



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Equality between Men and Women, Action against Discrimination, Civil Society
Action against Discrimination, Civil Society

Service Contract

Contract title **Establishment of a Network of socio-economic experts in the anti-discrimination field**

Contract reference No **VC/2008/0209**
The above title and reference No **must** be quoted in **all** correspondence with the Commission.

Contractor
.....

Other administrative information

Department **DG EMPL/G/4**

Prior information O.J. ref. No of notice publication:
Call for tender DG EMPL ref. No: VT/2008/007 of
Tender information O.J. ref. No of notice publication:
EPIC Record No:/.../.....
Service category No: A10

Other accounting information

Commitment No **SI2.**
This commitment No **must** be quoted in correspondence relating to **invoices / payments.**

Type of Contract **V/SE/SEC02**

The European Community (hereinafter referred to as **“the Community”**),
represented by the Commission of the European Communities (hereinafter referred to as **“the Commission”**),
which is represented for the purposes of the signature of this Contract by Stefan OLSSON,
Head of Unit - EMPL/G/4, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG,

on the one part,

AND

.....(*official name in full*),
registered legal form:,
statutory registration number:,
official address in full:,
VAT registration number:,
(hereinafter referred to as **“the Contractor”**),
represented for the purposes of the signature and management of the present Contract by
.....(*forename and name in full*),(*function*),

of the other part,

HAVE AGREED

the **Special Conditions** and the **General Conditions** below and the following **Annexes**:

- **Annex I** Tender Specifications (Invitation to Tender No. VT/2008/007 of) and Monitoring
- **Annex II** Contractor's Tender (Registre CAD Ref. No. of)
- **Annex III** Breakdown of prices
- **Annex IV** CVs and classification of experts
- **Annex V** Fiscal provisions regarding invoicing by the Contractor

which forms an integral part of this Contract (hereinafter referred to as **“the Contract”**).

The terms set out in the Special Conditions shall take precedence over those in the other parts of the Contract. The terms set out in the General Conditions shall take precedence over those in the Annexes. The terms set out in the Tender Specifications (Annex I) and in the Breakdown of prices (Annex III) shall take precedence over those in the Tender (Annex II).

Subject to the above, the several instruments forming part of this Contract are to be taken as mutually explanatory. Ambiguities or discrepancies within or between such parts shall be explained or rectified by a written instruction issued by the Commission, subject to the rights of the Contractor under Article I.7 should he dispute any such instruction.

I. Special conditions

Article I.1 Subject

I.1.1. The subject of the Contract is: **Establishment of a Network of socio-economic experts in the anti-discrimination field.**

I.1.2. The Contractor shall execute the tasks assigned to him in accordance with the Tender Specifications annexed to the Contract (Annex I).

Article I.2 Duration

I.2.1. The Contract shall enter into force on the date on which it is signed by the last contracting party. The date of signature of the present Contract is that of the date stamp applied by the postal services of Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG on the title page of the present Contract after it has been signed by both parties.

I.2.2. Execution of the tasks may under no circumstances begin before the date on which the Contract enters into force.

I.2.3. The duration of the tasks shall not exceed 12 months. This period and all other periods specified in the Contract are calculated in calendar days. Execution of the tasks shall start from the date of entry into force of the Contract. The period of execution of the tasks may be extended only with the express written agreement of the parties before such period elapses.

The Commission is not obliged to react to any request for extension of the duration of the tasks received less than 30 days before expiry of the period of execution or with less than one third of the period of execution left to run, whichever period is the shorter.

I.2.4. The Contract may be renewed up to 3 time(s), each time for a period of execution of the tasks of 12 months, only before payment of the balance and with the express written agreement of the parties, indicating the date on which execution of the tasks shall start. Renewal does not imply any modification or deferment of existing obligations.

Article I.3 Contract price

I.3.1. Maximum total amount

The maximum total amount to be paid by the Commission under the Contract shall be EUR (*amount in figures*) covering all tasks executed.

I.3.2. Price revisions

Not applicable.

I.3.3. Travel, subsistence and shipment expenses

[2 automated options, depending of the value entered for Part "Reimbursable Expenses" of the budget:

► Not applicable.

► In addition to the total amount specified in Article I.3.1, travel, subsistence and shipment expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with Article II.7, as shall other expenses provided for by the Tender Specifications up to a maximum amount of EUR (*amount in figures*). The daily subsistence allowance referred to in Article II.7.4(d) shall be determined in accordance with Annex III, 2.2.1.

]

Article I.4 **Payment periods and formalities**

Payments under the Contract shall be made in accordance with Article II.4. Payments shall be executed only if the Contractor has fulfilled all his contractual obligations by the date on which the invoice is submitted. Payment requests may not be made if payments for previous periods have not been executed as a result of default or negligence on the part of the Contractor.

