

Official Journal

of the European Union

ISSN 1725-2423

C 40

Volume 47

14 February 2004

English edition

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Corrigenda

2004/C 40/06

Corrigendum to the call for proposals for indirect actions under the programme to stimulate the development and use of European digital content on the global networks and to promote linguistic diversity in the information society (2001 to 2005) — Continuous submission scheme (Call part identifier: EC-Y03-C3-P2) (*The eContent Programme*) (OJ C 320 of 20.12.2002) ⁽¹⁾

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I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates ⁽¹⁾

13 February 2004

(2004/C 40/01)

1 euro =

Currency		Exchange rate	Currency		Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,2816	LVL	Latvian lats	0,6739
JPY	Japanese yen	135,04	MTL	Maltese lira	0,429
DKK	Danish krone	7,451	PLN	Polish zloty	4,8549
GBP	Pound sterling	0,6778	ROL	Romanian leu	40 763
SEK	Swedish krona	9,1462	SIT	Slovenian tolar	237,41
CHF	Swiss franc	1,579	SKK	Slovak koruna	40,408
ISK	Iceland króna	86,84	TRL	Turkish lira	1 688 000
NOK	Norwegian krone	8,82	AUD	Australian dollar	1,6194
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,6901
CYP	Cyprus pound	0,58624	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	9,959
CZK	Czech koruna	32,597	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,8219
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	SGD	Singapore dollar	2,1461
HUF	Hungarian forint	263,35	KRW	South Korean won	1 486,72
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4533	ZAR	South African rand	8,4762

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

Explanatory note concerning Annex III of the EU-Mexico Agreement (Decision 2/2000 of the EU-Mexico Joint Council)

(2004/C 40/02)

Article 17. Technical reasons

1. A movement certificate EUR.1 may be rejected for technical reasons because it was not made out in the prescribed manner. These are the cases which may give rise to subsequent presentation of the retrospectively endorsed certificate and they include, by way of example, the following:

- the movement certificate EUR.1 has been made out on a form other than the prescribed one (e.g. no guilloche background, differs significantly from the model in size or colour, no serial number, not printed in one of the officially-prescribed languages),
- one of the mandatory boxes (e.g. box 4 on the EUR.1) has not been filled,
- tariff classification of the goods at least at a heading (4 digits code) level ⁽¹⁾ is not included in box 8, or in the invoice concerned for the cases referred to in the above paragraph on 'description of goods on a movement certificate EUR.1',
- the movement certificate EUR.1 has not been stamped or signed (i.e. in box 11),
- the movement certificate EUR.1 is endorsed by a non-authorised authority,
- the stamp used is one which has not been notified,
- the movement certificate EUR.1 presented is a copy or photocopy rather than the original,
- the entry in box 2 or 5 refers to a country that does not belong to the Agreement,
- the date set out in box 11 is prior to the date indicated in box 12.

Action to be taken

The document should be marked 'Document not accepted' in one of the official languages of the agreement, stating the reason(s) either on the certificate or on another document made out by the customs authorities. The certificate and where appropriate, the other document, is then returned to

the importer in order to enable him to get a new document issued retrospectively. The customs authorities, however, may keep a photocopy of the rejected document for the purposes of post-clearance verification or if they have grounds for suspecting fraud.

Notwithstanding the procedure indicated above, a customs clearance agent or an importer who identifies in the certificate any of the cases specifically listed above or the non-compliance of the requirements established by subparagraph (a) or (c) of the explanatory note relating to Article 16 (Description of goods on movement certificate EUR.1), may return the certificate to the exporter who completed it in order to enable him to add the necessary corrections and have them endorsed by the customs office or the competent governmental authority, in accordance with Note 1 of Appendix III. If it is considered necessary by the customs office, or the competent governmental authority, of the exporting country, a new certificate may be made out in substitution of the certificate returned for correction.

If none of the abovementioned cases has been identified by the customs clearance agent or the importer, the movement certificate EUR.1 is then suitable for presentation to the customs authorities of the importing country.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, minor errors, discrepancies or omissions in the completion of a movement certificate EUR.1, shall not be considered as technical reasons justifying its rejection, as they do not impede the acquisition and appreciation of the relevant information contained in the proof of origin.

