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Volume 51 Information and Notices 17 July 2008 English edition Notice No Contents Page Resolutions, recommendations and opinions **OPINIONS European Central Bank** 2008/C 180/01 Opinion of the European Central Bank of 3 July 2008 at the request of the Council of the European Union on a proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 974/98 as regards the introduction of the euro in Slovakia and on a proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 as regards the conversion rate to the euro for Slovakia (CON/2008/28) II Information INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES Commission 2008/C 180/02 Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty - Cases where the Commission raises no objections (1) 2008/C 180/03 Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty - Cases where the Commission raises no objections (1)



(1) Text with EEA relevance

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I

(Resolutions, recommendations and opinions)

OPINIONS

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

OPINION OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

of 3 July 2008

at the request of the Council of the European Union on a proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 974/98 as regards the introduction of the euro in Slovakia and on a proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 as regards the conversion rate to the euro for Slovakia

(CON/2008/28)

(2008/C 180/01)

Introduction and legal basis

On 20 May 2008, the European Central Bank (ECB) received a request from the Council of the European Union for an opinion on a proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 974/98 as regards the introduction of the euro in Slovakia (¹). On 30 June 2008, the ECB received a request from the Council of the European Union for an opinion on a proposal for a Council regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 2866/98 as regards the conversion rate to the euro for Slovakia (²).

The ECB's competence to deliver an opinion is based on Article 123(5) 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, the Governing Council has adopted this opinion.

Observations

- 1. The proposed regulations will enable the introduction of the euro as the currency of Slovakia following the abrogation of Slovakia's derogation in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 122(2) of the Treaty.
- 2. The ECB welcomes the proposed regulations.

Done at Frankfurt am Main, 3 July 2008.

The President of the ECB Jean-Claude TRICHET

⁽¹⁾ COM(2008) 250 final.

⁽²⁾ SEC(2008) 2107 final.

II

(Information)

INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

COMMISSION

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 180/02)

Date of adoption of the decision	15.1.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 339/07
Member State	Bulgaria
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Държавно финансиране на представянето на България на ЕКСПО 2008 — Международен панаир Пловдид АД
Legal basis	Решение № 407/21.7.1999 г. на Министерски съвет Решение № 640/28.8.2006 г. на Министерски съвет Постановление № 86/17.4.2007 г. на Министерски съвет
Type of measure	Measure does not constitute aid
Objective	_
Form of aid	Ad hoc contracts
Budget	_
Intensity	_
Duration	2007-2008
Economic sectors	Preparation and organisation of exhibitions
Name and address of the granting authority	Министерство на икономиката и енергетиката, България
Other information	_

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

Date of adoption of the decision	21.5.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 648/07
Member State	Germany
Region	Schleswig-Holstein
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Richtlinie für die Gewährung von Zuwendungen zur Förderung von Forschung, Entwicklung und Technologietransfer
Legal basis	Richtlinie für die Gewährung von Zuwendungen zur Förderung von Forschung, Entwicklung und Technologietransfer (FET-Richtlinie)
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Research and development, Innovation, Regional development
Form of aid	Direct grant
Budget	Annual budget: EUR 22 million Overall budget: EUR 132,71 million
Intensity	80 %
Duration	2008-31.12.2013
Economic sectors	_
Name and address of the granting authority	Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Wirtschaft und Verkehr des Landes Schleswig- Holstein Düsternbrooker Weg 94 D-24159 Kiel
Other information	_

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

Date of adoption of the decision	30.5.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 696/07
Member State	Germany
Region	Brandenburg
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	EFRE Risikokapitalfonds Brandenburg
Legal basis	Landeshaushaltsordnung des Landes Brandenburg; Bekanntmachung vom 2.1.2002
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Risk capital, Regional development, Small and medium-sized enterprises
Form of aid	Provision of risk capital
Budget	Annual budget: — Overall budget: EUR 30 million

Intensity	_	
Duration	Until 31.12.2014	
Economic sectors	All sectors	
Name and address of the granting authority	Ministerium für Wirtschaft des Landes Brandenburg Heinrich Mann Allee 107 D-14473 Potsdam	
Other information	_	

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

http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/

Date of adoption of the decision	20.5.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 15/08
Member State	United Kingdom
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts — Young Innovative Enterprise Scheme (NESTA YIE)
Legal basis	National Lottery Act 1998, Chapter 22, Part II Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) Statutory Instrument (SI) 2003/235: The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (Increase of Endowment) Order 2003
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Innovation
Form of aid	Provision of risk capital, Direct grant
Budget	Annual budget: — Overall budget: GBP 50 million
Intensity	_
Duration	2008-31.12.2013
Economic sectors	_
Name and address of the granting authority	NESTA 1 Plough Place London EC4A 1DE United Kingdom
Other information	_

