

## **Call for proposals to aid economic recovery by granting Community financial assistance to projects in the field of energy**

### **Gas and Electricity Infrastructure (interconnections) projects**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **1- What is the average maximum EC contribution per project?**

The maximum EU financial aid per project is stipulated in the Annex- Part A of the draft Regulation. The financial support cannot exceed 50% of the total cost of the action supported.

#### **2 – How many projects per location would be financed?**

The Annex-Part A of the draft Regulation identifies projects, and the EU financial aid will be, in principle, granted for one or several actions (related to the same project). It is however not impossible that in specific cases, more than a project covered by the same heading will be financed (for instance for the gas reverse flow equipment/infrastructure).

#### **3 - Is it better to have a collaborative proposal (several entities joining) or just one with its appropriate capacities? Should collaboration be concreted in a consortium agreement?**

The Article 11.1.1.2 (Eligible applicants) of the call for proposals states:

Proposals **may be** submitted, by one of the following types of applicants:

- one or several Member States acting jointly;
- with the agreement of all Member State(s) directly concerned by the project in question, by one or several public or private undertakings or bodies acting jointly;
- with the agreement of all Member States directly concerned by the project in question, by one or several international organisations acting jointly;
- with the agreement of all Member States directly concerned by the project in question, by a joint undertaking.

For cross-border projects (interconnections), a single application prepared jointly by the parties concerned is the minimum requested.

#### **4- Please explain the definitions “*investments stage*” and “*investment phase*”, also point out the link between these formulations given in the Regulation?**

The investment phase concerns the phase of the project construction where capital costs are incurred. The investment stage means that the Project has reached sufficient maturity to incur substantial capital expenditure by ordering and purchasing raw material (cables, pipelines, compression stations, etc), contracting civil engineering works and realising technical studies necessary to implement the project.

**5 - Is it possible to make a beneficiary of the grant Single Purpose Company (project development company), which will be established later by applicants (after the deadline for submission of proposals)? If yes, how should it be reflected in the application (for example bank account information and other facts)?**

You may decide to choose the Single Purpose Company as beneficiary of the grant at the condition the Company exists when submitting your application form. It means that you are able to provide the information on the legal entity and on the bank account. If the Single Purpose Company has not been created when submitting your application form, you may explain that it will be created at a certain time to become the beneficiary of the grant. In this case, you will have to choose a beneficiary amongst the 3 TSO involved in the project and the newly created company could become beneficiary through the correspondent amendment of the grant Decision.

**6 - How much subproject/action proposals can be submitted within the project?**

You may decide to submit several actions for the same project and in this situation it will be requested to duplicate part C1, C2 and C3 for each action.

**7 - What type of undertaking is “Joint undertaking” (clause 1 Part A1 of Proposal submission form)? Should both parties provide the application in this case (forms filled separately)?**

A joint undertaking is a single entity decided by and made of different partners, therefore a single application form is required.

**8 - What in case if one of the parties is a public body and another is a private body? How the funding for action should be split in this case? Should the sum be divided into two parts and two accounts should be given?**

Same as point 7 above.

The sum should be divided according to what has been agreed at the level of the joint undertaking. If this latter does not have yet a proper bank account, the sum should thus be split and allocated to the each partner involved the joint undertaking.

**9 - Should IRR (Internal Rate of Return) be calculated for the project of infrastructural type (the Project is not intended to generate profit; costs of the Project will be covered from transmission tariff (included in the tariff)?**

In case of regulated tariffs, the IRR should be given by the competent regulator.

**10 - What is meant by Ex-ante evaluation of the project? Could the results of feasibility study be treated as an ex-ante evaluation?**

Usually, feasibility studies include ex-ante evaluations. Ex-ante evaluation represents the way to demonstrate the validity of the project and its likely impacts (social – economic – financial – legal etc...) when it becomes operational.

**11 - If at the present the Environmental Impact assessment of Action/Project has not been implemented yet, should the Project applicant submit the signed Annex II-B and Annex II-C?**

In such case not, nevertheless it is advisable to provide explanation on the situation and the correspondent milestones set to achieve these objectives which will also allow the Commission to check the maturity of the action by the end of 2010.

