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I

(Resolutions, recommendations and opinions)

RESOLUTIONS

COUNCIL

Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 22 May 2008 on the participation of young people with fewer opportunities

(2008/C 141/01)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE REPRESENTA-TIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL.

Whereas:

- The European Council adopted at its 2005 Spring (1) Summit the European Pact for Youth as one of the instruments contributing to the implementation of the renewed Lisbon Strategy with a view to improving — by means of cross-sectoral strategies — young people's employment opportunities and social inclusion, their education, training and mobility, giving priority to young people with fewer opportunities.
- In its Resolution of 7 December 2006 (1), the Council suggested that Member States encourage the provision of wide-ranging and equal opportunities for all young people to participate in civic life and that a structured dialogue with young people should involve those engaged in various and innovative forms of active citizenship, non-organised young people and young people with fewer opportunities thus creating conditions for equal participation of all young people.
- In its Resolution of 25 May 2007 (2), the Council invited (3) the Member States and the Commission to improve the coherence of measures to implement the European Pact for Youth and to make sure that 'such measures actually reach their target groups, in particular young people with fewer opportunities, by taking into account their needs, backgrounds and motivation'.
- (¹) Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on implementing the common objectives for participation by and information for young people in view of promoting their active European citizenship (OJ C 297, 7.12.2006, p. 6).

Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council: 'Creating equal opportunities for all young people — Full participation in society'

(OJ C 314, 22.12.2007, p. 1).

- In its Communication of 5 September 2007 entitled Promoting young people's full participation in education, employment and society (3) the Commission emphasised that it is in the social and economic interest of Europe that the full potential of all young people is used; reference was therefore made to the importance of achieving social inclusion and equal opportunities for all young people paying particular attention to those with fewer opportunities.
- The Spring 2008 European Council emphasised the importance of strengthening the social dimension of the Lisbon Strategy, of combating poverty and social exclusion, of promoting active inclusion and increasing employment opportunities for those furthest from the labour market, including young people, and urged Member States to take concrete action in order to improve the achievement levels of learners with a migrant background and from disadvantaged groups,

NOTE THAT:

- 1. work under the German Presidency focussed on equal opportunities and social participation for all children and youth within the framework of the team presidency programme on social and professional integration of young people;
- 2. the results of the peer-learning activities on the participation of young people with fewer opportunities have shown that such young people require special attention in all Member States and that it is particularly necessary that public authorities at local and regional level, civil society, youth workers, youth organisations and young people themselves work hand in hand to foster their well-being;

⁽³⁾ COM(2007) 498 final.

3. in the framework of the structured dialogue, young people and representatives of youth organisations met on 18-21 April 2008 on the occasion of the Slovenian Presidency's youth event and formulated a set of conclusions regarding the mobility, employment, non-formal learning and competence-building, integration and political participation of young people with fewer opportunities, and the role of young people in intercultural dialogue.

UNDERLINE THAT:

- 1. while recognising the differences between Member States, the situation of young people with fewer opportunities (such as young women and men from less-privileged educational, socio-economic or geographical backgrounds, or with disabilities) is an issue of concern in many European countries;
- despite contemporary globalisation and migratory flows that create new opportunities and enrich European diversity, a number of young people with fewer opportunities still face economic and social difficulties;
- 3. the very cohesion of our societies is endangered by the fact that a considerable number of young people in Europe lack opportunities to actively participate in education, employment and society; therefore, empowering every young person to fulfil his or her potential and to participate actively in community life is essential for the sound and sustainable development of societies and contributes to overall social cohesion by building mutually trusting relationships with other groups of society, including older generations;
- 4. unemployment, poverty, poor health, cultural, social and economic exclusion and all forms of discrimination are obstacles to the well-being of young people and may hinder their active participation in society;
- tailored measures targeted to young people with fewer opportunities should be based on cross-disciplinary research on young people and their living conditions. Such a knowledge-based approach is particularly relevant when dealing with issues related to young people with fewer opportunities;
- the transition and mobility between training and education systems and the labour market is of great importance for the prevention of unemployment and social exclusion of young people;
- 7. in the context of the Community cooperation framework in the field of education, tackling the problem of early school leavers and educational disadvantage is a major challenge; evidence shows that educational achievement in most

- Member States still depends on socio-economic background, and additional efforts and strategies are therefore necessary to address this structural inequality;
- 8. non-formal and informal learning has a key role to play as an instrument supporting the social and economic inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities; in this context, the work of youth workers and youth organisations with these youngsters is of particular importance;
- 9. at European level, the Youth in Action Programme is a key instrument for promoting the active participation and social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities;
- 10. culture, youth work and sports activities play an important role in contributing to the inclusion and well-being of young people with fewer opportunities.

EMPHASISE IN PARTICULAR THAT:

young people with fewer opportunities should be given special attention at an early stage, in order for them to be better integrated in society. They should also be offered every opportunity (through special support or mentoring) to take part in actions open to all young people.

INVITE THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION TO:

- give high priority to young people in the most vulnerable situations when implementing the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy and the European Youth Pact, and pay special attention to them in devising their national flexicurity strategies;
- further develop the transversal approach to youth issues and the shaping of cross-sectoral policies, which is particularly relevant in respect of young people with fewer opportunities;
- counteract gender stereotypes and promote gender equality in all actions taken to empower young people with fewer opportunities;
- support young people in adopting a healthy lifestyle and include this specific target within their health policies, with a particular focus on young people with fewer opportunities;
- 5. act against the intergenerational transmission of unemployment and economic inactivity through, *inter alia*, initiatives aiming at creating good employment opportunities for young people;
- 6. reinforce as a priority the social inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities, in particular by promoting equal opportunities for children and young people in the context of the EU social protection and social inclusion process;

- 7. support the development of the existing forms of participation and encourage the creation of new ones that include young people with fewer opportunities and support the development of innovative and targeted measures to improve their access to ICT, media and information, especially at local and regional level, within the framework of the open method of coordination in the field of youth;
- 8. pay due attention to the participation of young people with fewer opportunities as such and also to the social benefit of this participation, while developing and assessing programmes targeted at young people;
- work with youth organisations for developing an inclusive approach in the structured dialogue with young people with fewer opportunities at all levels, and adapt the format of encounters if necessary;
- 10. broaden awareness of and knowledge and expertise regarding the social, economic and other factors determining the well-being of young people and the situation of young people with fewer opportunities;
- 11. reinforce the dissemination of good practices at all levels via exchange of data, experiences and networking.

INVITE THE MEMBER STATES TO:

- facilitate the development of sustainable strategies or integrated measures in national policy plans aimed at improving the conditions for the involvement and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities in society.
 - Particular considerations should be given to interdisciplinary and intersectoral early intervention measures to prevent or mitigate the risks of children and young people becoming socially excluded;

- make available EU funding (EU programmes and Structural Funds) for supporting the social inclusion and active participation of young people with fewer opportunities;
- 3. provide increased support to youth workers and youth leaders working with young people with fewer opportunities, *inter alia* by enhancing further training and improving recognition of their skills;
- encourage and support youth and social organisations in their actions on behalf of young people with fewer opportunities:
- 5. promote tailored information and facilitate access to such information for young people with fewer opportunities;
- where appropriate, develop and improve mechanisms for vocational guidance and counselling to enable young people with fewer opportunities to find a job;
- 7. identify the obstacles in the way of participation by young people with fewer opportunities, seek ways to overcome these obstacles and encourage especially the participation of young people with fewer opportunities from the local level up to the national level both within representative democracy and in the youth structures; provide greater support for learning to participate.

INVITE THE COMMISSION TO:

- consider possible lines of action at European level, based on good practices identified in cooperation with Member States, to facilitate the inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities and their participation in society;
- 2. take into account the objectives of the current Resolution when proposing the priorities for the future framework of cooperation in the field of youth.