By way of example, the following cases shall not be considered as technical reasons for rejection as indicated in paragraph 1:

- typing errors, when there is no doubt about the correctness of the information provided in one or more boxes of a movement certificate EUR.1,
- the information provided exceeds the space available of any individual box,
- one or more boxes are filled using a stamp, provided that all required information is included (e.g. signatures shall be hand-written),

⁽¹⁾ Accordingly, the proof of origin may legitimately contain a more specific tariff classification of the good.

- in the case of goods originating in the Community, boxes 2 and/or 4 include the mention of:
 - only the Community ⁽¹⁾, or
 - both a Member State and the Community ⁽¹⁾,
 - the optional boxes 3, 6, 7 and 10 are not filled,
-
- ⁽¹⁾ Any other term referring unequivocally to the Community may also be used such as, *inter alia*, the European Community, the European Union or an abbreviated form like for example EC, EU, etc.
- the unit measure used in box 9 does not correspond to the unit measure indicated in the corresponding invoice (for example: kilos in the movement certificate EUR.1 and square meters in the invoice),
 - there is no information on the export document, as referred to in box 11, where the regulations of the exporting country or territory do not require the inclusion of such information,
 - the date of issue of the movement certificate EUR.1 does not appear on the prescribed line of box 11, but it is however clearly indicated in that box (for example as part of the official stamp used by the competent authorities to endorse the certificate).

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.3365 — Vidacaixa/Santander Central Hispano Previsión)

(2004/C 40/03)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 9 February 2004 the Commission received a 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 Vidacaixa, Sociedad Anónima de Seguros y Reaseguros ('Vidacaixa'), belonging to Grupo Caifor (Spain) and ultimately controlled by Grupo La Caixa (Spain) and Fortis Group (Belgium and The Netherlands), acquires, within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Regulation, control of the whole of the Spain-based undertaking Santander Central Hispano Previsión, Sociedad Anónima de Seguros y Reaseguros ('SCH Previsión'), belonging to Banco Santander Central Hispano, SA (Spain), by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- Vidacaixa: insurance activities,
- SCH Previsión: insurance activities.

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.3365 — Vidacaixa/Santander Central Hispano Previsión, to:

European Commission,
Directorate-General for Competition,
Merger Registry,
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.

Notice of initiation of an investigation of violation of freedom of association in Belarus in view of temporary withdrawal of benefits under the Scheme of Generalised Tariff Preferences (GSP)

(2004/C 40/04)

Under Article 26(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2501/2001⁽¹⁾ preferential arrangements may be withdrawn from a GSP beneficiary country for 'serious and systematic violation of the freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining or the principle of non-discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, or use of child labour, as defined in the relevant ILO conventions'.

The Commission has received information from the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the World Confederation of Labour (WCL) on alleged systematic and serious violations of freedom of association in Belarus as defined in ILO Conventions Nos 87 and 98.

Information

The information received, supported by reports from international bodies, relates to obstacles raised systematically by the authorities of Belarus to oppose legal registration of free trade unions, to limit trade union activities, and to repress trade union leaders and activists. It is alleged that the law and various legislative decrees place important restrictions upon the right of workers and employers to establish organisations of their own choosing without prior authorisation and the right of such organisations to operate without interference by the public authorities, including the right to receive foreign financial assistance for their activities. Intimidation has allegedly been used to replace regional and sectoral trade union leaders. Information refers to 'tame' or 'management' unions having been established at industrial plants. Further information relates to pressure and intimidation and threats of dismissal against workers, undermining of established trade

union structures, delays in transfer of union dues, unlawful entry into union premises, and confiscation and destruction of union property and papers. There is alleged intimidation of trade union members and their families by government officials and employers.

Procedure

Having decided, after consultation with the Generalised Preferences Committee, that there is sufficient evidence to justify the initiation of an inquiry, the Commission has commenced an investigation pursuant to Article 27(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2501/2001.

Interested parties should make themselves known in writing and submit any useful information to the Commission within the time limit mentioned below.

Parties who make themselves known and who so request within the said time limit, will be heard by the Commission, provided that they can show that they have a particular interest in being heard.

