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EN

⁽¹⁾ Text with EEA relevance

I

(Information)

COMMISSION

Interest rate applied by the European Central Bank to its main refinancing operations ⁽¹⁾:**2,05 % on 1 July 2005****Euro exchange rates ⁽²⁾****1 July 2005**

(2005/C 162/01)

1 euro =

Currency	Exchange rate	Currency	Exchange rate
USD US dollar	1,2087	SIT Slovenian tolar	239,45
JPY Japanese yen	134,24	SKK Slovak koruna	38,315
DKK Danish krone	7,4541	TRY Turkish lira	1,6163
GBP Pound sterling	0,67900	AUD Australian dollar	1,5960
SEK Swedish krona	9,4866	CAD Canadian dollar	1,4867
CHF Swiss franc	1,5519	HKD Hong Kong dollar	9,3929
ISK Iceland króna	78,76	NZD New Zealand dollar	1,7526
NOK Norwegian krone	7,8810	SGD Singapore dollar	2,0415
BGN Bulgarian lev	1,9558	KRW South Korean won	1 246,65
CYP Cyprus pound	0,5735	ZAR South African rand	8,0775
CZK Czech koruna	29,990	CNY Chinese yuan renminbi	10,0038
EEK Estonian kroon	15,6466	HRK Croatian kuna	7,3045
HUF Hungarian forint	246,64	IDR Indonesian rupiah	11 815,04
LTL Lithuanian litas	3,4528	MYR Malaysian ringgit	4,594
LVL Latvian lats	0,6962	PHP Philippine peso	67,482
MTL Maltese lira	0,4293	RUB Russian rouble	34,6300
PLN Polish zloty	4,0233	THB Thai baht	49,923
RON Romanian leu	3,6030		

⁽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.

**Final report of the Hearing Officer in Case COMP/32.448 and 32.450 — Compagnie Maritime Belge
(pursuant to Article 15 of Commission Decision 2001/462/EC, ECSC of 23 May 2001 on the terms
of reference of Hearing Officers in certain competition proceedings — OJ L 162, 19.6.2001, p. 21)**

(2005/C 162/02)

(Text with EEA relevance)

The draft decision in this case gives rise to the following observations:

A Statement of Objections was sent to Compagnie Maritime Belge (CMB) and Dafra-Lines on 17 April 2003.

On 1 May 2003 the Commission was informed that Dafra-Lines had been liquidated on 4 March 2003. As a result, the procedure against this company was discontinued.

On 16 May 2003, a list of all documents in the files 32.450 and 32.448 was sent to CMB and to their legal representative.

On 26 May 2003, CMB requested a two month extension of the deadline to reply to the Statement of Objections, arguing that they had received the Statement of Objections shortly before the Easter weekend and that it was difficult to give an adequate reply within the deadline since the case dated back to the 1980s. I granted an extension of four weeks, that is until 15 July 2003.

Access to the file was not requested by CMB.

On 16 July 2004, CMB submitted a reply to the Statement of Objections and requested a formal oral hearing.

The formal oral hearing took place on 24 September 2003.

In the light of the above, I consider that the rights to be heard have been respected in the present case. The draft decision deals only with objections in respect of which the parties have been afforded the opportunity of making known their views.

Brussels, 15 April 2004.

Karen WILLIAMS

Summary information communicated by Member States regarding State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1/2004 of 23 December 2003 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises active in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products

(2005/C 162/03)

Aid No: XA 13/05

Member State: United Kingdom

Region: England

Title of Aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Cross Compliance Advice Programme — Practical Advice for Land Managers (England)

Legal basis: The scheme is non-statutory. The Agriculture Act 1986 (section 1) provides the legal base for the provision by Government of advice in connection with any agricultural activity.

Expenditure planned under the scheme: Total value of GBP 2 007 052,23 over 3 programme years. The funding is provided from 4 financial years listed below:

2004/05	GBP 431 998,23
2005/06	GBP 657 929,00
2006/07	GBP 538 305,00
2007/08	GBP 378 820,00

Maximum aid intensity: The aid intensity is 100 %.

Date of implementation: Farmers will be able to sign up from 4 April 2005 the first events will take place after this date.

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: The scheme will be open to new participants throughout. Activities funded under the scheme will take place after 4 April 2005 and until 30 June 2007.

Objective of aid: Sectoral development. This is a programme for practising farmers and other interested businesses. The purpose of the programme, consisting of a range of on-farm workshops, farm walks, helpline and website, is to provide farmers and other land managers with clear and targeted guidance on what the Statutory Management Requirements (SMR) and Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) requirements are and what they mean in terms of required farm management. This will increase the professionalism of the sector.

The aid will be paid in line with Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1/2004 and the eligible costs will be costs of organising and delivering training programmes and consultancy services.

Sector(s) concerned: The scheme applies to businesses active in the production of agricultural products only. The scheme is open to businesses producing any type of agricultural product.

Name and address of the granting authority:

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Farm Advice Unit
Rural Development Service
Area 4A, Ergon House
Horseferry Road
London
United Kingdom
SW1P 2AL

Web address:

www.defra.gov.uk/farm/state-aid/setup/exist-exempt.htm.

Click on 'Cross Compliance Advice Programme — Practical Advice for Land Managers'.

Alternatively, you can go direct to:

www.defra.gov.uk/farm/state-aid/setup/schemes/cross-compliance.pdf.