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

(2008/C 141/02)

Date of adoption of the decision	30.4.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 296/07
Member State	Denmark
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Støtte til skovrejsning
Legal basis	Lov om skove (Lov nr. 453 af 9 juni 2004); Bekendtgørelse nr. 1316 af 20.11.2006 om tilskud til privat skovrejsning
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Increase of forest cover
Form of aid	Subsidy
Budget	DKK 25 million per annum (ca. EUR 3,35 million)
Intensity	Variable
Duration	Until 31.12.2013
Economic sectors	A00201 Forestry and logging
Name and address of the granting authority	Miljøministeriet, Skov- og Naturstyrelsen Haraldsgade 53 DK-2011 København Ø
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	30.4.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 364/07
Member State	Hungary
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Közösségi agrármarketing támogatás
Legal basis	/2007. () FVM rendelet a közösségi agrármarketing támogatások igénybevételének szabályairól
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Technical assistance and aid for advertising of agricultural products
Form of aid	Direct grant
Budget	Annual expenditure: HUF 2 000 million Overall budget: HUF 14 000 million
Intensity	 For technical support activities: (a) 100 % of eligible costs for primary producers of agricultural products; (b) 50 % eligible costs for enterprises active in the processing and marketing of agricultural products. For advertising activities: (a) 50 % of eligible costs for direct aid; (b) 100 % eligible costs for advertising of generic character and benefiting all producers of the type of product concerned
Duration	From the approval by the Commission to 31.12.2013
Economic sectors	Agriculture
Name and address of the granting authority	Földművelésügyi és Vidékfejlesztési Minisztérium H-1055 Budapest Kossuth Lajos tér 11
Other information	_
	1

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	16.4.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 453/07
Member State	United Kingdom
Region	England
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	National Forest Changing Landscape Scheme
Legal basis	Section 153 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Forestry Act 1979 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Type of measure	Scheme
Objective	Forestry
Form of aid	Grant
Budget	Total budget: GBP 9 million (approximately EUR 13,25 million) Annual budget: GBP 1,80 million (approximately EUR 2,65 million)
Intensity	Up to 100 %
Duration	31.7.2008-31.7.2013
Economic sectors	Forestry
Name and address of the granting authority	The National Forest Company Bath Yard Moira Swadlincote DE12 6BD United Kingdom

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	30.4.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 75/08
Member State	The Netherlands
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Investering in integrale duurzame stallen en houderijsystemen
Legal basis	Artikelen 2 en 4 van de Kaderwet LNV-subsidies van het Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit, artikelen 1:2, 1:3, 2:1, 2:2, 2:37 en bijlage 2, hoofdstuk 4 van de Regeling LNV-subsidies, paragraaf 5 van de beslissing tot opening van de LNV-subsidieregeling
Type of measure	Investment aid
Objective	The aid is given to compensate for extra costs related to animal welfare requirements concerned with investments in sustainable stables and husbandry systems
Form of aid	Direct grant (compensation)
Budget	EUR 8,1 million in 3 years
Intensity	35 % of the eligible costs
Duration	2008-2010
Economic sectors	Agriculture; Livestock sector
	!

Name and address of the granting authority	Ministerie van Landbouw, Natuur en Voedselkwaliteit Postbus 20401 2500 EK Den Haag Nederland
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

(2008/C 141/03)

Date of adoption of the decision	30.4.2008
Aid number	NN 61/05
Member State	Finland
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Tuki epäsuotuisien sääolojen aiheuttamien menetysten korvaamiseksi maatalousyrityksille vuonna 2003
Legal basis	Laki satovahinkojen korvaamisesta 1214/2000
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Compensation for damage due to adverse weather conditions
Form of aid	Subsidy
Budget appropriations	EUR 1,9 million
Maximum aid intensity	90 % of the value of the losses that exceed 30 % of the standard harvest
Duration	One-off
Economic sector(s)	Primary agricultural production
Name and address of granting authority	Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö PL 30 FI-00023 Valtioneuvosto (Helsinki)
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	30.4.2008
Aid number	NN 74/06
Member State	Germany
Region	_
Title (and/or name of the beneficiary)	Agrardiesel
Legal basis	§ 57 Abs. 1 Energiesteuergesetz
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Decreasing the cost of primary production
Form of aid	Tax relief
Budget appropriations	EUR 135 000 000

Maximum aid intensity	_
Duration	31.12.2013
Economic sector(s)	Agriculture
Name and address of granting authority	
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 30.4.2008 Reference number of the aid N 546/07 Member State Germany Region Bayern Title Waldbewirtschaftungsregelung Richtlinie für Zuwendungen zu waldbaulichen Maßnahmen in Rahmen eines Legal basis forstlichen Förderprogramms (WALDFÖPF 2007) Type of measure Aid scheme Objective Conservation, improvement and maintenance of forests Form of aid Grant Budget EUR 5 000 000 Intensity Up to 100 % Duration 2008-2013 Economic sectors Forestry Name and address of the granting Ämter für Landwirtschaft und Forsten des Bayerischen Staatsministerium für authority Landwirtschaft und Forsten Ludwigstr. 2 D-80539 München 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	30.4.2008
Reference number of the aid	N 654/07
Member State	Germany
Region	_
Title	Programm zur Förderung von Forschungs-, Entwicklungs- und Demonstrations- vorhaben im Bereich nachwachsender Rohstoffe
Legal basis	Programm des Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschat und Verbraucherschutz zur Förderung von Forschungs-, Entwicklungs- und Demonstrationsvorhaben im Bereich nachwachsender Rohstoffe
Type of measure	Aid scheme
Objective	Research, development and innovation
Form of aid	Grant
Budget	EUR 420 000 000
Intensity	Up to 100 %
Duration	2008-2013
Economic sectors	Agriculture and other sectors
Name and address of the granting authority	Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz Wilhelmstr. 54 D-10117 Berlin
Other information	_

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

Non-opposition to a notified concentration

(Case COMP/M.5050 — Eaton/Moeller)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 141/04)

On 1 April 2008, 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:

- from the Europa competition website (http://ec.europa.eu/comm/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 under document number 32008M5050. EUR-Lex is the on-line access to European law (http://eur-lex.europa.eu).

Non-opposition to a notified concentration (Case COMP/M.4994 — Electrabel/Compagnie Nationale du Rhône)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 141/05)

On 29 April 2008, 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 French and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- from the Europa competition website (http://ec.europa.eu/comm/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 under document number 32008M4994. EUR-Lex is the on-line access to European law (http://eur-lex.europa.eu).

Non-opposition to a notified concentration (Case COMP/M.5127 — Sita/Renault/Indra)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 141/06)

On 29 May 2008, 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 French and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- from the Europa competition website (http://ec.europa.eu/comm/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 under document number 32008M5127. EUR-Lex is the on-line access to European law (http://eur-lex.europa.eu).

Non-opposition to a notified concentration (Case COMP/M.5101 — OJSC Novolipetsk Steel/Novexco/Novex)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 141/07)

On 5 May 2008, 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:

- from the Europa competition website (http://ec.europa.eu/comm/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 under document number 32008M5101. EUR-Lex is the on-line access to European law (http://eur-lex.europa.eu).

Non-opposition to a notified concentration (Case COMP/M.5088 — Scholz Recycling/ERG/ESR)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 141/08)

On 29 May 2008, 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 German and will be made public after it is cleared of any business secrets it may contain. It will be available:

- from the Europa competition website (http://ec.europa.eu/comm/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 under document number 32008M5088. EUR-Lex is the on-line access to European law (http://eur-lex.europa.eu).

IV

(Notices)

NOTICES FROM EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

COUNCIL

Council conclusions of 22 May 2008 on Intercultural Competences

(2008/C 141/09)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

- 1. referring to the provisions of Decision No 1983/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008 (1);
- 2. referring to the Unesco Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions;
- 3. having regard to the Commission's Communication of 10 May 2007 on a European Agenda for Culture in a Globalizing World (2) and to the Council Resolution of 16 November 2007 on a European Agenda for Culture (3);
- 4. recalling the Recommendation 2006/962/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning (4);
- 5. recalling the Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 15 November 2007, on improving the quality of teacher education,

CONSIDERING that:

- intercultural dialogue is a key tool in addressing some of the most important challenges Europe is facing at present and that it constitutes one of the three strategic objectives of the European Agenda for Culture, to be implemented through triennial work plans,
- in order to foster open and inclusive societies established on core European values and to promote active citizenship,

European citizens need to be equipped with intercultural competences, which constitute a key factor for strengthening intercultural dialogue,

the knowledge, skills and attitudes of particular relevance to intercultural competences are those relating to the following key competences: communication in foreign languages, social and civic competences, and cultural awareness and expression (5).