**12 - UPDATED - Does the Commission envisage relocating of the financial assistance in case if some of the project applicants will not uptake appropriations? Is it possible that financial assistance will be relocated within the framework of common projects or fully to other projects?**

According to article 28 of the draft EPR Regulation, the Commission shall monitor the implementation of this Regulation. Each year, when it presents the preliminary draft budget, it shall present a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the implementation of the Programme. If the report identifies serious risks in implementing the priority projects the Commission should recommend measures to offset those risks, and make additional proposals for projects consistent with the Recovery Plan, if appropriate.

**13 - Are the advance and interim payments possible during Project implementation and please mention the possible percentage and payment schedule? Would there be introduced any specific deadlines for the submission of invoices to reimburse the project costs?**

You may receive a pre-financing of 30% against a bank guarantee (see Article I.2.1 of the Commission Decision model text). Interim payment – upon the receipt by the Commission of invoices - can be requested at the latest 6 months before the end date of the Decision and should not exceed 70% of the maximum amount of the financial aid granted (see Article I.2.2 1 and I.2.2.3 of the Commission Decision model text). All deadlines will be fixed in the Commission Decision on the basis of the information you will provide in your application form if accepted by the evaluation committee.

**14 - When should be made the final payment within the project? Does the Commission envisage adapting the n+2 or n+ 3 rules under the Regulation?**

All deadlines will be fixed in the Commission Decision on the basis of the information provided in the application form if accepted by the evaluation committee. In principle, the action should not exceed five years.

**15- Are the running (already started) projects eligible under the Regulation?**

According to Article 6.2 of the Call for Proposals only costs incurred after the signature by both parties of the grant agreement or the notification of the individual commission decision will be eligible. Following a specific request from the applicant(s), costs incurred no earlier than the submission of the grant application, may exceptionally be considered eligible if duly justified in the proposal and accepted by the Evaluation committee.

**16 - Should exact funding commitments from third parties (banks, other financial institutions like NIB, EIB, EBRD) be presented or the COM will be satisfied by anticipated indicative financing scheme?**

It is preferable to provide exact funding commitment, nevertheless, if you are not in such a position, indicative amount should be presented.

**17 - What means “only costs incurred after the signature by both parties....” (Call for proposals 6.2.point). Does it mean that undertaking after this date can sign the contract for works or can make the payments?**

See the reply to Question 15.

**18 - What publicity action is necessary to carry out? Which type of action? Organization of acts, note shipment of press to means, publications on the project (pamphlets or other supports in electronic paper or), information through page Web, Web, notes of press, hiring of announcements in press, wedges of radio, banners in Internet, etc.**

It is necessary to indicate that the project has received financial aid from the EEPR Regulation in all the documents concerned and when the construction is taking place.

**19 - In the previous stages of the project, funding from the TEN system was requested. As part of the information required for that funding coincides with the info requested in the recovery plan, is it enough to provide a copy of that information, or the recovery plan requires of a more detailed explanation?**

If the TEN-E funding was directly linked to the project, please provide the TEN-E Decision number, the related action, the amount granted in €

**20 – Do the copies of the official document required have to be certified and translated?**

It is **not** necessary to provide certified and translated copies of the official documents.

**21 - Which documents will attest that the public and private undertakings and bodies have the technical and operational capacity to complete the action for which the grant is sought?**

The applicant should explain, in one page maximum, that the similar activities, for which EEPR funds are requested, have already been carried out by the project promoter. If necessary, the applicant may decide to include documents (as annexes to the submission form) which demonstrate its technical capacity.

In case the applicant is a newly created joint vehicle company, the parent companies will have to demonstrate their technical capacity.

**22 - What is meant under “network effect” (see part B2.2.5 of the submission form)?**

It is a project which impacts (either positive or negative) other parts of the network. **For instance**, a cross-border project between two Member States may also have impacts in terms of stability grid for the concerned region or increase the security of supply of neighbouring countries concerned.

**23 - How detailed descriptions should be given for the activities and their sub-activities?**

Activities and sub-activities should have a title and a description which will allow an appropriate identification and follow up of the action for which the EEPR financial aid is requested. This information will be used to draft the Commission Decision granting the EEPR funds.

**24 - How to demonstrate that an action contributes to the objective of environmental sustainability?**

Projects can also be assessed on the basis on their direct or indirect impact on the environment.

For instance (non exhaustive examples): a new power interconnection can allow an increase of "wind energy" or have a positive impact on the efficiency of the power generation system of a given Member State.

A new gas interconnection could also have a positive impact on environment by reducing the use of other more pollutant fossil fuels in power generation.