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

Date of adoption of the decision	23.6.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 138/08
Member State	Hungary
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	A Gazdaságfejlesztési Operatív Program K+F és innováció a versenyképességért prioritására és a Regionális Operatív Programok K+F és innováció tárgyú konstrukcióira rendelt források felhasználása
Legal basis	22/2007. (VIII. 29.) MeHVM rendelet a Gazdaságfejlesztési Operatív Program K+F és innováció a versenyképességért prioritására és a Regionális Operatív Programok K+F és innováció tárgyú konstrukcióira rendelt források felhasználásának részletes szabályairól és a támogatás jogcímeiről
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Research and development, Innovation
Form of aid	Direct grant
Budget	Annual budget: — Overall budget: HUF 341 992 million
Intensity	_
Duration	2008-13.12.2013
Economic sectors	All sectors
Name and address of the granting authority	Nemzeti Fejlesztési Ügynökség Pozsonyi út 56. Magyarország H-1133 Budapest
Other information	_

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

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 180/03)

Date of adoption of the decision	21.1.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 75/07
Member State	Austria
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Haftungsregelung für die Umstrukturierung von KMU in Österreich
Legal basis	Richtlinie des Bundesministers für Wirtschaft und Arbeit für die Übernahme von Haftungen für die Tourismus- und Freizeitwirtschaft
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Restructuring of firms in difficulty, Small and medium-sized enterprises
Form of aid	Guarantee
Budget	Annual budget: EUR 3,3 million Overall budget: EUR 6,6 million
Intensity	_
Duration	9.2.2007-9.10.2009
Economic sectors	Hotels and restaurants (tourism)
Name and address of the granting authority	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Arbeit
Other information	_
·	·

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

IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates (¹) 16 July 2008

(2008/C 180/04)

1 euro =

	Currency	Exchange rate		Currency	Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,5888	TRY	Turkish lira	1,9303
JPY	Japanese yen	165,66	AUD	Australian dollar	1,6270
DKK	Danish krone	7,4587	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,5920
GBP	Pound sterling	0,79395	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	12,3906
SEK	Swedish krona	9,5163	NZD	New Zealand dollar	2,0591
CHF	Swiss franc	1,6040	SGD	Singapore dollar	2,1435
ISK	Iceland króna	124,08	KRW	South Korean won	1 603,50
NOK	Norwegian krone	8,0660	ZAR	South African rand	12,1245
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	10,8218
CZK	Czech koruna	23,213	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,2259
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	14 523,22
HUF	Hungarian forint	232,37	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	5,1279
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4528	PHP	Philippine peso	72,235
LVL	Latvian lats	0,7029	RUB	Russian rouble	36,8453
PLN	Polish zloty	3,2217	THB	Thai baht	53,157
RON	Romanian leu	3,5935	BRL	Brazilian real	2,5310
SKK	Slovak koruna	30,302	MXN	Mexican peso	16,3527

 $^(^{1})$ Source: reference exchange rate published by the ECB.

NOTICES FROM MEMBER STATES

Summary information communicated by Member States on State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1/2004 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

(2008/C 180/05)

Aid No: XA 116/06

Member State: The Netherlands **Region:** Provincie Noord-Brabant

Title of aid scheme/name of company receiving an indivi-

dual aid:

Maatschap van Zeeland, De Kampen 12 te Gemert

Legal basis:

Volgens AWB (art. 4:23 lid 3 sub d) en provinciale ASV (art. 33) aangemerkt als incidentele subsidie

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company:

EUR 34 000 in 2006

Maximum aid intensity: 40 %

Date of implementation: 9 November 2006

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: December

Objective of aid: Implementation and demonstration of non-statutory environmental measures for the improvement of air quality

Articles used (from Articles 4 to 12) and eligible costs under the scheme or individual aid: Article 4(2)(b), (3)(d) and (4)(a)

Economic sector(s): Animal husbandry, in particular primary poultry farming

Name and address of the granting authority: Provincie Noord-Brabant Brabantlaan 1 Postbus 90151 5200 MC 's-Hertogenbosch Nederland

Website:

http://wettenbank.sdu.nl/wettenbank.sdu.nl/demo/awb_main.html

http://www.brabant.nl/Beleid/Regels%20en%20kaders/Algemene %20subsidieverordening.aspx?docindexid={6E5EE4A7-1D3F-480A-900D-975DD48879C6}

Other information: —

Information communicated by Member States regarding State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 68/2001 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to training aid

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 180/06)

