

**Commission Decision C(2007) 3414 of 18 July 2007 amending for the second time
Decision C(2004) 2869 of 27 July 2004
on implementing the legal framework for the award of grants for the host structures of
the *EUROPE DIRECT information relays*
for the period 2005-2008, as amended for the first time by
Decision C(2006) 5462 of 17 November 2006**

and

**adopting in advance the annual work programme
in the field of communication for 2008
as regards grants intended for financing the host structures of the *EUROPE DIRECT*
information relays across the European Union**

Annex 1

BUDGET BY MEMBER STATE

Member State	Annual maximum grant (EUR)
Belgium	192 000.00
<u>Bulgaria</u>	<u>240 000.00</u>
Czech Republic	<u>200 468.00</u>
Denmark	144 000.00
Germany	<u>1 320 000.00</u>
Estonia	<u>108 500.00</u>
Ireland	<u>192 000.00</u>
Greece	336 000.00
Spain	<u>1 056 000.00</u>
France	<u>1 068 450.00</u>
Italy	<u>1 101 565.00</u>
Cyprus	48 000.00
Latvia	144 000.00
Lithuania	168 000.00
Luxembourg	48 000.00
Hungary	<u>339 725.00</u>
Malta	<u>48 000.00</u>
Netherlands	<u>311 500.00</u>
Austria	240 000.00
Poland	<u>433 397.00</u>
Portugal	<u>312 000.00</u>
<u>Romania</u>	<u>576 000.00</u>
Slovenia	<u>146 964.00</u>
Slovakia	168 000.00
Finland	528 000.00
Sweden	<u>528 000.00</u>
United Kingdom	<u>759 300.00</u>
<u>Reserve</u> ^(*)	<u>42 131.00</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>10 800 000.00</u>

(*) Some grants awarded in 2007 fall below the maximum amount of EUR 24 000 per relay. It could therefore be the case that the grants to be awarded, in view of the work programme and the estimated budget established by the host structures for their relays in 2008, will be slightly higher than those for 2007.

Annex 2

Annual Work programme in the field of communication for 2008 as regards grants intended for financing the host structures of the "EUROPE DIRECT" information relays across the European Union

1. BUDGET LINE

16.03.01 - Information relays

2. BASIC ACT

Tasks resulting from the Commission's prerogatives at institutional level, as provided for in Article 49(2)(c) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities ¹, as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 of 13 December 2006 ².

Commission Decision on implementing the legal framework for the award of grants for the host structures of the *EUROPE DIRECT information relays* for the period 2005-2008, C(2004) 2869, 27.7.2004, as amended for the first time by Decision C(2006) 5462 of 17 November 2006 and for the second time by the present Decision.

OTHER REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Annual work programme on grants and contracts in the field of press and communication for 2005 as regards grants intended for financing the host structures of information relays, C(2004) 3279, 30.8.2004.

Annual work programme on grants and contracts in the field of press and communication for 2006 as regards grants intended for financing the host structures of information relays, C(2005) 5468, 12.12.2005.

Annual work programme on grants and contracts in the field of communication for 2007 as regards grants intended for financing the host structures of information relays, C(2006) 5462, 17.11.2006.

PRELIMINARY REMARK

The above-mentioned work programme (C(2004) 3279, 30 August 2004) contains a complete description of the operation and recalls the procedures and criteria for its application at Union level. The following information has been focused on this individual case.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

² OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p.1.

3. DESCRIPTION OF MEASURES FINANCED FROM THE BUDGET LINE

In providing information for citizens, the Commission relies on a body of networks that provide decentralised local information having particular regard for specific social, cultural, political, and economic aspects at local level. The EUROPE *DIRECT* information relay network currently comprises 450 relays in 25 Member States of the Union and will be extended to Bulgaria and Romania from 1 January 2008 through a call for proposals.

It will be financed initially by the appropriations in the budget line referred to in point 1. These appropriations will be used to provide financial support, in the form of an operating grant of between EUR 12 000 and EUR 24 000 per relay, to structures hosting information relays in the EUROPE *DIRECT* network.

In 2008, this network will be extended to the 27 Member States of the Union, including Bulgaria and Romania for the first time.

4. MOBILISATION OF AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS

The Commission has provided for the co-financing of the operational costs of the host structures throughout the Union up to a maximum of EUR 10 800 000:

- in its Decision C(2004) 2869 of 27 July 2004 on implementing the legal framework for the award of grants for the host structures of the EUROPE *DIRECT* information relays for the period 2005-2008, it put the total annual budget at a maximum of EUR 9 984 000 for the 25 Member States listed in Annex II to that Decision;
- in its Decision C(2006) 5462 of 17 November 2006 amending the above-mentioned Decision, it provided for the network to be extended to Bulgaria and Romania and adopted an estimated budget of EUR 240 000 for Bulgaria and EUR 576 000 for Romania;
- with the present Decision, it has amended Annex II to Decision C(2004) 2869 of 27 July 2004 ("Budget by Member State), adding Bulgaria and Romania to the list of Member States included in the network, and updating the figures relating to the amounts of the grants; it has also authorised the launching of calls for proposals in these two Member States in accordance with existing criteria (direct centralised management).