**25 – On which basis the Benefit/Cost Ratio has to be calculated?**

There is not a single model at European Union level; this depends on the national administrative organization of the different Member States. In general, calculation models are provided by the national regulator, but often, it is the Transmission System Operator (TSO) that is responsible of the calculation (this latter might have to be endorsed by the national regulator when an investment project is decided). It may also be that the national authorities – the Ministry competent for energy – set the level of the profitability of such an investment in the energy sector.

**26 – In case there are several applicants, how many Submission Form have to be submitted?**

One application form per project is required. In case of multiple applicants, it is also required to provide a joint application; each applicant should fill parts A1, A2, A4 and A5 and enclosed them in the submission form. The applicants should coordinate themselves to present to the Commission a coherent submission form.

In case several "actions" are proposed in the framework of a same project, parts C1, C2 and C3 should be duplicated. If several Member States are concerned by the project, they should provide their support to the submission form (form A2 to be filled).

**27 - Section 8 of the Call requires each applicant to submit a declaration on honour stating that it complies with Sections 93(1), 94 and 96(2) of the Financial Regulation. Is there a form/pattern of such declaration available, or should each applicant draft an individual declaration?**

The annex I of the Submission form should be signed.

**28 – Would it be possible that the budget boundaries between projects are flexible inside the Interconnection sector?**

The annex Part A of the draft Regulation stipulates the maximum Community financial aid to be granted by project and does not foresee any budget flexibility between the projects mentioned.

**29 – Does the land acquisition costs or the right of way (servitude) costs are considered as eligible costs?**

None of them are eligible.

**30 - Are the construction supervision costs considered as eligible costs?**

In principle, the costs are eligible if they satisfy the general criteria specified in the Article III.3.7 of the Commission model Decision.

**31 - In case the action consists of supply of equipment (i.e. pipes, valves, turbine etc.), are the costs for storing this equipment until the start of the works, eligible costs?**

This cost is not eligible as it does not directly relate to the implementation of the infrastructure

**32 - In case the action consists of supply of equipment through the EU procurement procedures and a supplier from non-EU state is chosen, will these costs be eligible?**

The eligibility of costs relate to the implementation of the action irrespectively of the origin of the equipment.

**33 - Should the request for advance payment be already enclosed in the Submission form?**

No. The granting of the Community financial aid is formalised when the Commission Decision is notified to the beneficiary.

**34 - Please explain the role of Member State within this programme. Is it planned to involve Member State institutions for programme monitoring?**

The Article 11 of the draft EEP Regulation states that "Member States shall undertake the technical monitoring and financial control of projects in close cooperation with the Commission and shall certify the amount and the conformity with this Regulation of the expenditure incurred in respect of projects or parts of projects. Member States may request the participation of the Commission during on-the-spot checks." The Commission decision's model also foresees that Member States should certify that the expenses incurred are directly linked to the project.

**35 – How the maturity criterion will be defined?**

The "maturity" is an award criterion that will be assessed by checking the level of capital expenditure to be incurred by 31/12/2010 with respect to the total eligible cost of the project.

The projects eligible to receive EEPR Community financial aid should therefore demonstrate that they have reached a sufficient maturity by the end of 2010. To assess this degree of maturity, one of the indicators identified in the EEPR Regulation is **the level of capital expenditure incurred**.

To demonstrate that capital expenditure has been incurred, the applicants should provide:

- **proof that activities** covering the realization of technical studies necessary to implement the action as well as works and purchase of equipment to build the infrastructure **have taken place during the eligibility period**;
- **proof that contracts** for civil engineering works **have been signed** and **orders placed** for the purchase of raw material (cables, pipelines, compression stations, etc).  
(See also the answer to question 41)

Feasibility studies are excluded.

The assessment of the **implementation level of the project as a whole** will be also taken into consideration when assessing the **maturity of the action**.

### **36 – Does “stakeholder” stand for the project partners or for interested parties?**

It concerns the project partners as well as all the other parties involved, whose input/commitment is needed for the implementation of the action.

### **37- Is there a general Community regulation/legislation, which specifies formal elements of Community grant applications and/or common submissions addressed to Communities, and is applicable to the EEPR grant applications?**

The Financial Regulation applicable to the General Budget of the European Communities (Council Regulation n° 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 - OJ L 248, 16.09.2002, p.1.) and its Implementing Rules (Commission Regulation n° 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 - OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1) stipulate the Community legislation in force applicable to grants. The draft EEPR Regulation stipulates the rules for granting Community financial assistance to projects in the field of energy in relation to the programme to aid economic recovery (EEPR) under the current call. The formal details on how to submit grant applications under the current EEPR call are specified in the published Call for Proposals. All referred documents are available on DG TREN website.