Reference number of the aid	XT 43/08
Member State	Estonia
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	EV Põllumajandusministri määrus nr 70 "Kalandustoodete tootja koolitustoetuse taotlemise ja taotluse menetlemise kord"
Legal basis	"Kalandusturu korraldamise seadus", vastu võetud 17.12.2003. a seadusega (RT I 2003, 88, 593; 2004, 37, 254; 2005, 39, 308; 2006, 5, 22; 2007, 34, 597) https://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=988427
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Budget	Annual budget: EEK 1 million Overall budget: —
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Article 4(2)-(7) of the Regulation: The upper limit for support applicants is twice the minimum monthly wage (ca. EUR 460) per employee
Date of implementation	6.3.2008
Duration	10.2008
Objective	General training Specific training
Economic sectors	Fisheries and aquaculture
Name and address of the granting authority	Põllumajanduse Registrite ja Informatsiooni Amet Narva mnt. 3 EE-Tartu 51009
Reference number of the aid	XT 45/08
Member State	Spain
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Ayudas derivadas del Plan de Seguridad Minera para la consecución de una minería sostenible en los aspectos de prevención y seguridad mineras
Legal basis	Orden ITC/732/2008, de 13 de marzo, punto Tercero, aptdo. 5.2.1 b). (B.O.E. nº 67 de 18.3.2008)
Type of measure	Aid scheme

Budget	Annual budget: EUR 1,85 million Overall budget: —
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Article 4(2)-(7) of the Regulation
Date of implementation	19.3.2008
Duration	31.12.2013
Objective	General training Specific training
Economic sectors	Mining and quarrying, except of energy producing materials (NACE: C13 & C14)
Name and address of the granting authority	Dirección General de Política energética y Minas Jorge Sanz Oliva P° Castellana n° 160 E-28071 Madrid Tel.: (34) 913 49 74 75 jcsanz@mityc.es http://www.mityc.es/seguridadminera
Reference number of the aid	XT 46/08
Member State	Germany
Region	Bundesland Brandenburg
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Ideenwettbewerb "Nachhaltige Zugangswege für formal Geringqualifizierte in Beschäftigung unter Einbeziehung Europäischer Erfahrungen" — Förderung im Rahmen des INNOPUNKT — Programms des Ministeriums für Arbeit, Soziales, Gesundheit und Familie des Landes Brandenburg
Legal basis	Landeshaushaltsordnung Brandenburg (LHO Bbg) § 44 und die dazugehörigen Verwaltungsvorschriften
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Budget	Annual budget: EUR 1 million Overall budget: —
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Article 4(2)-(7) of the Regulation
Date of implementation	1.12.2007
Duration	5.12.2010
Objective	General training
Economic sectors	All sectors eligible for training aid
Name and address of the granting authority	Landesagentur für Struktur und Arbeit (LASA) Brandenburg GmbH Wetzlarer Str. 54 D-14482 Potsdam
Reference number of the aid	XT 47/08
Member State	Hungary
Region	_



Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Képzési támogatás a 6/2008. (III.7.) GKM rendelet alapján
Legal basis	A Gazdasági és Közlekedési Minisztérium egyes fejezeti kezelésű előirányzataiből finanszírozott, állami támogatásnak minősülő felhasználások általános szabályairól szóló 6/2008. (III.7.) GKM rendelet
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Budget	Annual budget: HUF 5 million Overall budget: —
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Article 4(2)-(7) of the Regulation
Date of implementation	15.3.2008
Duration	30.6.2008
Objective	General training Specific training
Economic sectors	All sectors eligible for training aid
Name and address of the granting authority	Gazdasági és Közlekedési Minisztérium Honvéd u.13-15 H-1055 Budapest
Reference number of the aid	XT 50/08
Member State	Poland
Region	PL 421 — Podregion szczeciński
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Wojewódzka Handlowa Spółdzielnia Inwalidów ZPCH
Legal basis	Art. 30, 31 ustawy z dnia 20 kwietnia 2004 r. o Narodowym Planie Rozwoju (Dz.U. nr 116, poz. 1206). Rozporządzenie Ministra Gospodarki i Pracy z dnia 21 września 2004 r. w sprawie przyjęcia Uzupełnienia programu operacyjnego — Program Inicjatywy Wspólnotowej EQUAL dla Polski 2004–2006 (Dz.U. nr 214, poz. 2172). Umowa szkoleniowa nr SZCZECIN/WHSI/1/2007 z dnia 16 października 2007 r.
Type of measure	Ad hoc
Budget	Annual budget: — Overall budget: EUR 489,5
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Article 4(2)-(7) of the Regulation
Date of implementation	16.10.2007
Duration	23.10.2007
Objective	General training
Economic sectors	All sectors eligible for training aid
Name and address of the granting authority	Zachodniopomorska Szkoła Biznesu Żołnierska 53 PL-71-210 Szczecin
	<u> </u>