I.4.1. Pre-financing

Not applicable.

I.4.2. Interim payment

Requests for interim payment by the Contractor shall be admissible if accompanied by

- an interim technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I,
- the relevant invoices,

provided the report has been approved by the Commission.

The Commission shall have 60 days from receipt to approve or reject the report, and the Contractor shall have 30 days in which to submit additional information or a new report.

Within 30 days of the date on which the report is approved by the Commission, an interim payment corresponding to the relevant invoices, up to maximum 70% of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1, shall be made.

I.4.3. Payment of the balance

The request for payment of the balance of the Contractor shall be admissible if accompanied by:

- the final technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I,
- the relevant invoices,

provided the report has been approved by the Commission.

The Commission shall have 60 days from receipt to approve or reject the report, and the Contractor shall have 30 days in which to submit additional information or a new report.

Within 30 days of the date on which the report is approved by the Commission, payment of the balance of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1 shall be made.

I.4.4. Performance guarantee

Not applicable.

Article I.5 **Bank account**

Payments shall be made to the Contractor's bank account denominated in euro ¹, identified ² as follows:

- Name of bank:
- Address of branch in full:
- Exact designation of account holder:
- Full account number including codes:
- IBAN or, if non available, BIC code: —

Article I.6 **General administrative provisions**

Any communication relating to the Contract shall be made in writing and shall bear the Contract number. Ordinary mail shall be deemed to have been received by the Commission on the date on which it is registered by the department responsible indicated below. Communications shall be sent to the following addresses:

¹ Or local currency where the receiving country does not allow transactions in EUR.

² By a document issued or certified by the bank.

Commission

European Commission
Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
EMPL/G/4
B-1049 Brussels (Belgium)

Contractor

..... (Mr/Mrs/Ms + forename and name)
..... (function)
..... (company name)
..... (official address in full)

Article I.7 Applicable law and settlement of disputes

I.7.1. The Contract shall be governed by the national substantive law of Belgium.

I.7.2. Any dispute between the parties resulting from the interpretation or application of the Contract which cannot be settled amicably shall be brought before the courts of Brussels.

Article I.8 Other special conditions**Definition of the term “payment request” regarding the interests for late payments**

It is understood that a payment request, as mentioned in Article II.5.3, will only be considered as complete, if all specific documents mentioned in Article I.4; are joined to this request. If these specific documents are not sent to the Commission all together with the payment request, the 60 days shall only run from the date of the first registered receipt of the last document, making the payment request complete. As regards payments subject to the prior approval of a report (or to the signature of a certificate of final acceptance for supplies delivery) by the Commission, according to Article I.4, the period of 60 calendar days shall start only on the date when both the complete payment request has been registered and the report has been approved (or the certificate of final acceptance has been signed) by the Commission, provided the Commission has itself respected the time limits set in the present Contract and its annexes for such approvals.

Data protection

Any personal data included in the Contract shall be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. It shall be processed solely for the purposes of the performance, management and follow-up of the Contract by Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG without prejudice to possible transmission to the bodies charged with a monitoring or inspection task in conformity with Community law. The Contractor shall have the right of access to his personal data and the right to rectify any such data that is inaccurate or incomplete. Should the Contractor have any queries concerning the processing of his personal data, he shall address them to Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG. The Contractor shall have right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

Other additional special conditions

By derogation of Article I.4.2., interim payments will be submitted to the following reporting conditions and time limits :

¿ 8 weeks after signature of the contract the Contractor can submit to the Commission a formal request for a first interim payment accompanied by an inception note describing progress since signature of the contract and the relevant invoices covering actual costs. Acceptance by the Commission of the inception note is a precondition for payment. The total amount of this interim payment cannot exceed 20% of the total amount specified under article 1.3.1 of this contract.

¿ At the earliest six months after signature of the contract the Contractor can submit to the Commission a formal request for a second interim payment. This request needs to be accompanied by an interim report and the relevant invoices covering actual costs. Acceptance by the Commission of the interim report is a precondition for payment.

The Commission shall have 60 days from receipt to approve or reject the relevant reports, and the Contractor shall have 30 days in which to submit additional information or a new report. Within 30 days of the date on which the report is approved by the Commission, an interim payment corresponding to the relevant invoices shall be made. The total accumulated amount of these interim payments cannot exceed 70% of the total amount specified under Part 1.3.1 of this contract.

Draft
Draft

II. General conditions

Article II.1 Performance of the Contract

II.1.1. The Contractor shall perform the Contract to the highest professional standards. The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for complying with any legal obligations incumbent on him, notably those resulting from employment, tax and social legislation.

II.1.2. The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for taking the necessary steps to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the Contract under the laws and regulations in force at the place where the tasks assigned to him are to be executed.