RECOGNIZING that:

With a view to strengthening intercultural competences in society, a sustainable and cross-sectoral approach towards intercultural dialogue needs to be developed. This approach should seek to integrate and support the following relevant initiatives in the fields of:

- A. CULTURE, in particular as foreseen in the Work Plan of the Council for the period 2008-2010:
 - the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue as a means to foster open and inclusive socie-
 - the promotion of everyone's active participation in cultural life and access to culture and heritage in all their diversity, with particular attention to people who have less opportunities for access,
 - the improvement of the conditions for mobility of artists and works of art,
 - the supporting of cooperation between culture and both formal education and training and informal and non-formal learning in the field of cultural awareness and artistic education,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 412, 30.12.2006, p. 44.

⁽²⁾ Doc. 9496/07 and ADD 1. (3) OJ C 287, 29.11.2007, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ OJL 394, 30.12.2006, p. 10.

⁽⁵⁾ Key competences as defined in the Recommendation 2006/962/EC.

 the fostering of linguistic competences and of translation to facilitate access to artistic expressions in different languages.

— the promotion of the role of organised civil society, particularly the involvement of youth organisations.

B. EDUCATION:

- the development of a lifelong learning perspective which includes the acquisition by all citizens of the key competences most relevant to intercultural competences and most likely to foster an appreciation of cultural diversity as a core value, such as linguistic, social and civic competences and cultural awareness and expression,
- the development of policies based on equity principles aimed at integrating children from a diverse range of social and cultural backgrounds into mainstream forms of education and training, without any discrimination,
- within the framework of a coherent policy for multilingualism, the active promotion of language learning by encouraging the provision of a wide variety of opportunities, including the use of ICT and distance learning, to learn languages in formal, non-formal and informal environments.
- the encouragement of mobility schemes among learners, teachers and other teaching staff as an effective tool for the promotion of intercultural dialogue,
- the career-long development of skills that will enable teachers to better manage cultural diversity and facilitate the development of intercultural competences, and thereby contribute effectively to the establishment of inclusive learning communities.

C. YOUTH:

- the engagement of young people as a resource for contributing to intercultural dialogue in open and pluralistic societies,
- the promotion, development and recognition of intercultural competences of young people through non-formal and informal learning,
- the development of opportunities for young people for acquiring intercultural competences as early in life as possible through various forms of active participation in society, including voluntary activities, and through greater mobility as a way to experience the diversity of cultures and multilingualism,
- the promotion of access to and the role of culture, arts, music and sport in shaping young people's identities and bringing them together,
- the promotion, development and recognition of intercultural competences of youth workers and youth leaders by facilitating their mobility and their educational and training opportunities,

D. AUDIOVISUAL:

- the encouragement of media literacy, in line with the Commission Communication of 20 December 2007 'A European approach to media literacy in the digital environment' and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive of 11 December 2007 (¹) which, inter alia, promotes cultural diversity, both for linear and non-linear services, so that individuals are better equipped:
- to identify, access and appreciate content relating to or originating within different cultures, and
- to use new technological tools (software and hardware) to create and distribute their own cultural content,
- the promotion of media and audiovisual content that is culturally rich, diverse, and informative for all individuals by means of, inter alia:
 - encouraging co-productions at European, national and regional levels,
 - encouraging non-profit civil society-based media (²) to better take advantage of the opportunities provided by digital technologies,
- fostering the process of digitalisation of cultural materials and content to enable new media — on-line as well as mobile services — to contribute to enhanced accessibility of cultural diversity.

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION, WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS OF COMPETENCES, TO:

- promote intercultural competences through the existing instruments and initiatives in the fields of culture, education, youth and audiovisual policy, in particular by exploring how these measures could be further deepened and enhanced in support of intercultural dialogue,
- increase synergies between these fields with a view to developing intercultural competences, for example by envisaging joint initiatives, taking into account the need of citizens to understand and respect their own culture, the culture of others and cultural diversity in general, to communicate in a culturally diverse environment and to identify and actively participate in fostering and developing common values of democracy and fundamental rights,

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 332, 18.12.2007, p. 27.

⁽²⁾ Often referred to in English as 'community media' and in French as 'médias associatifs'.

- create opportunities for dialogue at local, regional, national and EU levels by strengthening support for the development of intercultural competences through the existing programmes in the fields of culture, education, youth and audiovisual policy,
- foster a favourable environment for creativity and innovation to make their full contribution in shaping intercultural competences and enhancing intercultural dialogue,
- identify and share good practices in the development of intercultural competences, taking account in particular, as a follow-up, of initiatives undertaken at national and EU level as part of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue,
- enhance and promote the concept of intercultural dialogue in all other relevant policy fields, both within the EU and in their external relations.

Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 22 May 2008 on promoting creativity and innovation through education and training

(2008/C 141/10)

THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

RECALLING the political background to this issue as set out in the Annex to these conclusions, and in the light of the Conference on Promoting Innovation and Creativity: Schools' Response to the Challenges of Future Societies held in Brdo on 9-10 April 2008.

NOTE THAT:

- 1. while Member States are fully responsible for the organisation and content of their education and training systems, promoting creativity and innovation is an area in which quality and efficiency at national and regional level could benefit from cooperation at European level;
- 2. the common European objectives of quality, access and openness to the wider world have been supported under the present 'Education and Training 2010' work programme by the search for efficiency and equity. Since creativity and the capacity to innovate are also crucial to sustainable economic and social development in Europe, these issues deserve greater emphasis in the context of future European cooperation in the field of education;
- 3. all levels of education and training can contribute to creativity and innovation in a lifelong learning perspective: the early stages of education concentrating on motivation, learning to learn skills and other key competences, and subsequent stages focusing on more specific skills and the creation, development and application of new knowledge and ideas.

CONSIDER that:

- creativity is the prime source of innovation, which in turn is acknowledged as the main driver of growth and wealth creation, as key to improvements in the social field and as an essential tool in addressing global challenges such as climate change, health care and sustainable development;
- there is a growing need for action at national level as well as cooperation at EU level to bring about the more ambitious change necessary if schools are to prepare pupils adequately to face the significant challenges and problems of a fast-changing world;

- beyond their essential tasks of ensuring the acquisition of key competences and providing the knowledge triangle with a solid skills base, education and training systems can play a fundamental role in the development of creative and innovative capacities as key factors in enhancing future economic competitiveness and promoting social cohesion and individual well-being;
- 4. starting at school level, education systems need to combine the development of specific knowledge and skills together with that of generic capacities linked to creativity, such as curiosity, intuition, critical and lateral thinking, problem solving, experimentation, risk taking and the ability to learn from failure, use of the imagination and hypothetical reasoning, and a sense of entrepreneurship;
- 5. the eight key competences for lifelong learning defined in 2006 EU Recommendation (¹) relate to skills which are of particular relevance to creativity and the capacity to innovate. In particular, there is a need for skills and competences that enable people to embrace change as an opportunity, to remain receptive to new ideas and to respect and appreciate the values of others;
- 6. in the face of evidence that diversity and multicultural environments can stimulate creativity, inclusive education policies aimed at tolerance and mutual understanding have the potential to turn the increasing multiculturalism of European societies into an asset for creativity, innovation and growth;
- 7. the participation of schools in new and different networks, particularly those based in the local community, can help them to achieve their educational objectives, as well as contribute to the promotion of creativity and innovation. Partnerships between education, the working world and civil society in general are crucial for anticipating and adapting to the changing needs of professional and social life: traineeships, joint projects, peer learning and course instructors from outside education can introduce teachers and pupils to new ideas;
- 8. teachers have a crucial role to play in nurturing and supporting each child's creative potential, and can contribute to this by exemplifying creativity in their own teaching.

