Official Journal

C 315

of the European Union



English edition

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Volume 54 28 October 2011

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Ι

(Resolutions, recommendations and opinions)

RECOMMENDATIONS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

of 27 October 2011

on the research Joint Programming Initiative 'The Microbial Challenge — An Emerging Threat to Human Health'

(2011/C 315/01)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 181 and Article 292 thereof,

sick-leave and lost output due to premature death. The overall direct costs to society in terms of extra healthcare costs and productivity losses total EUR 1,5 billion each year in Europe (4); and the indirect costs to European countries are likely to be several times higher (5).

The problem of drug resistance is a natural and

Whereas:

- (1) The microbial challenge, due to the increasing resistance to antimicrobial drugs, represents one of the major emerging threats to human health in the 21st century (¹). More than 25 000 patients die in the Union each year from infections caused by bacteria that are resistant to multiple antibiotics, so-called multidrug-resistant bacteria (²). Resistance rates to a single antibiotic exceed 40-50 % in some European countries (³), and resistance to multiple antibiotics is a common and growing problem.
- unavoidable consequence of treating infectious diseases with antimicrobial drugs. However, this is exacerbated by indiscriminate use of antimicrobials and the dissemination of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the environment. The dynamics of human populations, including travel and worldwide distribution of food, contribute significantly to the rapid spread of resistant infectious micro-organisms (6). Moreover, the misuse of antibiotics in livestock is increasing the risk of spread of resistant micro-organisms humans through to food consumption (7). At the same time, the development of new antimicrobials is declining dramatically.
- (2) Infectious diseases caused by resistant bacteria lead to additional healthcare costs and indirect costs, such as
- (4) A comprehensive solution to the problem requires measures to be taken by many sectors of society:

⁽¹⁾ Priority Medicines for Europe and the World, Kaplan W, Laing R. Geneva: World Health Organization (2004).

⁽²⁾ The bacterial challenge: time to react. ECDC/EMA joint technical report (September 2009).

⁽³⁾ Goldstein FW. Penicillin-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*: selection by both beta lactam and non-beta lactam antibiotics. J Antimicrob Chemother 44:141-144 (1999).

⁽⁴⁾ See footnote 2.

⁽⁵⁾ Conference report; Innovative Incentives for Effective Antibacterials (2009).

⁽⁶⁾ World health report 2007. A safer future: global public health security in the 21st century. WHO (2007).

⁽⁷⁾ Joint opinion on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) focused on zoonotic infections. EFSA Journal 7(11):1372 (2009).

policy-makers, healthcare, education, industry, environmental agencies, agriculture, veterinary medicine, research and other areas.

- (5) Cross-border collaboration is essential given that the increasing resistance of micro-organisms to antibiotics is not confined to individual countries, but poses a real threat to public health on a global scale. Sharing the burden in order to efficiently handle the challenges ahead will yield benefits for all countries involved and will enable better management and treatment of infectious diseases in the future.
- (6) While excellent research is being carried out throughout Europe, the current European landscape for antimicrobial resistance research appears to be rather complex and fragmented. Many research networks and organisations at European and national level define antimicrobial resistance research agendas in isolation, leading to overlaps or competing research activities that often lack critical mass.
- (7) The Commission staff working paper of 18 November 2009 on antimicrobial resistance (8) summarised the initiatives in this field at Union level. Several actions were proposed and followed up, including the improved monitoring of antimicrobial resistance and usage, and also risk management measures.
- (8) At its meeting of 1 December 2009 (9), the Council of the European Union called upon the Member States and the Commission to 'support the sharing of research infrastructures, recruitment of researchers, stimulation of and support for global research cooperation, increasing the spread of research results and knowledge through information exchange structures and considering existing and new financial instruments' on innovative incentives for effective antibiotics.
- (9) At its meeting of 26 May 2010 (10), the Competitiveness Council identified and substantiated a set of potential Joint Programming Initiatives (hereinafter referred to as JPIs), including 'The Microbial Challenge An Emerging Threat to Human Health' as areas where joint research programming would provide major added value to the fragmented efforts currently being made by Member States. It therefore adopted conclusions recognising the need to launch a JPI on the subject and inviting the Commission to contribute to the preparation of that JPI.
- (10) Member States have confirmed their participation in this JPI by the sending of formal letters of commitment.
- (8) SANCO/6867/2009r6.
 (9) Council of the European Union. Council Conclusions on innovative

incentives for effective antibiotics. Adopted at 2980th Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council Meeting in

Brussels, 1 December 2009. (10) 10246/10.