II.1.3. Without prejudice to Article II.3 any reference made to the Contractor's staff in the Contract shall relate exclusively to individuals involved in the performance of the Contract.

II.1.4. The Contractor must ensure that any staff performing the Contract have the professional qualifications and experience required for the execution of the tasks assigned to him.

II.1.5. The Contractor shall neither represent the Commission nor behave in any way that would give such an impression. The Contractor shall inform third parties that he does not belong to the European public service.

II.1.6. The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for the staff who execute the tasks assigned to him.

The Contractor shall make provision for the following employment or service relationships with his staff:

- staff executing the tasks assigned to the Contractor may not be given orders direct by the Commission;
- the Commission may not under any circumstances be considered to be the staff's employer and the said staff shall undertake not to invoke in respect of the Commission any right arising from the contractual relationship between the Commission and the Contractor.

II.1.7. In the event of disruption resulting from the action of a member of the Contractor's staff working on Commission premises or in the event of the expertise of a member of the Contractor's staff failing to correspond to the profile required by the Contract, the Contractor shall replace him without delay. The Commission shall have the right to request the replacement of any such member of staff, stating its reasons for so doing. Replacement staff must have the necessary qualifications and be capable of performing the Contract under the same contractual conditions. The Contractor shall be responsible for any delay in the execution of the tasks assigned to him resulting from the replacement of staff in accordance with this Article.

II.1.8. Should any unforeseen event, action or omission directly or indirectly hamper execution of the tasks, either partially or totally, the Contractor shall immediately and on his own initiative record it and report it to the Commission. The report shall include a description of the problem and an indication of the date on which it started and of the remedial action taken by the Contractor to ensure full compliance with his obligations under the Contract. In such event the Contractor shall give priority to solving the problem rather than determining liability.

II.1.9. Should the Contractor fail to perform his obligations under the Contract in accordance with the provisions laid down therein, the Commission may - without prejudice to its right to terminate the Contract - reduce or recover payments in proportion to the scale of the failure. In addition, the Commission may impose penalties or liquidated damages provided for in Article II.16.

Article II.2 Liability

II.2.1. The Commission shall not be liable for damage sustained by the Contractor in performance of the Contract except in the event of wilful misconduct or gross negligence on the part of the Commission.

II.2.2. The Contractor shall be liable for any loss or damage caused by himself in performance of the Contract, including in the event of subcontracting under Article II.13. The Commission shall not be liable for any act or default on the part of the Contractor in performance of the Contract.

II.2.3. The Contractor shall provide compensation in the event of any action, claim or proceeding brought against the Commission by a third party as a result of damage caused by the Contractor in performance of the Contract.

II.2.4. In the event of any action brought by a third party against the Commission in connection with performance of the Contract, the Contractor shall assist the Commission. Expenditure incurred by the Contractor to this end may be borne by the Commission.

II.2.5. The Contractor shall take out insurance against risks and damage relating to performance of the Contract if required by the relevant applicable legislation. He shall take out supplementary insurance as reasonably required by standard practice in the industry. A copy of all the relevant insurance contracts shall be sent to the Commission should it so request.

Article II.3 Conflict of Interests

II.3.1. The Contractor shall take all necessary measures to prevent any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective performance of the Contract. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest. Any conflict of interests which could arise during performance of the Contract must be notified to the Commission in writing without delay. In the event of such conflict, the Contractor shall immediately take all necessary steps to resolve it.

The Commission reserves the right to verify that such measures are adequate and may require additional measures to be taken, if necessary, within a time limit which it shall set. The Contractor shall ensure that his staff, board and directors are not placed in a situation which could give rise to conflict of interests. Without prejudice to Article II.1 the Contractor shall replace, immediately and without compensation from the Commission, any member of his staff exposed to such a situation.

II.3.2. The Contractor shall abstain from any contact likely to compromise his independence.

II.3.3. The Contractor declares:

- that he has not made and will not make any offer of any type whatsoever from which an advantage can be derived under the Contract,
- that he has not granted and will not grant, has not sought and will not seek, has not attempted and will not attempt to obtain, and has not accepted and will not accept, any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, where such advantage constitutes an illegal practice or involves corruption, either directly or indirectly, inasmuch as it is an incentive or reward relating to performance of the Contract.

II.3.4. The Contractor shall pass on all the relevant obligations in writing to his staff, board, and directors as well as to third parties involved in performance of the Contract. A copy of the instructions given and the undertakings made in this respect shall be sent to the Commission should it so request.