⁽¹) Recommendation 2006/962/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 on key competences for lifelong learning (OJ L 394, 30.12.2006, p. 10).

- In this regard, more personalised, learner-centred approaches to education tailored to the needs and abilities of different learners including those with special talents seem particularly conducive to creativity and, notwith-standing their implications in terms of resources and internal organisation, to increasing the motivation and confidence of more practically or artistically oriented learners:
- 9. teacher education institutions also have a key contribution to make in providing teaching staff with the knowledge and competences required for change, such as the skills needed to promote learner-centred approaches, collaborative working methods and the use of modern learning tools, particularly those based on ICT. Fostering creative abilities and attitudes within schools also requires the support of an organisational culture open to creativity and the creation of an innovation-friendly environment in general, as well as committed and forward-looking leadership at all levels;
- 10. since an increasing share of learning occurs at the work-place, in non-formal contexts and in leisure time often through new ICT-based learning tools and methods the development of creative and innovative capacities has relevance for all aspects of lifelong learning;
- 11. greater research, supported by data sharing, is needed on methods for identifying, defining, measuring and recording learning outcomes in soft transversal skills such as creativity and innovative capacity. There is also a need to provide education policy makers with a stronger evidence base for the promotion of creative and innovative capacities through lifelong learning, and to explore the possible contribution which the EU could make to this process.

INVITE THE MEMBER STATES TO:

- consider how to foster greater synergy between knowledge and skills on the one hand and creativity on the other, as well as how best to promote, monitor and assess creativity and innovative capacity, at all levels of education and training:
- 2. encourage teachers to develop their professional role as learning facilitators and promoters of creativity, and help teacher education institutions to respond to the new demands of the teaching profession, for instance by promoting collaborative, learner-centred approaches, innovative learning environments and the use of open education
- 3. promote a learning culture through the development of broader learning communities, by facilitating and supporting

networks and partnerships — involving civil society and other stakeholders — between education and related areas such as culture on the one hand, and the working world on the other.

INVITE THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION TO:

- consider including the promotion of creativity and innovative capacity among the objectives for current and future European cooperation in the field of education and training as complementary to promoting and supporting the implementation of the 2006 Recommendation on key competences for lifelong learning; and explore appropriate and effective means at European level such as peer learning to achieve those goals at all levels of education and training and in a lifelong learning perspective;
- promote cultural production, intercultural dialogue and cooperation at local, regional, national and international level with a view to developing environments especially conducive to creativity and innovation;
- create synergies to support the promotion of creativity and innovation through active cooperation with relevant international organisations, in particular the Council of Europe, Unesco and the OECD, on topics such as intercultural education, democracy, tolerance and human rights (The right of participation of all Member States in such work should be ensured);
- encourage and support the development, exchange and dissemination of good practice on evidence-based education policy relating to the promotion of creative and innovative skills in Europe;
- make appropriate use of EU programmes and instruments to promote and support creativity and innovative capacity at all stages of lifelong learning, as well as in the educational process itself.

AND INVITES THE COMMISSION TO:

- 1. support relevant research, and analyse and exchange data, at both EU level and among the Member States in cooperation with European and international research institutions on the promotion and development of creative and innovative skills through education and training;
- 2. in the process of designing a new strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training beyond 2010, continue efforts to raise the level of understanding on issues associated with the development of creative and innovative capacity through education and training within the overall context of a broad-based innovation policy for the EU.

ANNEX

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

- 1. The Education Council's report to the Spring 2001 European Council (1) and the subsequently adopted detailed work programme (2), which set a number of concrete future objectives for education and training systems in Europe, including Developing skills for the knowledge society, Making learning more attractive and Strengthening the links with working life and research, and society at large.
- 2. The conclusions of the Spring 2006 European Council, which stressed that reforms must be stepped up to ensure high quality education systems which are both efficient and equitable and acknowledged the crucial role of all levels of education and training in the search for excellence and innovation (3).
- 3. The November 2006 Council conclusions on efficiency and equity in education and training, which stated that educational institutions should focus on the wider learning environment in order to promote and maintain efficiency, equity and general well-being (4).
- 4. The December 2006 Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on key competences for lifelong learning, which highlighted the role of critical thinking, creativity, initiative, problem solving, risk assessment, decision taking, and constructive management of feelings in all eight key competences (5).
- 5. The December 2006 Council conclusions on the strategic priorities for innovation at EU level (6), which defined education as a pre-condition for innovation and stated that education must promote talent and creativity from an early age, and which were adopted in response to the Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 13 September 2006 — Putting knowledge into practice: A broad-based innovation strategy for the EU (7).
- 6. The May 2007 Commission communication 'A European agenda for culture in a globalizing world', which stated that the role of culture in supporting and fostering creativity and innovation must be explored and promoted and sees creativity as the basis of innovation (8).
- 7. The Council conclusions of May 2007, on a coherent framework of indicators and benchmarks for monitoring progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training, which recognised that defining a coherent framework of indicators and benchmarks was a continuous and consultative process (9).
- 8. The November 2007 Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on improving the quality of teacher education, which agreed to promote the acquisition of competences which will enable teachers to develop new knowledge and be innovative through engagement in reflective practice and research (10).
- 9. The 2008 joint progress report of the Council and the Commission on the implementation of the 'Education & Training 2010' work programme 'Delivering lifelong learning for knowledge, creativity and innovation', which emphasised that research and innovation need a broad skills base in the population and that excellence and the key competences must be developed in all systems and levels of education and training (11).
- 10. The key messages from the Education Council to the Spring 2008 European Council, which stated that education and training must both provide a broad knowledge and skills base in the population and develop learners' creativity and capacity for innovation, and that to this end curricula on all levels should be developed so as to enhance the creative and innovative competences of learners (12).
- (1) The concrete future objectives of education and training systems Report from the Education Council to the European Council (doc. 5980/01).
- Detailed work programme on the follow-up of the objectives of education and training systems in Europe, generally referred to as the 'Education and Training 2010' work programme (OJ C 142, 14.6.2002, p. 1).
- Presidency conclusions, Brussels European Council, 23-24 March 2006 (doc. 7775/06).

 Conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 14 November 2006, on efficiency and equity in education and training (OJ C 298, 8.12.2006, p. 3).
- Recommendation 2006/962/EC.
- Council conclusions on 4 December 2006 on a Broad-based Innovation Strategy: Strategic Priorities for Innovation at EU Level
- Doc. 12940/06.
- Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the
- Committee of the Regions, 10 May 2007 A European agenda for culture in a globalizing world (COM(2007) 242 final). Council conclusions on a coherent framework of indicators and benchmarks for monitoring progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training, 24 May 2007 (OJ C 311, 21.12.2007, p. 13).
- Conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 15 November 2007 on improving the quality of teacher education (OJ C 300, 12.12.2007, p. 6). 'Delivering lifelong learning for knowledge, creativity and innovation' 2008 joint progress report of the Council and the Commission on the
- implementation of the 'Education & Training 2010' work programme (doc. 5723/08).
- Key messages of the Education Council to the Spring European Council in the fields of education/training and youth (doc. 6445/08).

- 11. The conclusions of the Spring 2008 European Council, which considered the full development of the potential for innovation and creativity of European citizens built on European culture and excellence in science as a key factor for future growth (1).
- 12. The Commission Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the European Year of Creativity and Innovation (2009) (2).

⁽¹) Brussels European Council, 13-14 March 2008, Presidency Conclusions (doc. 7652/08). (²) Doc. 7755/08.