Reference number of the aid	XT 51/08
Member State	Poland
Region	PL 421 — Podregion szczeciński
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Wojewódzka Handlowa Spółdzielnia Inwalidów ZPCH
Legal basis	Art. 30, 31 ustawy z dnia 20 kwietnia 2004 r. o Narodowym Planie Rozwoju (Dz.U. nr 116, poz. 1206). Rozporządzenie Ministra Gospodarki i Pracy z dnia 21 września 2004 r. w sprawie przyjęcia Uzupełnienia programu operacyjnego — Program Inicjatywy Wspólnotowej EQUAL dla Polski 2004–2006 (Dz.U. nr 214, poz. 2172). Umowa szkoleniowa nr SZCZECIN/WHSI/3/2007 z dnia 27 listopada 2007 r.
Type of measure	Ad hoc
Budget	Annual budget: — Overall budget: EUR 493,18
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Article 4(2)-(7) of the Regulation
Date of implementation	27.11.2007
Duration	7.12.2007
Objective	General training
Economic sectors	All sectors eligible for training aid
Name and address of the granting authority	Zachodniopomorska Szkoła Biznesu Żołnierska 53 PL-71-210 Szczecin

Information communicated by Member States regarding State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 70/2001 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 180/07)

XS 81/08
Austria
Oberösterreich
Richtlinien für die Förderung von innovativen Pilotprojekten (PILOTS) im Rahmen der Breitbandinitiative des Landes Oberösterreich
Beschluss der Landesregierung vom 7.4.2008
Aid scheme
Annual budget: EUR 0,4 million Overall budget: —
In conformity with Articles 4(2)-(6) and 5 of the Regulation
1.5.2008
30.6.2008
Small and medium-sized enterprises
All sectors eligible for aid to SMEs
Land Oberösterreich für die Durchführung verantwortliche staatl. Stelle: Amt der OÖ Landesregierung, Abteilung Wirtschaft/Wirtschaftspolitik Bahnhofplatz 1 A-4021 Linz
XS 82/08
Spain
_
Ayudas derivadas del Plan de Seguridad Minera para la consecución de una minería sostenible en los aspectos de prevención y seguridad mineras
Orden ITC/732/2008, de 13 de marzo, punto Tercero, aptdo. 5.1. letra a), y aptdo. 5.4 (I + D) (B.O.E. nº 67 de 18.3.2008)
Aid scheme
Annual budget: EUR 0,8 million Overall budget: —



Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Articles 4(2)-(6) and 5 of the Regulation
•	
Date of implementation	19.3.2008
Duration	31.12.2013
Objective	Small and medium-sized enterprises
Economic sectors	Mining and quarrying, except of energy producing materials (NACE: C13 & C14)
Name and address of the granting authority	Dirección General de Política Energética y Minas Jorge Sanz Oliva P° Castellana nº 160 E-28071 Madrid Tél.: (34) 913 49 74 75 jcsanz@mityc.es www.mityc.es/seguridadminera
Aid No	XS 85/08
Member State	Poland
Region	Zachodniopomorski
Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving individual aid	Program pomocy horyzontalnej na rozwój małych i średnich przedsiębiorstw na terenie gminy Karlino
Legal basis	Art. 7 ust. 3 ustawy z dnia 12 stycznia 1991 r. O podatkach i opłatach lokalnych (Dz.U. z 2006 r. nr 123, poz. 884 ze zm.). Uchwała nr Li/404/06 Rady Miejskiej w Karlinie z 28 kwietnia 2006 r. (Dz.U. Województwa zachodniopomorskiego nr 71, poz. 1267, nr 114, poz. 2185, z 2007 r. nr 50, poz. 746, nr 64, poz. 1001)
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Budget	Annual budget: EUR 0,02 million Overall budget: —
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Articles 4(2)-(6) and 5 of the Regulation
Date of implementation	9.6.2006
Duration	30.6.2008
Objective	Small and medium-sized enterprises
Economic sectors	All sectors eligible for aid to SMEs
Name and address of the granting authority	Burmistrz miasta i gminy Karlino plac Jana Pawła II nr 6 PL-78-230 Karlino
Aid No	XS 86/08
Member State	Hungary
Region	_
Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving individual aid	KKV támogatás a 6/2008. (III.7.) GKM rendelet alapján