- (11) Joint programming in research in the area of antimicrobial resistance, as in the proposed initiative 'The Microbial Challenge An Emerging Threat to Human Health', will contribute to tackling the fragmentation of research efforts by Member States and will step-up the mobilisation of skills, knowledge and resources, with a view to advancing and strengthening Europe's leadership and research competitiveness in this field. In addition, by tackling a major societal challenge, it complements the Europe 2020 strategy (11) and the Innovation Union (12).
- (12) In order to achieve the goals set out in this Recommendation, Member States should ensure cooperation and synergy with major related initiatives such as: the Innovative Medicines Initiative; research, development and innovation supported by the Framework Programme, including in the fields of health, food, agriculture and environment, where necessary enabled by information technology, as well as other initiatives, such as relevant ERA-NETs.
- (13) In order for the Commission to be able to report to the European Parliament and to the Council, Member States should report regularly to the Commission on the progress made on this JPI,

HAS ADOPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Member States are encouraged to develop a common vision, based on a multidisciplinary approach, on how cooperation and coordination in the field of research at European level can improve, addressing the challenges of antimicrobial resistance and capitalising on the opportunities it presents, in order to ensure the efficiency of the joint efforts of the Member States.
- 2. Member States are encouraged to develop a common Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) establishing medium to long-term research needs and objectives in the area of antimicrobial resistance. The SRA should be further developed towards an implementation plan, establishing priorities and timelines and specifying the actions, instruments and resources required for its implementation.
- 3. Member States are encouraged to include the following actions, as part of the SRA and of the implementation plan:
 - (a) identifying and exchanging information on relevant national programmes and research activities;
 - (b) strengthening joint foresight exercises and technology assessment capacities;

⁽¹¹⁾ COM(2010) 2020.

⁽¹²⁾ COM(2010) 546.

- (c) exchanging information, resources, best practices, methodologies and guidelines;
- (d) identifying areas or research activities that would benefit from coordination or joint calls for proposals or pooling of resources:
- (e) defining the detailed procedures for research to be undertaken jointly in the areas referred to in point (d);
- (f) considering the needs for patient treatment and of healthcare systems when defining the objectives for research programmes on antimicrobial resistance;
- (g) sharing, where appropriate, existing research infrastructures or developing new facilities, such as coordinated databanks or the development of models for studying antimicrobial resistance processes;
- (h) encouraging better collaboration between public and private sectors, as well as open innovation between different research activities and business sectors related to antimicrobial resistance;
- exporting and disseminating knowledge, innovation and interdisciplinary methodological approaches, as well as identifying and addressing obstacles in the research and innovation system that prevent innovative solutions with a societal benefit from getting to the market quicker;
- (j) creating networks between centres dedicated to antimicrobial resistance research.

- 4. Member States are encouraged to maintain an efficient common management structure in the field of research on antimicrobial resistance, with a mandate to establish appropriate conditions, rules and procedures for cooperation and coordination, and to monitor the implementation of the SRA. This management structure should be lean, efficient and flexible, and should take account of the Voluntary Guidelines on Framework Conditions for Joint Programming in Research developed by the High Level Group on Joint Programming (GPC).
- 5. Member States are encouraged to jointly implement the common SRA, including via their national research programmes in accordance with the Voluntary Guidelines on Framework Conditions for Joint Programming in Research developed by the GPC or other national research activities.
- 6. Member States are encouraged to build on the existing expertise within the Commission and take the Voluntary Guidelines on Framework Conditions into account when developing and implementing the SRA, and with a view to coordinating the JPIs with other programmes and initiatives in this field.
- Member States are encouraged to report regularly to the Council and to the Commission on the progress and results of this JPI, including lessons learned on achieving optimal efficiency.