### **38- What would be the consequences on the request of support if not all the documents needed in the call for proposals are provided by 15 July 2009?**

As a matter of principle, the application forms should be **fully completed and include all the supporting documents, stamps, signatures**.

Nevertheless, if some signatures and stamps of the supporting documents cannot be provided - for duly justified reasons - by the closing date of the call, the applicants will be asked during the negotiation period (provisional date: first half of September) to provide the missing signatures or stamps.

### **39 – In what cases an applicant can be excluded from the EEPR exercise?**

Applicants can be excluded from the EEPR call for proposals:

- (a) If they are not eligible to receive a Community grant under the EEPR Regulation. To be eligible for EEPR grant, applicants should be either Members States or public or private undertakings or bodies, international organisations or joint undertakings applying with the agreement of the Member State(s) directly concerned by the projects listed in the Annex, part A of the draft Regulation. (Ref. Article 11.1.1.2 of the Call for Proposals in relation to Article 7 (1) and (2) of the draft EEPR Regulation).
- (b) If they are, at the time of the grant award procedure, in one of the situations referred to in articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2) of the Financial Regulation.

#### **40 – What is the eligible period of an action and the duration of the decision?**

The eligible period of an action is the period of implementation of the action as stipulated in Article II.2.1 of Annex II of the Individual Commission Decision granting financial aid in the field of the EEPR for gas and electricity interconnections. In other words, the costs relating to these actions can be supported provided the activities are taking place during the eligible period of the action,

The duration of the decision could be between 3 to maximum 5 years depending on the nature of the actions to be implemented.

#### **41 – In case the signature of a contract is used to demonstrate the maturity of a project, what kind of document should be provided?**

It is necessary to provide a proof that the contract has been signed (not the contract itself). See also the answer to question 20. In addition, it is also crucial to provide the milestones of the activities and sub-activities which are foreseen in the contract.

#### **41 - Please clarify Article 22 of Draft Regulation (resources of the EIB)?**

The draft EEPR Regulation foresees the possibility to provide a contribution to an appropriate financial instrument managed by the EIB in order to support EEPR projects. At the present stage, the full EEPR financial envelope has been earmarked for the projects listed in annex part A of the draft Regulation. However, it is not excluded that - in the future - there might be a possibility to activate the provisions of article 22.

#### **42 - Do the costs of staff assigned to the Action and travel and subsistence allowances for staff taking part in the Action are considered eligible? How these costs should be presented in the Submission form?**

The costs of staff assigned to the Action and travel and subsistence allowances for staff taking part in the Action are eligible providing they satisfy the general and specific criteria for eligibility as set out in Article III.3.7 (1) and (3), a) and c) of the model Individual Commission Decision for granting Community aid in the field of the EEPR for gas and electricity interconnections.

In the submission form, it is requested to provide a breakdown of costs by activities and sub-activities (if applicable). Those costs should be included in these activities, nevertheless when requesting the interim or the final payment, you may be asked to provide the proof that those costs have really incurred and that they directly linked to the activities mentioned in the Commission Decision (invoices, internal time sheets, salary slips, declarations to Social Security, etc).

**43 -Do the necessary permits and licences have to be obtained by the applicants for the EEPR funding by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2010?**

The necessary permits and licences should be obtained by 31 December 2010. Nevertheless, a suspensive condition could be introduced in the Commission Decision granting the EEPR funds, in particular for works, if some authorisations linked to environmental requirements are missing at the date of the submission. The Evaluation Committee may then decide to allocate the grants at the condition that these authorisations are provided in due time.

When preparing the application form, the milestones, the expected date and the verifying means need to be provided and in this context the expected date to receive the administrative authorisations should be mentioned. This information will be then verified by the Commission services before the end of 2010.

**44a – If one (or more) action will only consist in the supply of raw material (cables – pipes etc...), whereas the planning and environmental permits to build the infrastructure for which this material will be used have not been provided yet, does the action remain eligible?**

In principle, the authorisation process is part of the project and therefore the purchase of raw material should be considered – in the submission form - as an action directly related to the implementation of the infrastructure. All the details concerning the infrastructure implementation of the infrastructure should therefore be provided in the submission form. See also FAQ 11 for further details.