Time Limit

All relevant information concerning the information of violation of freedom of association in Belarus, as well as any request for a hearing should be sent in writing to reach the European Commission, Directorate General for Trade, Directorate C, Unit C.3, B-1049 Brussels, no later than 60 days following the date of publication of this notice.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 346, 31.12.2001, p. 1.

III

(Notices)

COMMISSION

Call for proposals for indirect actions under the programme to stimulate the development and use of European digital content on the global networks and to promote linguistic diversity in the information society (2001 to 2005)**(The eContent Programme)**

(2004/C 40/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. By its decision of 22 December 2000 the Council adopted a programme to stimulate the development and use of European digital content on the global networks and to promote linguistic diversity in the information society ⁽¹⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the eContent Programme).

2. In accordance with Article 4(1) of this decision the European Commission adopted a work programme ⁽²⁾ specifying detailed objectives and priorities and an indicative timetable for their implementation. The work programme was updated by the Commission on 13 February 2004. This work programme and its update serve as the basis for implementing the programme up to 17 January 2005. The objectives, priorities, indicative budget and types of indirect actions referred to in this call notice correspond to those set out in the work programme.

3. The present call for proposals for indirect actions concerns the following action lines of the programme:

- (a) improving access to and use of public sector information;
- (b) enhancing content production in a multilingual and multicultural environment.

Proposals are called by a fixed deadline following which evaluation will take place. Proposals not having met this deadline will not be considered under this call notice.

4. Information on how to prepare and submit proposals is given in the Guide for Proposers ⁽³⁾. The workprogramme and its update ⁽²⁾ describe the objectives of each action line open in the call. Details of the evaluation process are given in the Guidelines for Evaluators ⁽³⁾.

This documentation can be obtained, along with the work programme and any other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using the following address:

European Commission
Directorate General Information Society
eContent Help Desk
Jean Monnet Building, Office EUFO 1181
Rue Alcide de Gasperi
L-2920 Luxembourg

E-mail: eContent@cec.eu.int
Fax (352) 4301 34959
Web: www.cordis.lu/econtent/calls.htm

- 5. Deadline for receipt of proposals: 14 May 2004 at 17.00 (Luxembourg local time).
- 6. The indicative total budget available for this call is EUR 26,5 million of Community contribution ⁽⁴⁾.
- 7. Those eligible to participate in indirect actions under the eContent Programme are hereby invited to submit proposals that address those parts of the work programme specified below:

(Call part identifier: EC-Y04-C4-P1)

Action Line 1: Improving access to and use of public sector information

Subline 1.1: Cross-border information services based on public sector information — Identifier: AL 1.1 — DM

Action Line 2: Enhancing content production in a multilingual and multicultural environment

Subline 2.2: Strengthening the linguistic infrastructure — Identifier: AL 2.2 — DM

- 8. The financing modalities are detailed in the Workprogramme 2003 to 2004 and its update ⁽²⁾, depending on the type of project proposed. Additional details on eligible expenses are available in the Guide for Proposers and the model contract that will be signed with selected organisations (see also point 4 above).

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 14, 18.1.2001, p. 32.

⁽²⁾ Commission Decision C(2002) 5132 of 19 December 2002, www.cordis.lu/econtent

⁽³⁾ www.cordis.lu/econtent

⁽⁴⁾ Subject to the adoption of the year 2004 budget by the European Parliament and Council.

9. This call is open to EEA countries, the ten acceding countries and the three candidate countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey) that have signed memoranda of Understanding with the Communities. Participation without EU funding is open for entities established in other countries.
10. The evaluation process is based on the following set of criteria. An explanation of the criteria and their application is given in the Guide for Proposers and the Guidelines for Evaluators.

Eligibility criteria:

- timely arrival,
- eligible consortium,
- proposal completeness,
- within the scope of the call.

Award criteria:

They are grouped in four categories with a weight attached to each category that expresses its relative priority:

- Quality, relevance, innovation and impact 35 %
- Partnership, resources and management 35 %
- European added value and contribution to relevant policies 15 %
- Contribution to economic development and social objective 15 %.