Done at Brussels, 27 October 2011.

For the Commission

Máire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN

Member of the Commission

II

(Information)

INFORMATION FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Non-opposition to a notified concentration (Case COMP/M.6223 — Aegon/Banca Civica/Cajaburgos Vida)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2011/C 315/02)

On 20 October 2011, the Commission decided not to oppose the above notified concentration and to declare it compatible with the common market. This decision is based on Article 6(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004. The full text of the decision is available only in English and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- in the merger section of the Competition website of the Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/competition/mergers/cases/). This website provides various facilities to help locate individual merger decisions, including company, case number, date and sectoral indexes,
- in electronic form on the EUR-Lex website (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm) under document number 32011M6223. EUR-Lex is the on-line access to the European law.

Authorisation for State aid pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the TFEU Cases where the Commission raises no objections

(Text with EEA relevance, except for products falling under Annex I to the Treaty)

(2011/C 315/03)

Date of adoption of the decision	20.9.2011		
Reference number of State Aid	SA.32899 (11/N)		
Member State	Czech Republic		
Region	_		
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Podpora vybraných činností zaměřených na ozdravování chovů prasat		
Legal basis	 Zákon č. 252/1997 Sb., o zemědělství Zákon č. 166/1999 Sb., o veterinární péči a o změnách některých souvisejících zákonů Zásady, kterými se stanovují podmínky pro poskytování dotací na základě paragrafu 2 a paragrafu 2d zákona č. 252/1997 Sb., o zemědělství 		
Type of measure	Scheme	_	
Objective	Animal diseases		
Form of aid	Direct grant		
Budget	Overall budget: CZK 3 017 million Annual budget: CZK 431 million		
Intensity	100 %		
Duration (period)	Until 31.12.2017		
Economic sectors	Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities		
Name and address of the granting authority	Ministerstvo zemědělství Těšnov 17 117 05 Praha 1 ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA		
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/state_aids_texts_en.htm

Date of adoption of the decision	20.9.2011
Reference number of State Aid	SA.32900 (11/N)
Member State	Czech Republic
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Podpora vybraných činností zaměřených na ozdravování chovů drůbeže zvýšením biologické bezpečnosti

	I		
Legal basis	 Zákon č. 252/1997 Sb., o zemědělství Zákon č. 166/1999 Sb., o veterinární péči a o změnách některých souvisejících zákonů Zásady, kterými se stanovují podmínky pro poskytování dotací na základě paragrafu 2 a paragrafu 2d zákona č. 252/1997 Sb., o zemědělství 		
Type of measure	Scheme	_	
Objective	Animal diseases		
Form of aid	Direct grant		
Budget	Overall budget: CZK 2 429 million Annual budget: CZK 347 million		
Intensity	100 %		
Duration (period)	Until 31.12.2017		
Economic sectors	Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities		
Name and address of the granting authority	Ministerstvo zemědělství Těšnov 17 117 05 Praha 1 ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA		
Other information			

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

 $http://ec.europa.eu/community_law/state_aids/state_aids_texts_en.htm$

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Date of adoption of the decision	20.9.2011		
Reference number of State Aid	SA.32928 (11/N)		
Member State	Germany		
Region	Bayern	_	
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Richtlinie des Bayerischen Staatsministeriums für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten zur Einzelbetrieblichen Investitionsförderung		
Legal basis	 Ziffer IV.A. "Beihilfen für Investitionen in landwirtschaftliche Betriebe" sowie IV.B "Beihilfen für Investitionen zur Verarbeitung und Vermarktung landwirtschaftlicher Erzeugnisse" der Rahmenregelung der Gemeinschaft für staatliche Beihilfen im Agrar- und Forstsektor 2007-2013 (2006/C 319/01). Richtlinienentwurf des Bayerischen Staatsministeriums für Landwirtschaft und Forsten zur Einzelbetrieblichen Investitionsförderung 		
Type of measure	Scheme —		
Objective	Investments in agricultural holdings		
Form of aid	Direct grant		
Budget	Overall budget: EUR 345 million Annual budget: EUR 72 million		