5. TYPES OF ACTION

The above-mentioned Decision C(2004) 2869 of 27 July 2004 sets out the types of action (direct centralised management, as chosen by the fifteen Member States of the Union before 1 May 2004, or indirect centralised management for the ten Member States which joined the Union on that date) and specifies the criteria to be respected as regards calls for proposals.

This Decision extends the system of direct centralised management to EUROPE *DIRECT* networks to be established in Bulgaria and Romania.

5.1. Call for proposals

5.1.1. Organisation of the call for proposals – indicative schedule

Calls for proposals will be launched in Bulgaria and Romania to select the structures required to host the citizen information services.

- Envisaged publication date: Summer 2007
- Selection of beneficiaries: November-December 2007 and awarding of grants: January 2008.

5.1.2. Objectives of the call for proposals

The selection of host structures that will host until 31 December 2008 one or more public information relays with a view to extending the network of EUROPE *DIRECT* relays to the new Member States.

1. Potential beneficiaries

Public or private bodies with a public-service mission that has already developed solid skills in communicating with the public.

2. Criteria

The criteria governing eligibility, selection of potential beneficiaries and grant award will be identical to those governing the calls for proposals launched in the other Member States (cf. items 5.1.4, 5.1.5 and 5.1.6 of the 2005 work programme concerning relays: C(2004) 3279, 30.8.2004).

6. RESULTS EXPECTED

The grants are intended to supplement the existing network of EUROPE *DIRECT* information relays by extending it to Bulgaria and Romania, and to accompany the establishment and subsequent management of an efficient network of local information relays:

- to provide European citizens with a service close to home allowing them:
 - to receive information from the Union on its positions, policies, actions, programmes and financial aid offered by it;
 - to find the information sought in an appropriate form;
 - to communicate their questions, opinions and suggestions to the institutions;
- to promote the provision of reliable information, adapted to local needs.

7. BUDGETARY IMPACT

The budget available for the implementation of this work programme forms part of the appropriations in line 16.0301 – Information relays.

7.1. Overall figures for the financial year 2008 (in euros)

The commitment appropriations presented below are subject to their adoption by the budgetary authority.

7.1.1. Financial year 2008 (in euros)

		CA
Initial appropriation for the year	Amount in the PDB 2008	15 300 000
Transfers		-
Additional appropriation		-
Total appropriation		15 300 000
Appropriation already reserved by another work programme	N/A	-
Balance available		15 300 000
Maximum amount for the proposed action, of which:		10 800 000
– EU-25	Maximum amount	9 984 000
– Bulgaria	Maximum amount	240 000
– Romania	Maximum amount	576 000

7.1.2. Carried over to the financial year (in euros)

N/A

7.1.3. Following financial year (in euros)

N/A

7.2. Description of the action

The commitments available here are to be used to provide financial assistance in the form of operating grants for structures hosting EUROPE *DIRECT* information relays in the Member States of the Union.

7.3. Method of calculation adopted (forms of measures)

See point 4.

7.4. Schedule of payments (in euros)

Line	Commitments	Payments		
		Year 2008	Year 2009	Total
16 03 01	Year 2008	Year 2008	Year 2009	Total
Total	10 800 000	7 560 000	3 240 000	10 800 000

BUDGETARY IMPACT STATEMENT
(cf. Article 16 of the Internal Rules)

POLICY AREA: 16 - COMMUNICATION

ACTIVITY: 16 03 – LOCAL COMMUNICATION

WORK PROGRAMME FOR: 2008, AS REGARDS GRANTS INTENDED FOR FINANCING THE HOST STRUCTURES OF THE EUROPE *DIRECT* INFORMATION RELAYS ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. BUDGET HEADING CONCERNED AND TITLE

Line 16 03 01 – Information relays

2. LEGAL BASIS

Tasks resulting from the Commission's prerogatives at institutional level, as provided for in Article 49(2)(c) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹.

Commission Decision on implementing the legal framework for the award of grants for the host structures of EUROPE *DIRECT* information relays for the period 2005-2008, C(2004) 2869 of 27 July 2004, as amended:

- by Decision C(2006) 5462 of 17 November 2006, in particular in order to strengthen the current network via additional calls for proposals targeting in particular those regions not yet covered after 1 January 2007 and extending the network to Bulgaria and Romania
- and amended for the second time by the present Decision, in particular to enable the use of direct centralised management when the network is extended to Bulgaria and Romania from 1 January 2008.

3. OVERALL FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR (IN EUROS)

The commitment appropriations presented below are subject to their adoption by the budgetary authority.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1.

- ▣ **3.a – Current year N/A**
- ▣ **3.b – Carried over to the financial year N/A**
- ▣ **3.c – Following financial year**

		CA
Initial appropriation for the year (budget)	Amount in the PDB 2008	15 300 000
Transfers		-
Additional appropriation		-
Total appropriation		15 300 000
Appropriations already reserved by another work programme	Not applicable	
Balance available		15 300 000
Amount for the proposed action	Maximum amount	10 800 000

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

The commitments available here are to be used to provide financial assistance in the form of operating grants for structures hosting *EUROPE DIRECT* information relays in the Member States of the Union.

5. METHOD OF CALCULATION ADOPTED

See point 4.

6. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENT (IN EURO)

Line	Commitments	Payments		
		Year 2008	Year 2009	Total
16 03 01	Year 2008	Year 2008	Year 2009	Total
Total	10 800 000	7 560 000	3 240 000	10 800 000