Legal basis	A Gazdasági és Közlekedési Minisztérium egyes fejezeti kezelésű előirányzataiből finanszírozott, állami támogatásnak minősülő felhasználások általános szabályairól szóló 6/2008. (III.7.) GKM rendelet
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Budget	Annual budget: HUF 5 million Overall budget: —
Maximum aid intensity	In conformity with Articles 4(2)-(6) and 5 of the Regulation
Date of implementation	15.3.2008
Duration	30.6.2008
Objective	Small and medium-sized enterprises
Economic sectors	All sectors eligible for aid to SMEs
Name and address of the granting authority	Gazdasági és Közlekedési Minisztérium Honvéd u.13-15 H-1055 Budapest

Information communicated by Member States regarding State aid granted under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 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 of agricultural products and amending Regulation (EC) No 70/2001

(2008/C 180/08)

Aid No: XA 438/07

Member State: Eire/Ireland

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid:

Participants in the An Bord Bia Beef Quality Assurance Scheme and An Bord Bia Lamb Quality Assurance Scheme

Legal basis: An Bord Bia Acts 1994 to 2004

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company:

Annual expenditure: EUR 2,3 million

Maximum aid intensity: 100 %

Date of implementation: 7 May 2007

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: December 2011

Objective of aid: The objective of the aid is to encourage participation in recognized independently certified Quality Assurance Schemes through the payment of third party inspection and certification costs of Quality Assurance schemes within the parameters of Article 14(2)(f) of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006

Sector(s) concerned: (Beef/Sheepmeat)

Name and address of the granting authority: An Bord Bia, Clanwilliam Court
Lower Mount Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

Website:

http://www.bordbia.ie/Industry/Producers/

Other information: The schemes, which are managed by Bord Bia and certified to EN 45001 standard meet the full requirements of Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005

Aid No: XA 54/08 Member State: Spain Region: Galicia Title of aid scheme:

Ayudas a Agrupaciones de Defensa Sanitaria (ADSG)

Legal Basis:

Orden de ... de ..., por la que se establecen las bases reguladoras de las ayudas a las entidades reconocidas como Agrupaciones de Defensa Sanitaria (ADSG) de Galicia y se convocan para el año 2008

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme: EUR 3 591 332

Maximum aid intensity: 50 % of the total cost of the ADSG Programme

Date of implementation: 1 January 2008 **Duration of scheme:** Until 31 December 2008

Objective of aid: The aid is aimed at improving the health status of Galician livestock holdings through the implementation of common programmes for the prevention and control of animal diseases.

The subsidies relate both to the cost of contracting veterinary technicians and to expenditure on equipment.

The scheme is in keeping with Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006, which states that aid to compensate farmers for the costs of prevention of animal diseases are compatible with the common market

Sector(s) concerned: Livestock production **Name and address of the granting authority:**

Xunta de Galicia. Consellería de Medio Rural

Dirección General de Producción, Industrias y Calidad Agroalimentaria

Website:

http://mediorural.xunta.es/externos/borrador_orde_axudas_adsg_2008.pdf

Other information:

E-mail address:

dxpica.mediorural@xunta.es Maria.soledad.castro.diaz@xunta.es

NOTICES CONCERNING THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

Announcement from Norway concerning Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions for granting and using authorisations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons

Announcement of invitation to apply for petroleum production licences on the Norwegian Continental Shelf — Awards in Predefined Areas 2008

(2008/C 180/09)

The Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy hereby announces an invitation to apply for petroleum production licences on the Norwegian Continental Shelf in accordance with Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 1994 on the conditions for granting and using authorizations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons (Article 3(2)(a)).

Applications for petroleum production licences shall be submitted to:

The Ministry of Petroleum and Energy PO Box 8148 Dep. N-0033 Oslo

by 3 October 2008.

The award of petroleum production licences in the Awards in Predefined Areas 2008 on the Norwegian Continental Shelf is planned to take place end of 2008/early 2009.

Further information including detailed maps of available areas may be obtained by visiting www.npd.no/apa2008 or contacting the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, tel. (47) 22 24 62 09.

Notification of request under Article 30 of Directive 2004/17/EC Request from an EEA EFTA State

(2008/C 180/10)

On 10 June 2008, the EFTA Surveillance Authority received a request pursuant to Article 30(4) of the Act referred to at point 4 of Annex XVI to the EEA Agreement (Directive 2004/17/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors) (¹). The first working day following receipt of the request is 11 June 2008.

This request, from Norway, concerns the exploration for or extraction of oil and gas on the Norwegian Continental Shelf as well as the transportation of natural gas through upstream pipeline network in that country. The above-mentioned Article 30 provides that the Act is not applicable when the activity in question is directly exposed to competition on markets to which access is not restricted. These conditions are evaluated solely for the purpose of the Act and are without prejudice to the application of competition rules.