Article II.4 Payments

II.4.1. Pre-financing

Where required by Article I.4.1, the Contractor shall provide a financial guarantee in the form of a bank guarantee or equivalent supplied by a bank or an authorised financial institution (guarantor) equal to the amount indicated in the same article to cover pre-financing under the Contract. Such guarantee

may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by a third party. The guarantor shall pay to the Commission at its request an amount corresponding to payments made by it to the Contractor which have not yet been covered by equivalent work on his part. The guarantor shall stand as first-call guarantor and shall not require the Commission to have recourse against the principal debtor (the Contractor). The guarantee shall specify that it enters into force at the latest on the date on which the Contractor receives the pre-financing. The Commission shall release the guarantor from its obligations as soon as the Contractor has demonstrated that any pre-financing has been covered by equivalent work. The guarantee shall be retained until the pre-financing has been deducted from interim payments or payment of the balance to the Contractor. It shall be released the following month. The cost of providing such guarantee shall be borne by the Contractor.

II.4.2. *Interim payment*

At the end of each of the periods indicated in Annex I the Contractor shall submit to the Commission a formal request for payment accompanied by those of the following documents which are provided for in the Special Conditions:

- an interim technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I;
- the relevant invoices indicating the reference number of the Contract to which they refer;
- statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.7.

If the report is a condition for payment, on receipt the Commission shall have the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions in which:

- to approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend such period and request additional information; or
- to reject it and request a new report.

If the Commission does not react within this period, the report shall be deemed to have been approved. Approval of the report does not imply recognition either of its regularity or of the authenticity, completeness or correctness of the declarations or information enclosed. Where the Commission requests a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this shall be submitted within the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions. The new report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.

II.4.3. *Payment of the balance*

Within sixty days of completion of the tasks referred to in Annex I the Contractor shall submit to the Commission a formal request for payment accompanied by those of the following documents which are provided for in the Special Conditions:

- a final technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I;
- the relevant invoices indicating the reference number of the Contract to which they refer;
- statements of reimbursable expenses in accordance with Article II.7.

If the report is a condition for payment, on receipt the Commission shall have the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions in which:

- to approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend such period and request additional information; or
- to reject it and request a new report.

If the Commission does not react within this period, the report shall be deemed to have been approved. Approval of the report does not imply recognition either of its regularity or of the authenticity, completeness or correctness of the declarations and information enclosed. Where the Commission requests a new report because the one previously submitted has been rejected, this shall be submitted within the period of time indicated in the Special Conditions. The new report shall likewise be subject to the above provisions.

Article II.5 General Provisions concerning Payments

II.5.1. Payments shall be deemed to have been made on the date on which the Commission's account is debited.

II.5.2. The payment periods referred to in Article I.4 may be suspended by the Commission at any time if it informs the Contractor that his payment request is not admissible, either because the amount

is not due or because the necessary supporting documents have not been properly produced. In case of doubt on the eligibility of the expenditure indicated in the payment request, the Commission may suspend the time limit for payment for the purpose of further verification, including an on-the-spot check, in order to ascertain, prior to payment, that the expenditure is eligible.

The Commission shall notify the Contractor accordingly and set out the reasons for the suspension by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent. Suspension shall take effect from the date of dispatch of the letter. The remainder of the period referred to in Article I.4 shall begin to run again once the suspension has been lifted.

II.5.3. In the event of late payment the Contractor shall be entitled to interest, provided the calculated interest exceeds EUR 200. In case interest does not exceed EUR 200, the Contractor may claim interest within two months of receiving the payment. Interest shall be calculated at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its most recent main refinancing operations (*"the reference rate"*) plus seven percentage points (*"the margin"*). The reference rate in force on the first day of the month in which the payment is due shall apply. Such interest rate is published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union. Interest shall be payable for the period elapsing from the calendar day following expiry of the time limit for payment up to the day of payment. Suspension of payment by the Commission may not be deemed to constitute late payment.

Article II.6 Recovery

II.6.1. If total payments made exceed the amount actually due under the Contract or if recovery is justified in accordance with the terms of the Contract, the Contractor shall reimburse the appropriate amount in euro on receipt of the debit note, in the manner and within the time limits set by the Commission.

II.6.2. In the event of failure to pay by the deadline specified in the request for reimbursement, the sum due shall bear interest at the rate indicated in Article II.5.3. Interest shall be payable from the calendar day following the due date up to the calendar day on which the debt is repaid in full.

II.6.3. The Commission may, after informing the Contractor, recover amounts established as certain, of a fixed amount and due by offsetting, in cases where the Contractor also has a claim on the Communities that is certain, of a fixed amount and due. The Commission may also claim against the guarantee, where provided for.

Article II.7 Reimbursements

II.7.1. Where provided by the Special Conditions or by Annex I, the Commission shall reimburse the expenses which are directly connected with execution of the tasks on production of original supporting documents, including receipts and used tickets.