COMMISSION

Euro exchange rates (¹) 6 June 2008

(2008/C 141/11)

1 euro =

	Currency	Exchange rate		Currency	Exchange rate
USD	US dollar	1,5597	TRY	Turkish lira	1,9301
JPY	Japanese yen	165,75	AUD	Australian dollar	1,626
DKK	Danish krone	7,4592	CAD	Canadian dollar	1,5906
GBP	Pound sterling	0,7971	HKD	Hong Kong dollar	12,1799
SEK	Swedish krona	9,3338	NZD	New Zealand dollar	2,0322
CHF	Swiss franc	1,6184	SGD	Singapore dollar	2,1295
ISK	Iceland króna	118,59	KRW	South Korean won	1 597,52
NOK	Norwegian krone	7,9415	ZAR	South African rand	12,2031
BGN	Bulgarian lev	1,9558	CNY	Chinese yuan renminbi	10,7978
CZK	Czech koruna	24,583	HRK	Croatian kuna	7,2471
EEK	Estonian kroon	15,6466	IDR	Indonesian rupiah	14 544,2
HUF	Hungarian forint	245,43	MYR	Malaysian ringgit	5,0823
LTL	Lithuanian litas	3,4528	PHP	Philippine peso	68,837
LVL	Latvian lats	0,7016	RUB	Russian rouble	36,936
PLN	Polish zloty	3,3818	THB	Thai baht	51,688
RON	Romanian leu	3,6395	BRL	Brazilian real	2,5353
SKK	Slovak koruna	30,348	MXN	Mexican peso	16,044

⁽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 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 141/12)

Aid No: XA 263/07

Member State: Ireland

Region: Entire Member State

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

Irish Cattle Breeding Federation (ICBF) — 2007 Progeny test programme

Legal basis:

National Development Programme 2007-2013

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: EUR 0,8 million in respect of eligible costs incurred in relation to the 2007 program over the period 2007-2010

Maximum aid intensity: 70 % of eligible costs

Date of implementation: 30 July 2007

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: December 2010

Objective of aid: The aim of this program is to identify and source the supply of Irish tested superior genetics to the beef and dairy farmers and to build a knowledge base upon which farmers will be able to access in order to make informed breeding decisions and thus produce better quality animals. The key to Ireland building a competitive based dairy and beef industry is the supply of Irish tested superior genetics to the beef and dairy farmer. This project represents a unique collaboration among all industry partners to cooperate in a progeny testing programme that will ensure a viable future for two Ireland's most valuable farming sectors.

This aid is provided in accordance with Article 16(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 — Support for the Livestock sector. Eligible costs will be those associated with herd recruitment and semen assembly, data recording, data collection and the return of data to ICBF

Sector(s) concerned: Bovines — dairy and beef

Name and address of the granting authority:

Department of Agriculture and Food, Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Website:

http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/index.jsp?file=schemes/NDP_State_Aid/index.xml

Aid No: XA 269/07

Member State: Republic of Slovenia

Region: Municipality of Dobrovnik

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

Programi razvoja podeželja v občini Dobrovnik 2007–2013

Legal basis:

Pravilnik o dodeljevanju državnih pomoči na področju razvoja kmetijstva in podeželja v občini Dobrovnik

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

2007: EUR 4 000

2008: EUR 4 000

2009: EUR 4 000

2010: EUR 4 500

2011: EUR 4 500

2012: EUR 5 000

2013: EUR 6 000

Maximum aid intensity:

- 1. Investment in agricultural holdings for primary production:
 - up to 50 % of eligible costs in less-favoured areas and up to 40 % of eligible costs in other areas.

The purpose of the aid is investment to restore farm features, to purchase equipment to be used for agricultural production and to invest in improving farmland.

- 2. Aid for conservation of traditional buildings:
 - up to 50 % of eligible costs for investment to conserve the cultural heritage of productive assets (farm buildings), provided that the investment does not entail any increase in the production capacity of the farm,
 - up to 50 % of eligible costs for investment to conserve non-productive heritage located on agricultural holdings (sites of archaeological or historical interest),
 - additional aid is granted at a rate of up to 50 % to cover the extra costs incurred by using traditional materials necessary to conserve the heritage features of buildings.
- 3. Aid towards the payment of insurance premiums:
 - the amount of municipal support is the difference between the amount of co-financing of insurance premiums from the national budget and up to 50 % of eligible costs of insurance premiums for insuring crops and fruit and for insuring livestock against disease.
- 4. Aid for land reparcelling:
 - up to 100 % of actual legal and administrative costs incurred.
- 5. Aid to encourage the production of quality agricultural products:
 - the aid is granted to cover up to 50 % of costs in the form of subsidised services and must not involve direct payments of money to producers.
- 6. Provision of technical support in the agricultural sector:
 - up to 100 % of costs concerning education and training of farmers, consultancy services and the organisation of forums, competitions, exhibitions, fairs, publications, catalogues and websites. The aid is to be granted in the form of subsidised services and must not involve direct payments of money to producers

Date of implementation: October 2007 (The aid will not be granted until a summary has been published on the European Commission's website)

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 31 December 2013

Objective of the aid: To support SMEs

Reference to Articles in Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 and eligible costs: The draft Rules on granting State aid for rural development in the municipality of Dobrovnik includes measures constituting State aid in accordance with the following Articles of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 of 15 December 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 (OJ L 358, 16.12.2006, p. 3):

- Article 4: Investment in agricultural holdings,
- Article 5: Conservation of traditional landscapes and buildings,
- Article 12: Aid towards the payment of insurance premiums,
- Article 13: Aid for land reparcelling,
- Article 14: Aid to encourage the production of quality agricultural products,
- Article 15: Provision of technical support in the agricultural sector

Economic sector(s) concerned: Agriculture

Name and address of granting authority:

Občina Dobrovnik, Dobrovnik 297, SLO-9223 Dobrovnik

Website:

http://www.dobrovnik.si/sl/novica.asp?vrsta_novice=3&id_novice=485

Other information: The measure for the payment of insurance premiums to insure crops and fruit includes the following adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to natural disasters: spring frost, hail, lightning, fire caused by lightning, storm and floods.

The municipality's Rules meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 concerning the measures to be adopted by the municipality and the general provisions applicable (steps preceding grant of aid, cumulation, transparency and monitoring of aid)

Mavor

Marjan KARDINAR, univ. dipl. inž. agr.

Aid No: XA 271/07

Member State: Republic of Slovenia

Region: Municipality of Vipava

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

Subvencioniranje obrestne mere v letih od 2007–2013 za naložbe v kmetijstvu

Legal basis:

Pravilnik o subvencioniranju obrestne mere kreditov, najetih za pospeševanje in razvoj kmetijstva iz sredstev odškodnin zaradi spremembe namembnosti kmetijskih zemljišč in gozdov zaradi gradnje HC Vipava-Razdrto

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

2007: EUR 30 000

2008: EUR 50 000

2009: EUR 50 000

2010: EUR 50 000

2011: EUR 60 000

2012: EUR 60 000

2013: EUR 60 000

Maximum aid intensity:

- 1. Investment in agricultural holdings for primary production:
 - up to 50 % of eligible costs in less-favoured areas and up to 40 % in other areas.

Support is granted for the improvement of farmland, the construction and adaptation of livestock buildings for agricultural production and investment in the purchase of equipment and machinery for agricultural production

Date of implementation: October 2007 (The aid will not be granted until a summary has been published on the European Commission's website)

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 31 December 2013

Objective of the aid: To support SMEs

Reference to Articles in Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 and eligible costs: The Rules on the provision of interest rate subsidies on loans to promote and develop agriculture from compensation for the change in the intended use of farmland and forests due to the construction of the Vipava-Razdrto express road include measures constituting State aid in accordance with the following Articles of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 of 15 December 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 agri-

cultural products and amending Regulation (EC) No 70/2001 (OJ L 358, 16.12.2006, p. 3):

— Article 4: Investment in agricultural holdings

Economic sector(s) concerned: Agriculture

Name and address of granting authority:

Občina Vipava, Glavni trg 15, SLO-5271 Vipava

Website:

http://www.uradni-list.si/1/ulonline.jsp?urlid=200785&dhid=91593

Other information: The municipality's Rules meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 relating to the measures to be adopted by the municipality and the general provisions applicable (steps preceding grant of aid, cumulation, transparency and monitoring of aid)

Župan

mag. Ivan PRINCES, dr. vet. med.