Other information: The scheme will be made available to all rural businesses, not just agricultural businesses. Aid to non-agricultural businesses will be paid with regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 69/2001 on *de minimis* aid.

Beneficiaries will not be able to choose the service provider. The service provider will be Momenta who were selected by a tender exercise.

Aid No: XA 14/05

Member State: Latvia

Title of aid scheme or name of the company receiving individual aid: Aid scheme for risk reduction in branches of the agricultural industry

Legal basis: Ministru kabineta 2005. gada 25. janvāra noteikumi Nr. 70 'Noteikumi par valsts atbalstu lauksaimniecībai 2005. gadā un tā piešķiršanas kārtība' 10. pielikums

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Overall aid scheme expenditure in 2005: LVL 506 250 (EUR 720 329).

Maximum aid intensity: Aid is granted towards the cost of insurance premiums to insure cultivated plants and productive livestock. Aid is granted at a level of 50 % relative to agreements established between insurance undertakings and policy holders, but does not exceed LVL 25 per unit (hectare or unit of livestock), LVL 50 for potatoes and vegetables, and LVL 150 for fruit trees and berry bushes.

Date of implementation: 1 December 2005

Duration of scheme or individual aid grant: 30 December 2005

Objective of aid: The objective of the aid is to reduce the production risks involved in cultivating plants and breeding livestock by partly compensating losses incurred by farmers.

Sectors concerned: Aid is intended for small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in agricultural work.

Aid is intended for branches of the industry concerned with plant cultivation and livestock breeding.

Name and address of granting authority:

Latvian Ministry for Agriculture
Riga, LV — 1981, Latvia

Web address:

www.zm.gov.lv

http://www.zm.gov.lv/data/n0195_5p12.doc

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty

Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(2005/C 162/04)

(Text with EEA relevance)

Date of adoption: 30.3.2005

Member State: Poland

Aid No: N 81/2005

Title: Temporary Defensive Measures for Shipbuilding, Grant

Objective (sector): Contract related aid

Legal basis: *Ustawa o dopłatach do umów na budowę niektórych typów statków morskich*

Rozporządzenie ministra gospodarki i pracy w sprawie wzoru wniosku, informacji i dokumentów niezbędnych do ubiegania się o dopłaty do umów na budowę niektórych typów statków morskich

Budget: PLN 375 000 000

Aid intensity or amount: 6 %

Duration:

25.10.2002 — 31.3.2005;

LNG: 25.6.2003 — 31.3.2005

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids/

Date of adoption of the decision: 16.11.2004

Member State: France (Aquitaine)

Aid No: N 381/04

Title: Project for a high-capacity telecommunications network in the Pyrénées-Atlantiques

Objective: Financing of services of general economic interest

Legal basis:

— Article 1511-6 du Code Général des Collectivités Territoriales (abrogé)

— Article 1425-1 du Code Général des Collectivités territoriales (JO n° 143 du 22 juin 2004. Loi n° 2004-575 du 21 juin 2004 pour la confiance dans l'économie numérique).

Budget: The total cost of financing is EUR 61 879 482 of which: (i) Region: EUR 7 000 000; (ii) General Council of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques: EUR 15 000 000; (iii) European Union (ERDF): EUR 20 000 000; and (iv) delegatee's contribution: EUR 19 879 482

Aid intensity or amount: Measure not constituting aid

Duration: 20-year concession

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids/

Date of adoption: 16.3.2005

Member State: Spain

Aid No: N 517/2004

Title: Bangladesh (Astilleros de Huelva), Loan

Objective: Development aid

Legal basis: *Fondo de Ayuda al Desarrollo, de la Ley 62/2003 de 30 de diciembre, de medidas fiscales, administrativas y del orden social.*

Aid intensity or amount: 50 %

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids/

Date of adoption: 19.8.2004

Member State: Ireland

Aid No: N 540/2003

Title: Amendments to Alternative Energy Requirement Scheme (AER VI)

Objective: Operating aid to compensate the overcost of RES electricity production in Ireland through 15-year and 10-year guaranteed price contracts awarded to the lowest bidder through open tendering procedures.

Legal basis: Electricity Regulation Act 1999 (Section 39), Number 23 of 1999.

Duration: No invitations to tender will be made after 2005. Contracts will not exceed 15 years; in the case of biomass fed chp, contracts will not exceed 10 years.

The authentic text(s) of the decision, from which all confidential information has been removed, can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/secretariat_general/sgb/state_aids/

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case COMP/M.3830 — Goldman Sachs/Treofan)
Candidate case for simplified procedure

(2005/C 162/05)

(Text with EEA relevance)

1. On 24 June 2005, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽¹⁾ by which the undertaking Goldman Sachs Group Inc. ('Goldman Sachs', USA) acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation control of the whole of the undertaking Treofan Germany GmbH & Co. KG ('Treofan', Germany) by way of purchase of shares.

2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:

- for Goldman Sachs: global investment banking, securities and investment firm,
- for Treofan: manufacture and marketing of flexible packaging materials.

3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 139/2004. However, the final decision on this point is reserved. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 ⁽²⁾ 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 to the Commission.

Observations must reach the Commission not later than 10 days following the date of this publication. Observations can be sent to the Commission by fax (No (32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.3830 — Goldman Sachs/Treofan to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Competition,
Merger Registry
J-70
B-1049 Brussels

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32.