II.7.2. Travel and subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed, where appropriate, on the basis of the shortest itinerary.

II.7.3. Travel expenses shall be reimbursed as follows:

- (a) travel by air shall be reimbursed up to the maximum cost of an economy class ticket at the time of the reservation;
- (b) travel by boat or rail shall be reimbursed up to the maximum cost of a first class ticket;
- (c) travel by car shall be reimbursed at the rate of one first class rail ticket for the same journey and on the same day;
- (d) travel outside Community territory shall be reimbursed under the general conditions stated above provided the Commission has given its prior written agreement.

II.7.4. Subsistence expenses shall be reimbursed on the basis of a daily allowance as follows:

- (a) for journeys of less than 200 km (return trip) no subsistence allowance shall be payable;
- (b) daily subsistence allowance shall be payable only on receipt of a supporting document proving that the person concerned was present at the place of destination;

- (c) daily subsistence allowance shall take the form of a flat-rate payment to cover all subsistence expenses, including accommodation, meals, local transport, insurance and sundries;
- (d) daily subsistence allowance, where applicable, shall be reimbursed at the rate specified in Article I.3.3.

II.7.5. The cost of shipment of equipment or unaccompanied luggage shall be reimbursed provided the Commission has given prior written authorisation.

Article II.8 Ownership of the Results – Intellectual and Industrial Property

Any results or rights thereon, including copyright and other intellectual or industrial property rights, obtained in performance of the Contract, shall be owned solely by the Community, which may use, publish, assign or transfer them as it sees fit, without geographical or other limitation, except where industrial or intellectual property rights exist prior to the Contract being entered into.

Article II.9 Confidentiality

II.9.1. The Contractor undertakes to treat in the strictest confidence and not make use of or divulge to third parties any information or documents which are linked to performance of the Contract. The Contractor shall continue to be bound by this undertaking after completion of the tasks.

II.9.2. The Contractor shall obtain from each member of his staff, board and directors an undertaking that they will respect the confidentiality of any information which is linked, directly or indirectly, to execution of the tasks and that they will not divulge to third parties or use for their own benefit or that of any third party any document or information not available publicly, even after completion of the tasks.

Article II.10 Use, Distribution and Publication of Information

II.10.1. The Contractor shall authorise the Commission to process, use, distribute and publish, for whatever purpose, by whatever means and on whatever medium, any data contained in or relating to the Contract, in particular the identity of the Contractor, the subject matter, the duration, the amount paid and the reports. Where personal data is concerned, Article I.8 shall apply.

II.10.2. Unless otherwise provided by the Special Conditions, the Commission shall not be required to distribute or publish documents or information supplied in performance of the Contract. If it decides not to publish the documents or information supplied, the Contractor may not have them distributed or published elsewhere without prior written authorisation from the Commission.

II.10.3. Any distribution or publication of information relating to the Contract by the Contractor shall require prior written authorisation from the Commission and shall mention the amount paid by the Community. It shall state that the opinions expressed are those of the Contractor only and do not represent the Commission's official position.

II.10.4. The use of information obtained by the Contractor in the course of the Contract for purposes other than its performance shall be forbidden, unless the Commission has specifically given prior written authorisation to the contrary.

Article II. 11 Taxation

II.11.1. The Contractor shall have sole responsibility for compliance with the tax laws which apply to him. Failure to comply shall make the relevant invoices invalid.

II.11.2. The Contractor recognises that the Commission is, as a rule, exempt from all taxes and duties, including value added tax (VAT), pursuant to the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities.

II.11.3. The Contractor shall accordingly complete the necessary formalities with the relevant authorities to ensure that the goods and services required for performance of the Contract are exempt from taxes and duties, including VAT.

II.11.4. Invoices presented by the Contractor shall indicate his place of taxation for VAT purposes and shall specify separately the amounts not including VAT and the amounts including VAT.

Article II.12 Force Majeure

II.12.1. *Force majeure* shall mean any unforeseeable and exceptional situation or event beyond the control of the contracting parties which prevents either of them from performing any of their obligations under the Contract, was not due to error or negligence on their part or on the part of a subcontractor, and could not have been avoided by the exercise of due diligence. Defects in equipment or material or delays in making it available, labour disputes, strikes or financial problems cannot be invoked as *force majeure* unless they stem directly from a relevant case of *force majeure*.

II.12.2. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article II.1.8, if either contracting party is faced with *force majeure*, it shall notify the other party without delay by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt or equivalent, stating the nature, likely duration and foreseeable effects.

II.12.3. Neither contracting party shall be held in breach of its contractual obligations if it has been prevented from performing them by *force majeure*. Where the Contractor is unable to perform his contractual obligations owing to *force majeure*, he shall have the right to remuneration only for tasks actually executed.