Aid No: XA 272/07

Member State: Republic of Slovenia

Region: Osrednjeslovenska — Municipality of Škofljica

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

Programi za ohranjanje, spodbujanje in razvoj podeželja v občini Škofljica 2007–2013

Legal basis:

Pravilnik o sofinanciranju programov za ohranjanje, spodbujanje in razvoj podeželja v občini Škofljica

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

2007: EUR 48 000

2008: EUR 50 000

2009: EUR 55 000

2010: EUR 58 000

2011: EUR 60 000

2012: EUR 60 000

2013: EUR 63 000

Maximum aid intensity:

- 1. Investment in agricultural holdings for primary production:
 - up to 50 % of eligible costs in less-favoured areas,
 - up to 40 % of eligible costs in other areas.

The purpose of the aid is investment to restore farm features and to purchase equipment to be used for agricultural production, to invest in permanent crops, to improve farmland and to manage pastures.

- 2. Conservation of traditional landscapes and buildings:
 - up to 100 % of actual costs for investment in non-productive features,
 - up to 60 % of actual costs, or 75 % in less-favoured areas, for investment in productive assets on farms, provided that the investment does not entail any increase in the production capacity of the farm,
 - additional aid may be granted at at rate of up to 100 % to cover the extra costs incurred by using traditional materials necessary to preserve the heritage features of buildings.
- 3. Aid towards the payment of insurance premiums:
 - the amount of municipal co-financing is the difference between the amount of co-financing of insurance premiums from the national budget and up to 50 % of eligible costs of insurance premiums for insuring crops and fruit and for insuring livestock against disease.
- 4. Aid for land reparcelling:
 - up to 100 % of actual legal and administrative costs incurred.
- 5. Aid to encourage the production of quality agricultural products:
 - up to 100 % of actual costs incurred; this is to be provided in the form of subsidised services and does not involve direct payments of money to producers.
- 6. Provision of technical support in the agricultural sector:
 - up to 100 % of costs concerning education and training, consultancy services provided by third parties, the organization of forums, competitions, exhibitions, fairs, publications and websites, and the costs of replacement services. The aid is to be granted in the form of subsidised services and must not involve direct payments of money to producers

Date of implementation: October 2007 (The aid will not be granted until a summary has been published on the European Commission's website)

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 31 December 2013

Objective of aid: To support SMEs

Reference to Articles in Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 and eligible costs: Chapter II of the draft Rules on the co-financing

of programmes for the preservation, promotion and development of rural areas in the municipality of Škofljica includes measures constituting State aid in accordance with the following Articles of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 of 15 December 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 (OJ L 358, 16.12.2006, p. 3):

- Article 4: Investment in agricultural holdings,
- Article 5: Conservation of traditional landscapes and buildings,
- Article 12: Aid towards the payment of insurance premiums,
- Article 13: Aid for land reparcelling,
- Article 14: Aid to encourage the production of quality agricultural products,
- Article 15: Provision of technical support in the agricultural sector

Economic sector(s) concerned: Agriculture

Name and address of granting authority:

Občina Škofljica, Šmarska cesta 3, SLO-1291 Škofljica

Website:

http://www.uradni-list.si/1/ulonline.jsp?urlid=200784&dhid=91568

Other information: The measure for the payment of insurance premiums to insure crops and fruit includes the following adverse climatic events which can be assimilated to natural disasters: spring frost, hail, lightning, fire caused by lightning, storm and floods.

The municipality's Rules meet the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 relating to the measures to be adopted by the municipality and the general provisions applicable (steps preceding grant of aid, cumulation, transparency and monitoring of aid)

Mag. Lorena GORIČAN Tajnica občine

Aid No: XA 281/07

Member State: Republic of Slovenia

Region: —

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

Tehnična podpora informiranju o generičnih lastnostih mesa

Legal basis:

PROGRAM UKREPOV: Tehnična podpora informiranju o generičnih lastnostih mesa, številka: 3314-8/2007 iz dne 29. maja 2007

Annual expenditure planned under the scheme or overall amount of individual aid granted to the company: The scheme will be implemented in 2007 for an amount of EUR 176 340

Maximum aid intensity: The aid is to be granted to cover 100 % of the eligible costs of activities to provide information on the generic properties of the agricultural product of meat; it is to be provided as a subsidised service that is completely financed from public funds

Date of implementation: October 2007 (The aid will not be granted until a summary has been published on the European Commission's website)

Duration of scheme or individual aid award: Until 31 December 2007

Objective of the aid: To support SMEs — Provision of technical support in the agricultural sector

Reference to Articles in Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006 and eligible costs: The scheme includes measures constituting State

aid in accordance with Article 15(2)(e) of Regulation (EC) No 1857/2006: Provision of technical support in the agricultural sector.

The purpose of the aid is to cover the costs of providing consumers with factual information on the generic properties of meat, its nutritional benefits and its recommended use, and on quality assurance schemes.

Individual companies, brands or origins are not to be named

Economic sector(s) concerned: Agriculture

Name and address of the granting authority:

Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano RS Dunajska 58 SLO-1000 Ljubljana

Website:

http://www.mkgp.gov.si/fileadmin/mkgp.gov.si/pageuploads/saSSo/1ukrep_min.doc

Other information: —

Jernej KOVAČ Vodja službe za odnose z javnostjo in promocijo V

(Announcements)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

COMMISSION

Call for proposals 2008 — Culture Programme (2007-2013)

Implementation of the programme actions: multi-annual cooperation projects; cooperation measures; special action (third countries); and support for bodies active at European level in the field of culture

(2008/C 141/13)

Introduction

This call for proposals is based on Decision No 1855/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006, establishing the Culture Programme (2007-2013) (¹), hereinafter referred to as 'Culture Programme'. The detailed conditions of this call for proposals can be found in the Programme Guide for the Culture Programme (2007-2013) published on the Europa website (see point VIII). The Programme Guide constitutes an integral part of this call for proposals.

I. Objectives

The Culture Programme has been established to enhance the cultural area shared by Europeans, which is based on a common cultural heritage, through the development of cooperation activities among cultural operators from eligible countries (²), with a view to encouraging the emergence of European citizenship.

The Programme is aimed at three specific objectives:

- promotion of the trans-national mobility of people working in the cultural sector,
- support for the trans-national circulation of cultural and artistic works and products,
- promotion of inter-cultural dialogue.

The Programme has a flexible, interdisciplinary approach and is focussed on the needs expressed by cultural operators during the public consultations leading up to its design.

II. Strands

This call covers the following strands of the Culture Programme:

1. Support for cultural projects (strand 1)

Cultural organisations are given support for projects to work together across borders and to create and implement cultural and artistic activities.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 372, 27.12.2006.

⁽²⁾ See point IV.

The thrust of this strand is to help organisations, such as theatres, museums, professional associations, research centres, universities, cultural institutes and public authorities from different countries participating in the Culture Programme to cooperate so that different sectors can work together and extend their cultural and artistic reach across borders.

This strand is divided into four categories, which are detailed below.

Strand 1.1: Multi-annual cooperation projects (lasting from three to five years)

The first category seeks to foster multi-annual, trans-national cultural links by encouraging a minimum of six cultural operators from at least six eligible countries to cooperate and work within and across sectors to develop joint cultural activities over a period of three to five years. Funds of between a minimum of EUR 200 000 and a maximum of EUR 500 000 per year are available, but EU support is limited to a maximum of 50 % of the total eligible cost. The funding is intended to help set up or extend the geographical reach of a project and make it sustainable beyond the funding period.

Strand 1.2.1: Cooperation projects (lasting up to 24 months)

The second category concerns actions shared by at least three cultural operators, working within and across sectors, from at least three eligible countries over a maximum period of two years. Actions that explore means of long-term co-operation are especially targeted. Funds of between EUR 50 000 and EUR 200 000 are available, but EU support is limited to a maximum of 50 % of the total eligible cost.

Strand 1.2.2: Literary translation projects (lasting up to 24 months)

The third category concerns support for translation projects. EU support for Literary Translation is aimed at enhancing knowledge of the literature and literary heritage of fellow Europeans by way of promoting the circulation of literary works between countries. Publishing houses can be awarded grants for translations and publication of works of fiction from one European language into another European language. Funds of between EUR 2 000 and EUR 60 000 are available, but EU support is limited to a maximum of 50 % of the total eligible cost.