The EFTA Surveillance Authority is allowed a period of three months to take a decision on this request, commencing on the working day referred to above. The period therefore expires on 11 September 2008.

The provisions of the third subparagraph of the above mentioned paragraph 4 are not applicable. Consequently, the period allowed to the EFTA Surveillance Authority may be extended by three months. Any such extension must be published.

Announcement from Norway concerning Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions for granting and using authorisations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons

Announcement of invitation to apply for petroleum production licences on the Norwegian Continental Shelf — 20th Licensing Round

(2008/C 180/11)

The Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy hereby announces an invitation to apply for petroleum production licences on the Norwegian Continental Shelf in accordance with Article 3(2)(a) of Directive 94/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 1994 on the conditions for granting and using authorisations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons.

Applications for petroleum production licences shall be submitted to:

The Ministry of Petroleum and Energy PO Box 8148 Dep. N-0033 Oslo

by 7 November 2008.

The award of petroleum production licences in the 20th Licensing Round on the Norwegian Continental Shelf is planned to take place during spring of 2009.

Further information including detailed maps of available areas may be obtained by visiting www.npd.no/20runde or by contacting the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (tel. (47) 22 24 62 09).

V

(Announcements)

COURT PROCEEDINGS

EFTA COURT

Amendments to the rules of procedure of the EFTA Court adopted by the Court on 20 September 2007 and approved by the Governments of the EFTA States

(Only the English text is authentic)

(2008/C 180/12)

THE EFTA COURT,

Having regard to the Agreement between the EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice, signed in Oporto on 2 May 1992, and in particular Article 43(2) thereof,

Having regard to Protocol 5 to the Agreement between the EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice, on the Statute of the Court, and in particular Article 43 thereof,

ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION AMENDING ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Article 1

- 1. Article 31(1) shall be amended as follows:
 - 1. If the Court considers that the conduct of an adviser or lawyer towards the Court, a Judge or the Registrar is incompatible with the dignity of the Court or with the requirements of the proper administration of justice, or that such adviser or lawyer is using his rights for purposes other than those for which they were granted, it shall inform the person concerned. If the Court informs the competent authorities to whom the person concerned is answerable, a copy of the letter sent to those authorities shall be forwarded to the person concerned.

On the same grounds, the Court may at any time, having heard the person concerned, exclude the person concerned from the proceedings by order. That order shall have immediate effect.'

- 2. Article 32(5) shall be deleted.
- 3. Article 32(6) shall be paragraph 5, and shall also be amended as follows:
 - '5. Without prejudice to the provisions in the preceding paragraphs of this Article, the date on which a copy of the

signed original of a pleading, including the schedule of documents referred to in paragraph 3, is received at the Registry by telefax or other technical means of communication available to the Court shall be deemed to be the date of lodgment for the purposes of compliance with the timelimits for taking steps in proceedings, provided that the signed original of the pleading, accompanied by the annexes and copies referred to in the second subparagraph of paragraph 1 above, is lodged at the Registry no later than 10 days thereafter.

Without prejudice to the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 or to paragraphs 2 to 4, the Court may by decision determine the criteria for a procedural document sent to the Registry by electronic means to be deemed to be the original of that document. That decision shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.'

- 4. Article 33(2) shall be amended as follows:
 - '2. For the purpose of the proceedings, the application shall state an address for service in the place where the Court has its seat and the name of the person who is authorized and has expressed willingness to accept service.

In addition to, or instead of, specifying an address for service as referred to in the first subparagraph, the application may state that the lawyer or agent agrees that service is to be effected on him by telefax or other technical means of communication.

If the application does not comply with the requirements set out in the first and second subparagraphs, all service on the party concerned for the purpose of the proceedings shall be effected, for so long as the defect has not been cured, by registered letter addressed to the agent or lawyer of that party. By way of derogation from Article 75, service shall then be deemed to be duly effected by the lodging of the registered letter at a post office of the place where the Court has its seat.'

- 5. Article 35(1) shall be amended as follows:
 - '1. Within two months after service on him of the application, the defendant shall lodge a defence, stating:
 - (a) the name and address of the defendant;
 - (b) the arguments of fact and law relied on;
 - (c) the form of order sought by the defendant;
 - (d) the nature of any evidence offered by him.

The provisions of Article 33(2) to (6) shall apply to the defence.'

6. The following shall be added to the Rules as Chapter 3a:

'Chapter 3a

EXPEDITED PROCEDURES

Article 59a

1. On application by the applicant or the defendant, the President may exceptionally decide, on the basis of a recommendation by the Judge-Rapporteur and after hearing the other party, that a case is to be determined pursuant to an expedited procedure derogating from the provisions of these Rules, where the particular urgency of the case requires the Court to give its ruling with the minimum of delay.