II.12.4. The contracting parties shall take the necessary measures to reduce damage to a minimum.

Article II.13 Subcontracting

II.13.1. The Contractor shall not subcontract without prior written authorisation from the Commission nor cause the Contract to be performed in fact by third parties.

II.13.2. Even where the Commission authorises the Contractor to subcontract to third parties, he shall none the less remain bound by his obligations to the Commission under the Contract and shall bear exclusive liability for proper performance of the Contract.

II.13.3. The Contractor shall make sure that the subcontract does not affect rights and guarantees to which the Commission is entitled by virtue of the Contract, notably Article II.17.

Article II.14 Assignment

II.14.1. The Contractor shall not assign the rights and obligations arising from the Contract, in whole or in part, without prior written authorisation from the Commission.

II.14.2. In the absence of the authorisation referred to in 1 above, or in the event of failure to observe the terms thereof, assignment by the Contractor shall not be enforceable against and shall have no effect on the Commission.

Article II.15 Termination by the Commission

II.15.1. The Commission may terminate the Contract in the following circumstances:

- (a) where the Contractor is being wound up, is having his affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject

- of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) where the Contractor has been convicted of an offence concerning his professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;
 - (c) where the Contractor has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
 - (d) where the Contractor has not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which he is established or with those of the country applicable to the Contract or those of the country where the Contract is to be performed;
 - (e) where the Commission seriously suspects the Contractor of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
 - (f) where the Contractor is in breach of his obligations under Article II.3;
 - (g) where the Contractor was guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the Contract procedure or failed to supply this information;
 - (h) where a change in the Contractor's legal, financial, technical or organisational situation could, in the Commission's opinion, have a significant effect on the performance of the Contract;
 - (i) where execution of the tasks has not actually commenced within three months of the date foreseen, and the new date proposed, if any, is considered unacceptable by the Commission;
 - (j) where the Contractor is unable, through his own fault, to obtain any permit or licence required for performance of the Contract;
 - (k) where the Contractor, after receiving formal notice in writing to comply, specifying the nature of the alleged failure, and after being given the opportunity to remedy the failure within a reasonable period following receipt of the formal notice, remains in serious breach of his contractual obligations.

II.15.2. In case of *force majeure*, notified in accordance with Article II.12, either contracting party may terminate the Contract, where performance thereof cannot be ensured for a period corresponding to at least to one fifth of the period laid down in Article I.2.3.

II.15.3. Prior to termination under point e), h) or k), the Contractor shall be given the opportunity to submit his observations.

Termination shall take effect on the date on which a registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt terminating the Contract is received by the Contractor, or on any other date indicated in the letter of termination.

II.15.4. Consequences of termination

In the event of the Commission terminating the Contract in accordance with this article and without prejudice to any other measures provided for in the Contract, the Contractor shall waive any claim for consequential damages, including any loss of anticipated profits for uncompleted work. On receipt of the letter terminating the Contract, the Contractor shall take all appropriate measures to minimise costs, prevent damage, and cancel or reduce his commitments. He shall draw up the documents required by the Special Conditions for the tasks executed up to the date on which termination takes effect, within a period not exceeding sixty days from that date.

The Commission may claim compensation for any damage suffered and recover any sums paid to the Contractor under the Contract.

On termination the Commission may engage any other contractor to complete the services. The Commission shall be entitled to claim from the Contractor all extra costs incurred in making good and completing the services, without prejudice to any other rights or guarantees it has under the Contract.

Article II.16 Liquidated Damages

Should the Contractor fail to perform his obligations under the Contract within the time limits set by the Contract, then, without prejudice to the Contractor's actual or potential liability incurred in relation to the Contract or to the Commission's right to terminate the Contract, the Commission may decide to

impose liquidated damages of 0.2% of the amount specified in Article I.3.1 per calendar day of delay. The Contractor may submit arguments against this decision within thirty days of notification by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt or equivalent. In the absence of reaction on his part or of written withdrawal by the Commission within thirty days of the receipt of such arguments, the decision imposing the liquidated damages shall become enforceable. These liquidated damages shall not be imposed where there is provision for interest for late completion. The Commission and the Contractor expressly acknowledge and agree that any sums payable under this article are in the nature of liquidated damages and not penalties, and represent a reasonable estimate of fair compensation for the losses that may be reasonably anticipated from such failure to perform obligations.

Article II.17 Checks and Audits

II.17.1. Pursuant to Article 142 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, the European Court of Auditors shall be empowered to audit the documents held by the natural or legal persons receiving payments from the budget of the European Communities from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.

II.17.2. The Commission or an outside body of its choice shall have the same rights as the European Court of Auditors for the purpose of checks and audits limited to compliance with contractual obligations from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.

