 is EUR 500 000.

The Community's financial contribution will not exceed 75 % of the total eligible costs of the activities involved, with an average of EUR 100 000 per project and a minimum amount of EUR 50 000 per project. Sources of co-financing can be public or private.

Only costs directly linked to achieving the objectives of the call will be accepted. Contributions in kind, e.g. salaries of the agents directly involved in the running and implementation of the projects, are not eligible, but may be included in the total cost of the project. However, costs for staff recruited specifically for the purpose and the duration of the project are eligible.

Contractors may subcontract part of the work to other public or private bodies, independent experts, etc, on the prior agreement from the Commission.

8. Start date and duration of projects

The projects should start after finalisation of contracts, expected as of October 2003. Duration of each project is 12 months maximum.

9. Date for submission

The proposals may be sent in to the Commission up to 14 August 2003.

10. Practical modalities

The European Community has the task to promote equality between women and men and shall aim in all its activities to eliminate gender inequalities (Articles 2 and 3 of the EC Treaty). In this context, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals or to be involved in their submission.

The Commission is not responsible for the contents of any publication the contractor might produce as part of the project.

The application form and further information is provided on the following website: http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/employment_social/tender_en.htm

Questions can also be sent to empl-a2-unit@cec.eu.int

Proposals must be:

- presented in triplicate (i.e. one should be marked 'original' and two should be marked 'copy') using the standard application form (available on the Europa website),
- signed by the applicant's legal representative,
- submitted in accordance with the requirements of the call for proposal and before the date indicated in point 9.

Proposals must include:

- all information and documents necessary to enable the Commission to conduct an appraisal of the offer on

the basis of the selection criteria and the award criteria (see points 5 and 6),

- a 'financial identification' form duly completed and signed,
- the detailed budget,
- the detailed curriculum vitae of the proposed project manager and the persons who will perform the main tasks,
- the name of the Contractor's legal representative (i.e. the person duly authorised to act legally on behalf of the Contractor in relation to third parties),
- contact points.

Proposals should be submitted and postmarked to the address cited below **not later than 14 August 2003** to:

European Commission
Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs
Unit A/2 Employment Strategy
empl-a2-unit@cec.eu.int

with a paper confirmation to:

European Commission
Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs
Unit A/2 Employment Strategy
Ms Hélène Clark, Head of Unit
B-1049 Brussels.