Strand 1.3: Cooperation projects with third countries (lasting up to 24 months)

The fourth category seeks to support cultural cooperation projects aimed at cultural exchanges between the countries taking part in the Programme and third countries, which have concluded association or cooperation agreements with the EU, provided that the latter contain cultural clauses. Every year one or more third country(ies) is/are selected for that particular year. The country(ies) is/are indicated each year on the website of the Executive Agency in due course before the deadline for submission.

The action must generate a concrete international cooperation dimension. The cooperation projects involve at least three cultural operators, from at least three eligible countries and cultural cooperation with at least one organisation from the selected third country and/or involve cultural activities carried out in the selected third country. Funds of between EUR 50 000 and maximum EUR 200 000 are available, but EU support is limited to maximum 50 % of the total eligible cost.

2. Support for organisations active at European level in the field of culture (Strand 2)

Cultural organisations working, or wanting to work, at European level in the field of culture can receive support for their operating costs. This strand targets organisations that promote a sense of shared cultural experience with a truly European dimension.

The grant awarded under this strand is a support to operating costs incurred for the permanent activities of beneficiary organisations. This profoundly differs from any other grants, which may be awarded under the other strands of the Programme.

Four categories of organisations are eligible under this strand:

- (a) ambassadors;
- (b) advocacy networks;
- (c) festivals;
- (d) policy support structures for the Culture Agenda, further divided into two subcategories:
 - (i) structured dialogue platforms;
 - (ii) policy analysis groupings.

Maximum funds are available, depending on the category applied for, but EU support is limited to maximum 80 % of the total eligible costs.

III. Eligible actions and applicants

The Culture Programme supports projects, organisations, promotional activities and research in all branches of culture, except the audiovisual branch for which there is a separate programme named MEDIA (1). Cultural operators, including cultural enterprises, can participate in the Culture Programme as long as they are acting in a non-profit-making cultural capacity.

Eligible applicants must:

- be a public (²) or private organisation with legal status, whose principal activity is in the cultural sphere (cultural and creative sectors), and
- have their registered legal seat in one of the eligible countries.

Natural persons are not eligible to apply for a grant under this Programme.

IV. Eligible countries

Countries eligible under this Programme are:

- EU Member States (3),
- EEA (4) countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway),
- countries candidate to EU membership (Croatia, Turkey and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) plus Serbia.

The countries of the western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro) could become eligible in the future, subject to the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the participation of each of those countries in the Programme (5).

V. Award criteria

- 1. the extent to which the project can generate real **European added value** (0-5 total points);
- 2. the relevance of the activities to the specific objectives of the Programme (0-5 total points);
- 3. the extent to which the activities proposed are designed and can be carried out successfully with a high **level of excellence** (0-5 total points);
- 4. the quality of partnership (only for strand 1.1, 1.2.1, and 1.3) (0-5 total points);

(1) http://eacea.eu.europa.eu/media/index en.htm

- http://eacea.eu/uropa.eu/media/index_en.htm
 Public organisation is considered as any organisation, any part of whose costs are financed from the State budget as of right, either by central, regional or local government. That is, these costs are financed from public sector funds raised through taxation or fines or fees regulated by law, without going through an application process which might result in their being unsuccessful in obtaining funds. Organisations that depend on state funding for their existence and receive grants year after year, but for which there exists at least the theoretical possibility that they may fail to receive money in a given year are considered to be private organisations.
 The 27 EU Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.
- Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Śweden, United Kingdom.

European Economic Area.

Further information on developments concerning these third countries will be announced on the website of the Executive Agency: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu

- 5. the extent to which the activities can produce **outputs** which achieve the objectives of the Programme (0-5 total points);
- the extent to which the results of activities proposed will be appropriately communicated and promoted (0-5 total points);
- 7. the **long-term impact sustainability** (not for strand 1.2.2) (0-5 total points);
- 8. the **International Cooperation Dimension** (only for strand 1.3: Cultural cooperation projects with third countries) (0-5 total points).

VI. Budget

The Programme has a total budget of EUR 400 million (¹) for the 2007-2013 period. Total yearly appropriations, including for those actions that do not form part of the Programme Guide, may vary from around EUR 43 million to about EUR 58 million, depending on the year.

On a proposal by the Commission the annual budget breakdown per strand (in line with the approximations indicated hereafter) is approved by the Programme Committee.

Foreseen budget 2009 for the following strands

Strand 1.1	Multi-annual cooperation projects	EUR 18 200 000
Strand 1.2.1	Cooperation projects	EUR 17 049 440
Strand 1.2.2	Literary translation projects	EUR 2 000 000
Strand 1.3	Cooperation projects with third countries	EUR 1 024 000
Strand 2	Support for organisations active at European level in the field of culture	EUR 7 100 000

VII. Deadlines for applications

	Deadline for submission	
Strand 1	Support for cultural projects	
Strand 1.1	Multi-annual cooperation projects	1 October 2008
Strand 1.2.1	Cooperation projects	1 October 2008
Strand 1.2.2	Literary translation projects	1 February 2009
Strand 1.3	Cultural cooperation projects with third countries	1 May 2009
Strand 2	Support for organisations active at European level in the field of culture	1 November 2008

If the deadline for submission falls on a weekend or public holiday in the applicant's country no extension will be granted and applicants must take this into account when planning their submission.

The deadlines for submission of applications for the following years under the Culture Programme will be on the same calendar dates as indicated in the Programme Guide.

⁽¹) Non-EU eligible countries also contribute to the Programme's budget.

VIII. Further information

The detailed conditions for application can be found in the Culture Programme Guide on the following websites:

Directorate-General for Education and Culture

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPETITION POLICY

COMMISSION

Prior notification of a concentration
(Case COMP/M.5208 — Bilfinger Berger/M+W Zander FM)
Candidate case for simplified procedure

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2008/C 141/14)

- 1. On 28 May 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 undertaking Bilfinger Berger AG (Bilfinger Berger', Germany) through its subsidiary Bilfinger Berger Facility Services GmbH acquires within the meaning of Article 3(1)(b) of the Council Regulation control of the whole of the undertaking M+W Zander D.I.B. Facility Management GmbH ('M+W Zander FM', Germany) by way of purchase of shares.
- 2. The business activities of the undertakings concerned are:
- for Bilfinger Berger: construction engineering, construction on and below the surface nationally and abroad, private exploitation models and services (especially services for industry, power plants and real estate, such as Facility Management),
- for M+W Zander FM: facility management services.
- 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.5208 — Bilfinger Berger/M+W Zander FM, to the following address:

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

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 24, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 56, 5.3.2005, p. 32.

OTHER ACTS

COMMISSION

Notice — Geographical indications from the Republic of Korea

(2008/C 141/15)

In the framework of the ongoing negotiations for concluding a Free Trade Agreement with the Republic of Korea, the protection in the European Community as geographical indications of the names set out below and registered in the Republic of Korea under the 'Agricultural Products Quality Control Act' is under consideration. As far as products falling within the scope of Council Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 of 20 March 2006 on the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs (¹) are concerned, protection by means of inclusion in the register as provided for by Article 7 of that Regulation is under consideration.

The Commission invites any Member State or third country or any natural or legal persons having a legitimate interest, established or resident in a Member State or in a third country to submit objections to such protection by lodging a duly substantiated statement.

Statements of objection must reach the European Commission within 2 months from the date of this publication.