II.17.3. In addition, the European Anti Fraud Office may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 from signature of the Contract up to five years after payment of the balance.

Article II.18 Amendments

Any amendment to the Contract shall be the subject of a written agreement concluded by the contracting parties. An oral agreement shall not be binding on the contracting parties.

Article II.19 Suspension of the Contract

Without prejudice to the Commission's right to terminate the Contract, the Commission may at any time and for any reason suspend execution of the tasks under the Contract or any part thereof. Suspension shall take effect on the day the Contractor receives notification by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt or equivalent, or at a later date where the notification so provides. The Commission may at any time following suspension give notice to the Contractor to resume the work suspended. The Contractor shall not be entitled to claim compensation on account of suspension of the Contract or of part thereof.

Signatures

1. For the Contractor,

..... (*forename and name*)

..... (*position*)

..... (*company name*)

2. For the Commission,

Stefan OLSSON

Head of Unit - EMPL/G/4

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal
Opportunities DG

Done at (*place*), Done at Brussels,

..... (*date*) (*date*)

In duplicate in English.

Draft
Draft

Tender Specifications and Monitoring

ANNEX I Tender No. VT/2008/007 of

1. TITLE OF THE CONTRACT

Establishment of a Network of socio-economic experts in the anti-discrimination field

2. PROGRESS INTRODUCTION

The Social Agenda (2005-2010) has fixed as its overall strategic goal to promote more and better jobs and to offer equal opportunities for all. The realisation of the Social Agenda relies on a combination of instruments comprising EU legislation, the implementation of open methods of coordination in various policy fields and financial incentives such as the European Social Fund.

The Decision n°1672/2006 establishing a Community programme for employment and social solidarity – PROGRESS was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council on 24 October and published in the OJ on 15 November 2006.

PROGRESS aims at supporting the core functions of the European Community towards fulfilling its Treaty-delegated tasks and powers in its respective areas of competence in the employment and social sphere. PROGRESS mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;
- monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;
- promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and
- relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large.

More specifically, PROGRESS will support:

- (1) the implementation of the European Employment Strategy (section 1);
- (2) the implementation of the open method of coordination in the field of social protection and inclusion (section 2);
- (3) the improvement of the working environment and conditions including health and safety at work and reconciling work and family life (section 3);
- (4) the effective implementation of the principle of non-discrimination and promotion of its mainstreaming in all EU policies (section 4);
- (5) the effective implementation of the principle of gender equality and promotion of its mainstreaming in all EU policies (section 5).

The present Call for tenders is issued in the context of the implementation of the 2008 annual plan of work which is consultable at
http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/annwork_en.htm

3. BACKGROUND

Despite much progress, discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation continues to exist in the EU.

The European Union has already undertaken serious efforts to combat discrimination and to promote equality. Community instruments such as Directives 2000/43/EC and 2000/78/EC, the Structural Funds, the Program for Employment and Social Solidarity PROGRESS with its non-discrimination strand and the Open Methods of Coordination in the field of employment and social inclusion aim at the promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination of all groups in European societies.

The European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (2007) was an opportunity to renew a shared vision of Europe where all people enjoy a life free from discrimination and to reaffirm that realising full equality of opportunities is essential for the growth, cohesion, prosperity and well being of Europe and its people. With over 1,000 different activities across 30 countries, the 2007 European Year has helped raising people's awareness of their rights to a life free of discrimination, has built a new dialogue between different actors on promoting equality, and highlighted the benefits of diversity for society as a whole.

One major success of the Year has been the setting up of new forms of partnership and dialogue to promote equality. For the first time, Member States have developed national strategies covering all six grounds of discrimination targeted in Article 13 of the EC Treaty. This has led them to build up dialogue between government departments and with civil society and other actors, often for the first time.

The Council Resolution on the Follow-up of the European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (2007)³ notes that, as demonstrated by the Equality Summit held in January 2007 under the German Presidency and by the closing conference of the European Year held in November 2007 under the Portuguese Presidency, ensuring dialogue and an exchange of information and good practice between key stakeholders and policy makers at EU level is valuable in making progress in promoting equal opportunities.

Discrimination on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age and sexual orientation are multidimensional phenomena that have a legal, political, economic and societal dimension. In order to provide the Commission services with independent advice and analysis, a number of networks of experts have over the past years been established by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, notably the Academic Network of European Disability experts, the European Network of Legal Experts in the non-discrimination field or the Network of Independent Experts on Social Inclusion and others.