Selection criteria:

Financial and operational capacity to carry out the project

- Capacity to cofinance the proposed project as demonstrated by the organisation accounts;
- Capacity to allocate adequate human resources to carry out the project in question;

Professional competencies and qualifications

- Documented relevant experience in the field of the proposed action.

The Commission may request the support of external experts for the evaluation and the application of the various criteria.

11. All proposals responding to this call must be sent to the Commission at the address indicated below in this notice

by registered post, or delivered by hand or by courier. To be receivable, proposals must be submitted on paper and be received by the Commission at the following address:

European Commission
Directorate General Information Society
eContent Programme
Jean Monnet Building, Office EUFO 1181
Rue Alcide de Gasperi
L-2920 Luxembourg

before the applicable deadline ⁽⁵⁾.

Proposals submitted by e-mail or fax will be excluded.

Reminder notice: Please note that deadlines apply to receipt by the Commission. In addition, failure to use the above address exactly as it is reproduced here could lead to delays in having your proposal received by the eContent Programme, and could lead to your proposal not being received before the deadline.

12. The evaluation will take place within two months from the closing date of this call. Applicants will be informed on the results of their application after the evaluation has taken place. Start of the actions is envisaged by November 2004, following the signature of contracts.
13. The conditions of participation of the proposers will be verified within the framework of the negotiations leading to financing indirect actions. Before finalising negotiations, however, proposers will have signed a declaration stating that they do not fall under any of the cases given by Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation ⁽⁶⁾. They will also have given the Commission the information listed in Article 173(2) and 173(4) of the Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁷⁾.
14. In all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. when requesting information or submitting a proposal) please make sure to quote the applicable call part identifier.

In submitting a proposal, proposers accept the procedures and conditions as described in this call and in the documents to which it refers.

All proposals received by the European Commission will be treated in strict confidence.

The European Community pursues an equal opportunities policy and, in this context, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals or to be involved in their submission.

⁽⁵⁾ For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use (352) 4301 38224.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

CORRIGENDA**Corrigendum to the call for proposals for indirect actions under the programme to stimulate the development and use of European digital content on the global networks and to promote linguistic diversity in the information society (2001 to 2005)****Continuous submission scheme (Call part identifier: EC-Y03-C3-P2)***(The eContent Programme)**(Official Journal of the European Communities C 320 of 20 December 2002)**(2004/C 40/06)***(Text with EEA relevance)**

1. This text replaces the text published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities C 320 of 20 December 2002*.
2. By its decision of 22 December 2000 the Council adopted a programme to stimulate the development and use of European digital content on the global networks and to promote linguistic diversity in the information society ⁽¹⁾ (hereinafter referred to as the eContent Programme).
3. In accordance with Article 4(1) of this decision the European Commission adopted a work programme ⁽²⁾ specifying detailed objectives and priorities and an indicative timetable for their implementation. The work programme was updated by the Commission on 13 February 2004. This work programme and its update serve as the basis for implementing the programme up to 17 January 2005. The objectives, priorities, indicative budget and types of indirect actions referred to in this call notice correspond to those set out in the work programme.
4. The present call for proposals for indirect actions concerns the following action lines of the programme:
 - (a) improving access to and use of public sector information;
 - (b) enhancing content production in a multilingual and multicultural environment.

Proposals are called under a continuous submission scheme, under which proposals may be submitted at any time. Proposals submitted to the continuous submission scheme will be evaluated in batches. Proposals received before 4 December 2003 constituted the last evaluated batch.

The last batch will include the remaining proposals received since 5 December before the closing date of the call on 14 May 2004. Proposals not having met this closing date will not be considered under this call notice. The last batch will be evaluated in conjunction with proposals received under the last fixed deadline call of the programme to be published on .../2004 with a closing date of 14 May 2004.

5. Information on how to prepare and submit proposals is given in the Guide for Proposers ⁽³⁾. The workprogramme and its update ⁽²⁾ describe the objectives of each action line open in the call. Details of the evaluation process are given in the Guidelines for Evaluators ⁽³⁾.

This documentation can be obtained, along with the work programme and any other information relating to this call, from the European Commission using the following address:

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 14, 18.1.2001, p. 32.