**44b -If at the end the authorizations are not granted while the material has been purchased, what are the consequences for the beneficiary?**

If the authorisations are not granted, the beneficiary may not be in a position to implement the project. If this is the case, depending on the particular situation, the Commission may have recourse to the provisions for termination and/or the reimbursement of the Community financial aid as per Articles III.4.2.2 and III.4.4 of the model Individual Commission Decision. Due regard will be given to the principle of proportionality taking into account all relevant factors.

**45 - In case an action, or an activity included in one action could not be completed, what would be the consequences in terms of aid granted by the Community?**

Depending on the particular case, the Commission may have recourse to the provisions for termination and/or the reimbursement of the Community financial aid as per Articles III.4.2.2 and III.4.4 of the model Individual Commission Decision. Due regard will be given to the principle of proportionality taking into account all relevant factors.

**46. In case of a project involving several transmission system operators in a single country, could each operator send its own proposal separately?**

In the reply to FAQ n°3 it is stated that "For cross-border projects (interconnections), a single application prepared jointly by the parties concerned is the minimum requested". It is therefore considered that for domestic projects, involving several domestic TSO, the same rule applies and a single application will also be requested.

**47. Are there guidelines for EEPR financing of projects crossing sea straits or located in open seas?**

An action to implement a project or part of a project listed in Annex A of the draft EEPR Regulation that involves crossing sea straits or, more generally, maritime zones within and beyond the territorial waters of an EC Member State is eligible for EEPR financial assistance, where the action:

- implements a project or part of a project lying in the territorial waters of an EC Member State concerned (i.e. not in the territorial waters of a third country);
- implements a project or part of a project lying in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or on the Continental shelf of an EC Member State (i.e. not in the EEZ or on the Continental shelf of a third country);
- implements a project or part of a project lying in the high seas that is the continuation of gas or electricity infrastructures between two or more EC Member States, destined to connect these Member States (gas and electricity infrastructures are defined in article 2 of the draft EEPR Regulation, e.g. gas pipelines or submarine electricity lines).

**48. In the context of the EEPR financing, what are the guidelines for the eligibility of costs incurred in third countries or costs incurred by non-EU entities inside the EU territory? UPDATED**

Costs incurred in third countries may not be considered eligible for Community financing under the EEPR Regulation.

Costs incurred by non-EU entities inside the EU territory may be considered eligible, where the proposed action:

- clearly serves the specific objective of security of energy supply;
- is indispensable for the implementation of the project, notably where only the non-EU entity possess the technical know-how and the relevant technology;
- the Member State or Member States in which the project is located explicitly agree – in the case of gas and electricity infrastructures (Article 7 of the draft EEPR Regulation);
- the Member State or Member States are in a position to ensure the technical monitoring and financial control of the project - in the case of gas and electricity infrastructures (Article 11 of the draft EEPR Regulation).

These conditions are cumulative.

**49. With regard to interim payments, would it be possible to have several interim payment requests in the course of the duration of the action?**

There can be several interim payments. The amount of each interim payment will be calculated on the basis of the eligible costs actually incurred as shown in the interim financial statement and validated by the Commission. In no circumstances may the interim payment exceed 70% of the maximum amount of the financial aid as specified in **Article 2** of the model of the Individual Commission Decision.

**50. Does the non-profit rule as foreseen by article 109 of the Financial Regulation has to be respected by the Project or to the action?**

The non-profit rule applies to the particular action for which the financial aid is granted.

**51. What is meant under “Indirect Cost” and whether these indirect costs are part of total eligible cost of the action?**

The model Commission Decision in its Article III.3.7 (paragraphs 4 and 5) stipulates that:

- The eligible **indirect costs** for the Action are those costs which, with due regard for the conditions of eligibility described in paragraph 1, are not identifiable as specific costs directly linked to performance of the Action which can be booked to it direct, but which have nevertheless been incurred in connection with the eligible direct costs for the Action. They may not include any eligible direct costs.
- The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the Action may be eligible for flat-rate funding fixed at not more than 7% of the total eligible direct costs. If provision is made in the Decision granting financial aid for flat-rate funding in respect of indirect costs, they need not be supported by accounting documents.

**52. Would it possible be to update the submission form (under unexpected circumstances) once the proposal is completed and sent to EC?**

The applicants should submit all requested information and documentation with the submission form. Proposals should be as complete as possible. As indicated in FAQ n°38 administrative complementary information could also be requested during the negotiation phase but in no way after the application deadline proposals can be changed.