An application for a case to be decided under an expedited procedure shall be made by a separate document lodged at the same time as the application initiating the proceedings or the defence, as the case may be.

2. Under the expedited procedure, the originating application and the defence may be supplemented by a reply and a rejoinder only if the President considers this to be necessary.

An intervener may lodge a statement in intervention only if the President considers this to be necessary.

3. Once the defence has been lodged or, if the decision to adjudicate under an expedited procedure is not made until after that pleading has been lodged, once that decision has been taken, the President shall fix a date for the hearing, which shall be communicated forthwith to the parties. He may postpone the date of the hearing where the organization of measures of inquiry or of other preparatory measures so requires.

Without prejudice to Article 37, the parties may supplement their arguments and offer further evidence on the course of the oral procedure. They must, however, give reasons for the delay in offering such further evidence.

- 4. Article 20 of the Statute of the EFTA Court permitting the submission of written observations is applicable under expedited procedure.'
- 7. Article 71(3) shall be amended as follows:
 - '3. Where costs to be recovered have been incurred in a currency other than the euro or where the steps in respect of which payment is due were taken in a country of which the euro is not the currency, conversions of currency shall be made at the European Central Bank's official rates of exchange on the day of payment.'

- 8. Article 72(3) shall be amended as follows:
 - '3. The President shall designate a Judge to act as Rapporteur. The Court shall, after considering the written observations of the opposite party, decide whether legal aid should be granted in full or in part, or whether it should be refused. The Court shall consider whether there is manifestly no cause of action.

Where the application for legal aid is refused in whole or in part, the order shall state the reasons for that refusal.'

- 9. The following shall be added to Article 75 as new paragraph 4:
 - '4. Where, in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 33(2), the addressee has agreed that service is to be effected on him by telefax or other technical means of communication, any procedural document other than a judgment or order of the Court may be served by the transmission of a copy of the document by such means.

Where, for technical reasons or on account of the nature or length of the document, such transmission is impossible or impracticable, the document shall be served, if the addressee has failed to state an address for service, at his address in accordance with the procedures laid down in paragraph 2 of this Article. The addressee shall be so advised by telefax or other technical means of communication. Service shall then be deemed to have been effected on the addressee by registered post on the tenth day following the lodging of the registered letter at the post office of the place where the Court has its seat, unless it is shown by the acknowledgement of receipt that the letter was received on a different date or the addressee informs the Registrar, within three weeks of being advised by telefax or other technical means of communication, that the document to be served has not reached him.'

- 10. Article 88(2) shall be amended as follows:
 - '2. The Court may at any time of its own motion, after hearing the parties, decide whether there exists any absolute bar to proceeding with a case or declare that the action has become devoid of purpose and that there is no need to adjudicate on it; it shall give its decision in accordance with Article 87(3) and (4) of these Rules.'
- 11. Article 89(1), first subparagraph, shall be amended as follows:
 - '1. An application to intervene must be made within six weeks of the publication of the notice referred to in Article 14(6) of these Rules. Consideration may be given to an application to intervene which is made after the expiry of that period but before the decision to open the oral procedure. In that event, if the President allows the intervention, the intervener may, on the basis of the Report for the Hearing communicated to him, submit his observations during the oral procedure, if that procedure takes place.'
- 12. Article 90(1) shall be amended as follows:
 - '1. If a defendant on whom an application initiating proceedings has been duly served fails to lodge a defence to the application in the proper form within the time prescribed, the applicant may apply for judgment by default.

The application shall be served on the defendant. The President may decide to open the oral procedure on the application.'

13. The following shall be added as a new Article 97a:

'Article 97a

- 1. At the request of the national court, the President may exceptionally decide, on a proposal from the Judge-Rapporteur to apply an accelerated procedure derogating from the provisions of these Rules to a reference for an advisory opinion, where the circumstances referred to establish that a ruling on the question put to the Court is a matter of exceptional urgency. In that event, the President may immediately fix the date for the hearing, which shall be notified to the parties in the main proceedings and to the other persons referred to in Article 20 of the Statute when the decision making the reference is served.
- 2. The parties and other interested persons referred to in the preceding paragraph may lodge statements of case or written observations within a period prescribed by the President, which shall not be less than 15 days. The President may request the parties and other interested persons to restrict the matters addressed in their statement of case or written observations to the essential points of law raised by the question referred.
- 3. The statements of case or written observations, if any, shall be notified to the parties and to the other persons referred to above prior to the hearing.'