Intensity	20 %
Duration (period)	Until 31.12.2013
Economic sectors	Agriculture, forestry and fishing
Name and address of the granting authority	Staatliche Führungsakademie für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten Am Lurzenhof 3c 84036 Landshut DEUTSCHLAND
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/state_aids_texts_en.htm

Date of adoption of the decision 22.9.2011 Reference number of State Aid SA.32939 (11/N) Member State Czech Republic Region Title (and/or name of the beneficiary) Lesnická infrastruktura Legal basis 1) Program rozvoje venkova České republiky na období 2007-2013 2) Pravidla, kterými se stanovují podmínky pro poskytování dotace na projekty Programu rozvoje venkova ČR na období 2007-2013 (podopatření I.1.2.3 Lesnická infrastruktura) Type of measure Scheme Objective Forestry Form of aid Direct grant Overall budget: CZK 500 million Budget 100 % Intensity Duration (period) Until 31.12.2013 Economic sectors Forestry and logging Name and address of the granting authority Ministerstvo zemědělství Těšnov 17 117 05 Praha 1 ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA 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/state_aids_texts_en.htm

IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS, BODIES, OFFICES AND AGENCIES

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates (1) 27 October 2011

(2011/C 315/04)

1 euro =

	Currency	Exchange rate		Currency	Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,4038	AUD	Australian dollar	1,3188
JPY	Japanese yen	106,39	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,3964
DKK	Danish krone	7,4441	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	10,9113
GBP	Pound sterling	0,87630	NZD	New Zealand dollar	1,7231
SEK	Swedish krona	9,0280	SGD	Singapore dollar	1,7555
CHF	Swiss franc	1,2213	KRW	South Korean won	1 558,65
ISK	Iceland króna	-,	ZAR	South African rand	10,9256
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,6560	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	8,9284
	8	•	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,4900
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	12 381,61
CZK	Czech koruna	24,833	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	4,3405
HUF	Hungarian forint	302,20	PHP	Philippine peso	60,146
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4528	RUB	Russian rouble	42,3128
LVL	Latvian lats	0,7043	THB	Thai baht	42,872
PLN	Polish zloty	4,3420	BRL	Brazilian real	2,4341
RON	Romanian leu	4,3323	MXN	Mexican peso	18,5408
TRY	Turkish lira	2,4798	INR	Indian rupee	69,5020

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

NOTICES FROM MEMBER STATES

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 Treaty to State aid to small and medium-sized enterprises active in the production of agricultural products and amending Regulation (EC) No 70/2001

(2011/C 315/05)

Aid No: SA.33762 (11/XA)

Member State: Netherlands

Region: Nederland

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Steunmaatregelen technische ondersteuning en kwaliteitsbevordering bloemkwekerijproducten

Legal basis:

Ontwerp-verordening PT heffing handel bloemkwekerijproducten 2010

Ontwerp-verordening PT heffing aanbod bloemkwekerijproducten 2010

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Annual overall amount of the budget planned under the scheme: EUR 14,10 million

Maximum aid intensity: 100 %

Date of implementation: —

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: 26 October 2011-30 June 2014

Objective of aid: Production of quality agricultural products (Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006), Technical support (Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006)

Sector(s) concerned: Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities

Name and address of the granting authority:

Productschap Tuinbouw

Postbus 280 2700 AG Zoetermeer NEDERLAND

Louis Pasteurlaan 6 2719 EE Zoetermeer NEDERLAND

Website:

http://www.tuinbouw.nl/files/page/Ontwerp-Verordening%20 PT%20heffing%20handel%20bloemkwekerijproducten%2020 10.pdf

http://www.tuinbouw.nl/files/page/Ontwerp-Verordening%20 PT%20heffing%20aanbod%20bloemkwekerijproducten%2020 10.pdf

Other information: —

Aid No: SA.33813 (11/XA)

Member State: France

Region: Moselle

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: aides aux audits sanitaires des élevages et aux programmes pluriannuels d'intervention en Moselle.