⁽²⁾ Commission Decision C(2002) 5132 of 19 December 2002, www.cordis.lu/econtent

⁽³⁾ www.cordis.lu/econtent

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E-mail: eContent@cec.eu.int
Fax (352) 4301-349 59
Web: www.cordis.lu/econtent/calls.htm

6. Deadline for receipt of proposals: 14 May 2004 at 17.00 (Luxembourg local time).
7. The indicative total budget available for this call is EUR 1,5 million of Community contribution ⁽⁴⁾.
8. Those eligible to participate in indirect actions under the eContent Programme are hereby invited to submit proposals that address those parts of the work programme specified below:

(Call part identifier: EC-Y03-C3-P2)

Action Line 1: Improving access to and use of public sector information

Subline 1.1: Cross-border information services based on public sector information — Identifier: AL 1.1 — FP

Subline 1.2: Establishment of European digital data collections — Identifier: AL 1.2 — FP

Action Line 2: Enhancing content production in a multilingual and multicultural environment

Subline 2.1: Partnerships for multilingual and multicultural content — Identifier: AL 2.1 — FP

Subline 2.2: Strengthening the linguistic infrastructure — Identifier: AL 2.2 — FP.

9. This call is open to EEA countries, the ten acceding countries and the three candidate countries (Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey) that have signed memoranda of Understanding with the Communities. Participation without EU funding is open for entities established in other countries.
10. The financing modalities are detailed in the Workprogramme 2003 to 2004 and its update ⁽²⁾, depending on the type of project proposed. Additional details on eligible expenses are available in the Guide for Proposers and the model contract that will be signed with selected organisations (see also point 5).
11. The evaluation process is based on the following set of criteria. An explanation of the criteria and their application is given in the Guide for Proposers and the Guidelines for Evaluators.

Eligibility criteria

- timely arrival,
- eligible consortium,
- proposal completeness,
- within the scope of the call.

The eligibility criteria above shall be applied to all proposals received after the 4 December 2003.

Award criteria

They are grouped in four categories and weighted in percentages to express the relative priorities:

- Quality, relevance, innovation and impact 35 %
- Partnership, resources and management 35 %

⁽⁴⁾ Subject to the adoption of the year 2004 budget by the European Parliament and Council.

- European added value and contribution to relevant policies 15 %
- Contribution to economic development and social objectives 15 %.

Selection criteria*Financial and operational capacity to carry out the project*

- Capacity to cofinance the proposed project as demonstrated by the organisation accounts,
- Capacity to allocate adequate human resources to carry out the project in question;

Professional competencies and qualifications

- Documented relevant experience in the field of the proposed action.

The Commission may request the support of external experts for the evaluation and the application of the various criteria.

12. All proposals responding to this call must be sent to the Commission at the address indicated below in this notice by registered post, or delivered by hand or by courier. To be receivable, proposals must be submitted on paper and be received by the Commission at the following address:

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before the applicable deadline ⁽⁵⁾.

Proposals submitted by e-mail or fax will be excluded.

Reminder notice: Please note that deadlines apply to receipt by the Commission. In addition, failure to use the above address exactly as it is reproduced here could lead to delays in having your proposal received by the eContent Programme, and could lead to your proposal not being received before the deadline.

13. The evaluation will take place within two months from the closing date of this call. Applicants will be informed on the results of their application after the evaluation has taken place. Start of the actions is envisaged by November 2004, following the signature of contracts.
14. The conditions of participation of the proposers will be verified within the framework of the negotiations leading to financing indirect actions. Before that, however, proposers will have signed a declaration stating that they do not fall under any of the cases given by Article 93(1) of the Financial Regulation ⁽⁶⁾. They will also have given the Commission the information listed in Article 173(2) and 173(4) of the Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ⁽⁷⁾.
15. In all correspondence relating to this call (e.g. when requesting information or submitting a proposal) please make sure to quote the applicable call part identifier.

In submitting a proposal, proposers accept the procedures and conditions as described in this call and in the documents to which it refers.

All proposals received by the European Commission will be treated in strict confidence.

The European Community pursues an equal opportunities policy and, in this context, women are particularly encouraged to either submit proposals or to be involved in their submission.

⁽⁵⁾ For courier services that require a telephone number for the recipient, please use (352) 4301-382 24.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

⁽⁷⁾ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.