Statements of objection shall be admissible only if they are received within the time-limit set out above and if they show that the protection of the name proposed would:

- 1. for products falling within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006:
 - (a) conflict with the name of a plant variety or an animal breed and as a result is likely to mislead the consumer as to the true origin of the product (Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006);
 - (b) be wholly or partially homonymous with that of a name already registered under Regulation (EC) No 510/2006, and give rise to the situations described in Article 3(3) thereof;
 - (c) in the light of a trademark's reputation and renown and the length of time it has been used, be liable to mislead the consumer as to the true identity of the product (Article 3(4) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006);
 - (d) jeopardise the existence of an entirely or partly identical name or of a trademark or the existence of products which have been legally on the market for at least five years preceding the date of the publication of this notice (Article 7(3)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006);
 - (e) or if they can give details from which it can be concluded that the name for which protection is considered is generic within the meaning of Article 3(1) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006;

- 2. for products falling within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 110/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 January 2008 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of spirit drinks and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1576/89 (¹):
 - (a) be wholly or partially homonymous with that of a name already registered under Regulation (EC) No 110/2008, and give rise to the situations described in Article 19 of Regulation (EC) No 110/2008;
 - (b) in the light of a trade mark's reputation and renown and the length of time it has been used in the Community, be liable to mislead the consumer as to the true identity of the product (Article 23(3) of Regulation (EC) No 110/2008);
 - (c) or if they can give details from which it can be concluded that the name for which protection is considered is generic within the meaning of Article 15(3) of Regulation (EC) No 110/2008.

The criteria referred to above shall be evaluated in relation to the territory of the Community, which in the case of intellectual property rights refers only to the territory or territories where the said rights are protected.

Statements of objection should be sent to the following e-mail address: AGRI-A2@ec.europa.eu

The present notice is without prejudice to the possibility of applying for registration of names from the Republic of Korea under Article 5(9) of Regulation (EC) No 510/2006 or Article 17(3) of Regulation (EC) No 110/2008.

List of geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs (2)

Note: A: agricultural product, P: processed product, W: wine, S: spirits, L: livestock product, F: forest product.

1. Agro-livestock products

Reg. No (¹)	Item (²)	Registered name (³)	Note (4)	Possible corres- ponding Trademark Class (5)	Comments (6)
1	Green Tea	Boseong Green Tea (보성녹차)	P	30	
2	Green Tea	Hadong Green Tea (하동녹차)	P	30	
3	Wine	Gochang Black Raspberry Wine (고창복분자주)	W	33	Fruit 'wine' covered by Regulation (EC) No 510/2006
4	Garlic	Seosan Garlic (서산마늘)	A	31	
5	Red Pepper Powder	Yeongyang Red Pepper Powder (영양고춧가루)	P	30	

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 39, 13.2.2008, p. 16.

⁽²⁾ List as provided by the Authorities of the Republic of Korea in the framework of the ongoing negotiations for concluding a Free Trade Agreement. Excerpt from the Korean GI Register base on the Agricultural Products Quality Control Act No 7675, 4 August 2005.

Reg. No (¹)	Item (²)	Registered name (3)	Note (4)	Possible corres- ponding Trademark Class (5)	Comments (6)
6	Garlic	Uiseong Garlic (의성마늘)	A	31	
7	Red Pepper	Goesan Red Pepper Dried (괴산고추)	A	30	
8	Kochujang	Sunchang Traditional Kochujang (순창전통고추장)	P	30	Chili pepper paste
9	Red Pepper Powder	Goesan Red Pepper Powder (괴산고춧가루)	P	30	
10	Melon	Seongju Chamoe (성주참외)	A	31	
11	Cabbage	Haenam Winter Baechu (해남겨울배추)	A	31	
12	Rice	Icheon Rice (이천쌀)	A	30	
13	Rice	Chorwon Rice (철원쌀)	A	30	
14	Citron	Goheung Yuja (고흥유자)	A	31	
15	Waxy Corn	Hongcheon Waxy Corn (홍천찰옥수수)	A	31	
16	Mugwort	Ganghwa Mugwort (강화약쑥)	A	31	
17	Beef	Hoengseong Hanwoo Beef (횡성한우고기)	L	29	
18	Pork	Jeju Pork (제주돼지고기)	L	29	
19	Red Ginseng	Korean Red Ginseng (고려홍삼)	P	31	
20	White Ginseng	Korean White Ginseng (고려백삼)	P	31	

Reg. No (¹)	Item (²)	Registered name (³)	Note (4)	Possible corres- ponding Trademark Class (5)	Comments (°)
21	Taekuk Ginseng	Korean Taekuk Ginseng (고려태극삼)	P	31	
23	Apple	Chungju Apple (충주사과)	A	31	
24	Apple	Miryang Eoreumglol Apple (밀양얼음골사과)	A	31	
26	Spirits	Jindo Hongju (진도홍주)	S	33	
27	Milk Vetch	Jeongseon Hwanggi (정선황기)	A	29	
28	Garlic	Namhae Garlic (남해마늘)	A	31	
29	Garlic	Danyang Garlic (단양마늘)	A	31	
30	Onion	Changnyeong Onion (창녕양파)	A	31	
31	Onion	Muan Onion (무안양파)	A	31	
32	Rice	Yeoju Rice (여주쌀)	A	30	
33	White Lotus Tea	Muan White Lotus Tea (무안백련차)	P	30	
34	Apple	Cheongsong Apple (청송사과)	A	31	
35	Black Raspberry	Gochang BlackRaspberry (고창복분자)	A	31	
36	Apricot	Gwangyang Maesil (광양매실)	A	31	
37	Waxy Corn	Jeongseon Waxy Corn (정선찰옥수수)	A	31	

Reg. No (¹)	Item (²)	Registered name (³)	Note (4)	Possible corres- ponding Trademark Class (5)	Comments (6)
38	Angelica Gigas Nakai	Chinbu Dangui (진부당귀)	A	31	Plant
39	Fresh Ginseng	Korean Fresh Ginseng (고려수삼)	A	31	
40	Red Pepper	Cheongyang Hot Pepper (청양고추)	A	31	
41	Red Pepper Powder	Cheongyang Powdered Hot Pepper (청양고춧가루)	P	31	
42	Sweet Potato	Haenam Sweet Potato (해남고구마)	A	31	
43	Fig	Yeongam Fig (영암무화과)	A	31	
44	Sweet Potato	Yeoju Sweet potato (여주고구마)	A	31	

2. Forest products

Reg. No (¹)	Item (²)	Registered name (³)	Note (4)	Possible corres- ponding Tra- demark Class (5)	Comments (6)
1	Pine-mushroom	Yangyang Pine-mushroom (양양송이버섯)	F	31	
2	Oak-mushroom	Jangheung Oak-mushroom (장흥표고버섯)	F	31	
3	Persimmon Dried	Sancheong Persimmon Dried (산청곶감)	F	29	

Column 'Reg. No' as provided by the Authorities of the Republic of Korea.

Column 'Item' as provided by the Authorities of the Republic of Korea.

Column 'Registered name' as provided by the Authorities of the Republic of Korea.

Column 'Note' as provided by the Authorities of the Republic of Korea.

Column 'Possible corresponding Trademark Class' not provided by the Authorities of the Republic of Korea. For information only.

Based on the International Classification of Goods and Services (Nice Classification).

Column 'Comments' not provided by the Authorities of the Republic of Korea. For information only.

Reg. No (¹)	Item (²)	Registered name (³)	Note (4)	Possible corres- ponding Tra- demark Class (5)	Comments (6)
4	Chestnut	Jeongan Chestnut (정안밤)	F	31	
5	Wild Vegetable	Ulleungdo Samnamul (울릉도삼나물)	F	31	
6	Golden rod	Ulleungdo Miyeokchwi (울릉도미역취)	F	31	
7	Fern	Ulleungdo Chamgobi (울릉도참고비)	F	31	
8	Wild Vegetable	Ulleungdo Bujigaengi (울릉도부지갱이)	F	31	
9	Jujube(Date)	Gyeongsan Jujube (경산대추)	F	31	
10	Pine-mushroom	Bonghwa Pine-mushroom (봉화송이)	F	31	
11	Gugija	Cheongyang Gugija (청양구기자)	F	31	Self-grown plant on mountain
12	Persimmon Dried	Sangju Persimmon Dried (상주곶감)	F	29	
13	Fern	Namhae ChangSun Fern (남해창선고사리)	F	31	
14	Pine-mushroom	Yeongdeok Pine-mushroom (영덕송이)	F	31	
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Column 'Reg. No' as provided by the Authorities of the Republic of Korea.
Column 'Item' as provided by the Authorities of the Republic of Korea.
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