Legal basis:

Articles L 1511-2 et L 1511-5 du code général des collectivités territoriales,

délibération du Conseil général de la Moselle (Commission permanente du 13 décembre 2010).

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Annual overall amount of the budget planned under the scheme: EUR 0,20 million

Maximum aid intensity: 100 %

Date of implementation: —

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: 26 October 2011-30 June 2014

Objective of aid: Animal diseases (Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006)

Sector(s) concerned: Animal production, Mixed farming

Name and address of the granting authority:

Monsieur le Président du Conseil général de la Moselle Direction de l'environnement et de l'aménagement du territoire Division de l'environnement et de l'espace rural/SAEN Hôtel du Département 1 rue du Pont Moreau BP 11096 57036 Metz Cedex 1 FRANCE

Website:

http://www.cg57.fr/SiteCollectionDocuments/LaMoselleEt Vous/Agriculture/FichesUE/audit_sanitaire_et_programme_pluriannuel_elevages.pdf

Other information: —

Aid No: SA.33826 (11/XA)

Member State: Bulgaria

Region: Bulgaria

Title of aid scheme or name of company receiving an individual aid: Помощ за участие в изложение по овцевъдство-Специализирано регионално есенно изложение на Бели и Вакли Маришки овце с. Избегли общ. Асеновград обл. Пловдив

Legal basis: Чл. 12, ал. 1, т. 10 от Закона за подпомагане на земеделските производители; Указания, приети с Решение на

Управителния съвет на Държавен фонд "Земеделие" за схема на държавна помощ за участие в изложение

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: Annual overall amount of the budget planned under the scheme: BGN 0,02 million

Maximum aid intensity: 70 %

Date of implementation: —

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: 8 November 2011-31 December 2013

Objective of aid: Technical support (Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006)

Sector(s) concerned: Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Name and address of the granting authority:

Държавен фонд "Земеделие" бул. "Цар Борис III" № 136 1618 София/Sofia БЪЛГАРИЯ/BULGARIA

Website:

http://www.dfz.bg/bg/darzhavni-pomoshti/shemi_durjavni_pomoshti_reglament_1857_2006/

Other information: —

V

(Announcements)

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPETITION POLICY

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration

(Case COMP/M.6404 — Hochtief Solutions/Ventizz/JV)

Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2011/C 315/06)

- 1. On 21 October 2011, the Commission received a notification of a proposed concentration pursuant to Article 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 (¹) by which Hochtief Solutions AG ('Hochtief Solutions', Germany) and Ventizz Capital Fund IV L.P. ('Ventizz IV', Jersey) acquire within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Merger Regulation joint control of a newly created company constituting a joint venture ('JV', Luxembourg) by way of a purchase of shares.
- 2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
- for Hochtief Solutions: active in a number of different business areas, including service solutions, real estate solutions, energy and infrastructure solutions, international project solutions, classic solutions and engineering solutions. Hochtief Solutions is part of the Hochtief Aktiengesellschaft group of companies, which is controlled by Actividades de Construcción y Servicios, SA (Spain),
- for Ventizz IV: a private equity fund investing primarily in the German speaking regions in high tech
 companies and providing these companies with additional equity,
- for JV: active in the project development for offshore wind farms primarily in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.
- 3. On preliminary examination, the Commission finds that the notified transaction could fall within the scope of the EC Merger Regulation. However, the final decision on this point is reserved. Pursuant to the Commission Notice on a simplified procedure for treatment of certain concentrations under the EC Merger Regulation (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.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1 (the 'EC Merger Regulation').

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32 ('Notice on a simplified procedure').

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 22964301), by email to COMP-MERGER-REGISTRY@ec.europa.eu or by post, under reference number COMP/M.6404 — Hochtief Solutions/ Ventizz/JV, to the following address:

European Commission Directorate-General for Competition Merger Registry J-70 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel BELGIQUE/BELGIË

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