Article 2

- 1. These amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2008.
- 2. Article 35(1) as amended shall apply in cases where the defendant's time limit to lodge a defence has started but has not yet elapsed.
- 3. This Decision, which is authentic in English, shall be published in the EEA Section of and the EEA Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union.
- 4. This Decision shall be officially translated by the Court into German, Icelandic and Norwegian.

Luxembourg, 20 September 2007.

Carl BAUDENBACHER Henrik BULL Thorgeir ÖRLYGSSON
President Judge Judge

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPETITION POLICY

COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration (Case COMP/M.5240 — GE/GMT/Bigpoint) Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 180/13)

- 1. On 9 July 2008, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (¹) by which the undertakings General Electric Company ('GE', USA) and GMT Communications Partners LLP ('GMT', United Kingdom) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the undertaking Bigpoint GmbH ('Bigpoint', Germany) by way of purchase of shares.
- 2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
- for GE: diversified activities in manufacturing, technology and service businesses, including banking and credit services,
- for GMT: private equity funds,
- for Bigpoint: developing and hosting online games.
- 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 ((32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.5240 - GE/GMT/Bigpoint, to the following address:

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32.

Prior notification of a concentration (Case COMP/M.5154 — CASC JV)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 180/14)

- 1. On 9 July 2008, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (¹) by which the undertakings Cegedel Net SA ('Cegedel Net', Luxembourg) belonging to the Cegedel group, ELIA System Operator SA/NV ('ELIA', Belgium), EnBW Transportnetze AG ('EnBW TNG', Germany) belonging to the EnBW group, E.ON Netz GmbH ('ENE', Germany) belonging to the E.ON group, RTE EDF Transport SA ('RTE', France) belonging to the EDF group, RWE Transportnetz Strom GmbH ('RWE TSO', Germany) belonging to the RWE group and TenneT TSO BV ('TenneT TSO', the Netherlands) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the newly established Capacity Allocation Service Company for Central Western Europe ('CASC-CWE'). CASC-CWE will implement and operate services related to the allocation of power transmission capacities on the common borders between Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.
- 2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
- for undertaking Cegedel Net: operating the electricity transmission system owned by the Cegedel group in Luxembourg,
- for undertaking ELIA: is the owner and system operator of the electricity transmission system in Belgium,
- for undertaking EnBW TNG: is the owner and operator of the transmission grid in the German State of Baden-Württemberg,
- for undertaking ENE: operates the electricity transmission system owned by the E.ON group, which spans the German States of Schleswig Holstein, Bremen, Lower Saxony, Hesse (partly), North Rhine-Westphalia (partly) and Bavaria (except for the south-west),
- for undertaking RTE: is the owner and operator of the national transmission grid in France,
- for undertaking RWE TSO: is the operator of the transmission grid owned by the RWE group, which mainly extends to the German States of North Rhine-Wesphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland and the South-West of Bavaria,
- for undertaking TenneT TSO: is the transmission system operator and administrator of the Dutch national high voltage grids.
- 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.
- 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 ((32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.5154 — CASC JV, to the following address:

Prior notification of a concentration

$(Case\ COMP/M.5193 -- Schlumberger/First\ Reserve/Saxon)$

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 180/15)

- 1. On 9 July 2008, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (¹) by which the undertakings Schlumberger Limited ('Schlumberger', Netherlands Antilles) and First Reserve Corporation ('First Reserve', USA) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the undertaking Saxon Energy Services Inc. ('Saxon', Canada) by way of purchase of shares.
- 2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
- for undertaking Schlumberger: global oilfield services supplying technology, project management and information solutions to the oil and gas industry,
- for undertaking First Reserve: private equity firm specializing in the energy industry,
- for undertaking Saxon: provider of equipment, products and services to support the exploration, development and production of oil and gas.
- 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 ((32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.5193 — Schlumberger/First Reserve/Saxon, to the following address:

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32.

Prior notification of a concentration (Case COMP/M.5202 — Triton/Altor/Papyrus Group) Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 180/16)

- 1. On 8 July 2008, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (¹) by which the undertakings Triton Managers II Limited ('Triton', Jersey) and Altor Fund II GP Limited ('Altor', Jersey) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation joint control of the undertaking Papyrus AB ('Papyrus', Sweden) by way of purchase of shares.
- 2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
- for Triton: private equity firm specializing in companies in German-speaking and northern European countries,
- for Altor: private equity fund specializing in Nordic companies,
- for Papyrus: a company mainly active in distribution of paper and paper products in the EU and Norway, among other countries.
- 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 ((32-2) 296 43 01 or 296 72 44) or by post, under reference number COMP/M.5202 — Triton/Altor/Papyrus Group, to the following address:

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32.