**53 -What are the differences in the environmental impact assessment requirements according to the Council Directive 85/337/EEC and the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC? What are the documents needed in the context of the IEA and SEA Directives?**

The EIA and SEA Directives are two different processes (i.e. the environmental reports for each of them are different as one concerns projects and the other one concerns plans and programmes).

EIA concerns projects and SEA deals with plans and programmes

Documents requested under the framework of the EIA Directive are:

- the information as per article 9(1) (content of decision, reasons on which the latter is based, description of mitigation measures)
- the non technical summary of the environmental report
- information on consultations (with environmental authorities, with the public and with other Member States if applicable)

Documents requested under the framework of the SEA Directive are

- notification of the decision as per article 9(b). The competent authorities, the public (and any other MS consulted) must be informed of the adoption of the p/p and certain additional info (how environmental considerations and results of consultations have been taken into account) must be made available to them.
- the non technical summary of the environmental report
- information on consultations (with competent authorities and the public)

**54 – Is it necessary to attach a map at scale of 1:100.000 of the NATURA 2000 sites if the authority certified that the Action is not likely to have significant effects on a NATURA 2000 site?**

Even though the conclusions of the relevant authorities show that the Action is not likely to have a significant effect on N2000 sites, we do need to have a map showing the location of the Action and that of the nearest N2000 zones.

**55 – If the grant application is submitted by two applicants, how this should be explained in the Submission Form?**

In case of joint application, each applicant should fill parts A1, A2, A4 and A5 and enclosed them in the same envelop together with the rest of the submission form. The applicants should coordinate themselves in order to present to the Commission a coherent application form. If several actions (under a same project) are proposed, you should duplicate parts C1, C2 and C3 (see also FAQ 6 and 7).

**56 – If, within the "gas reverse flow" programme, there are several projects presented by the same TSO, but that will be implemented independently, should the TSO submit one common application covering all three actions, or should three applications be filed?**

If there are three fully independent projects, it would be advisable to present three different submission forms. If the actions – despite they are physically separated - can be considered under a same project (i.e meaning that they are - to some extend - connected) thus what is stated in FAQ n° 46 and n°56 applies.

**57 – In case of multiple beneficiaries (for a single action) what will be the eligible cost for each beneficiary to be indicated in Section C2.2 of the application?**

The eligible cost for each beneficiary will be the portion of eligible costs attributable to the particular beneficiary corresponding to the cost of activities for which this beneficiary will be responsible and in which he will be involved. The total eligible costs represent the sum of eligible costs by activity and by beneficiary.

**58 - What should the socio-economic analysis include as the main features?**

It is expected that the applicant provides - in the application form - a summary of the main results of the socio-economic studies that have been carried out and that give the proof of the pertinence of the construction of a given infrastructure and its likely economic impacts (on

growth - competitiveness - reduction of energy dependency - economies of scale etc...) as well as its direct and indirect impact on labour forces, energy cost etc...

**59 - Can a positive EIA be considered as a sufficient explanation for the action's contribution to the objective of environmental sustainability?**

An EIA is the way to assess the likely impacts of the project on the environment and the mitigation measures that could be implemented to limit such an impact. The contribution to the objective of environmental sustainability goes beyond that assessment. The applicant should provide information on the consequences of the implementation of the project - for instance – on climate change (does the project contribute to the reduction of CO2 emission by allowing the use of gas instead of heavy fuels - does it facilitate the transport of "green" electricity (from wind farms) etc...).

**60 - Which documents are required for the commission to make the individual decision?**

The individual Commission decision will be based on the information and documents (administrative, technical and financial) provided by the applicant in the Proposals submission form and assessed by the Commission services as being compliant with the requirements for funding established in the EEPR Regulation and further defined in the Call for proposals.

**61 – What form the EEPR financial aid could take?**

The financial aid allowed by the EEPR Regulation is in the form of direct financial contributions to finance actions (to develop the energy projects mentioned in the Annex of the Regulation) intended to help achieve the objectives of the EEPR Regulation. Interest rate rebates are not foreseen by the EEPR regulation and were mistakenly included in the application form and in the presentation slides for the gas and electricity infrastructure.

However, in case project promoters have already submitted an application in which they have chosen the interest rate rebate as the preferred form of financial aid, there is no need for them to resubmit the application. Should the proposal receive a positive evaluation result, the form and the amount of the direct grant to be awarded will be addressed in the negotiation phase with the Commission services.

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