4. PURPOSE OF THE CONTRACT

The purpose of this contract is to establish and maintain a network of socio-economic experts in the field of discrimination on the grounds of race and ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, disability, sexual orientation as well as on multiple grounds. The network will provide the Commission with independent expert and advice. More specifically, the main objectives are:

a) To provide the European Commission with informed analysis of national situations and policy developments with regard to discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, ethnic or racial origin, sexual orientation, religion or belief and multiple grounds. The network is expected to produce bi-annual reports for each of the EU Member States covering policy themes agreed at the beginning of the contractual year with the European Commission. The network is also requested to produce an annual synthesis report covering all the EU Member States.

b) To assist the launch and implementation of a series of exchanges of good practices on anti-discrimination policies and practices, with a view to facilitate the exchange of information on anti-discrimination issues and transferability of good practices between countries. The exchanges should focus on concrete policy measures and on concrete and existing examples, addressing both the

³ Council Resolution 2007/C 308/01

opportunities and constraints for policy implementation and concretely highlighting the possibilities and/or constraints for transferability between countries. The exchanges will support policy discussion on anti-discrimination at EU and national level.

The contract will cover the 27 EU Member States.

5. PARTICIPATION

Please note that:

- (1) The competition is open to any physical person or legal entity coming within the scope of the Treaties and any other physical person or legal entity from a third country which has concluded with the Communities a specific agreement in the area of public contracts, under the conditions provided for in that agreement.
- (2) Where the Multilateral Agreement on Public Contracts concluded within the framework of the WTO applies, the contracts are also open to nationals of States that have ratified this Agreement, under the conditions provided for therein. It should be noted that research and development services, which come under category 8 of Annex II A of Directive 2004/18/CE, are not covered by this Agreement.
- (3) In practice, the participation of applicants from third countries that have concluded a bilateral or multilateral agreement with the Communities in the area of public contracts must be allowed, under the conditions provided for in that agreement. Bids submitted by applicants from third countries that have not concluded such an agreement may be accepted, but may also be rejected.

6. TASKS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE CONTRACTOR

The contractor will establish and maintain a network of socio-economic experts in the anti-discrimination field. The network shall be managed by a coordinating team and its main coordinator.

The contractor responsible for the **Network of socio-economic experts in the anti-discrimination field** should put in place the appropriate structure in order to fulfil the tasks set out below. The contractor is free to design this structure as he/she sees fit.

The network shall be composed of ideally one expert per country. The Commission would however, if duly justified, accept a minimum of 20 experts covering all the 27 EU Member States. When presenting the bid, the bidder shall already have identified the experts the network will be composed of. The bidder has to provide the Commission with letters of commitment signed by each of the experts.

The coordinator will be responsible for the overall quality control of the work of the network in order to ensure that the Commission is provided with accurate, up-to-date and relevant information of the highest quality. The coordinator will also be responsible for the liaison with the experts of the network, as well as the Commission services.

Moreover, the Commission would expect that the responsibility for ensuring a strategic perspective and the overall quality of work would fall to a small group of senior experts (2-4 persons at least some of whom must be additional to the members of the network and the coordinating team). This small group of senior experts will assist the coordinator in ensuring the overall quality of work and will be required to meet with the Commission (Unit G/4, DG EMPL) up to three times a year.

The contractor will be required to verify the source of any information provided by the experts and ensure a thorough quality check of any material provided.

In carrying out the contract, the contractor will liaise, as appropriate, with relevant officials from the Commission services and the Member States, with NGOs, social partners, equality bodies, Committees and High-Level Groups established in this field, with other Networks of experts

established by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and with the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

The contractor will carry out its tasks in close collaboration with the Commission services.

The contractor shall take due account of the work carried out by other Networks of experts established by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities so as to build upon their expertise and experiences and to avoid any possible duplication of work.

1.1. Description of the tasks

Synergies between all three tasks shall be actively exploited.

Task 1: Analysis

The network of socio-economic experts in the anti-discrimination field shall assist the Commission by providing information and expert assessment on developments in the socio-economic and political context of national anti-discrimination policies and practices covering the grounds of age, disability, ethnic or racial origin, sexual orientation, religion or belief as well as combinations of grounds mentioned in Article 13 of the EU Treaty.

The network is expected to produce twice a year reports for each of the EU Member States covering a set of three to four policy themes agreed at the beginning of the contractual year with the relevant European Commission service (EMPL/G/4). Indicative themes to be analysed by the network include:

- Update on national trends and policy developments which are deemed relevant in the context of EU policy development on anti-discrimination
- Main national societal and economic issues having an impact on equal opportunities for all
- Perceived extent of discrimination faced by disadvantaged groups
- Positive action as a tool to achieve full equality in practice (effectiveness, good practice, trends etc.)
- Multiple discrimination (policies and practices to combat discrimination, occurrence of multiple discrimination etc.)
- Data collection
- Equality mainstreaming
- Reporting on the involvement of civil society in the development and implementation of national anti-discrimination policy, emergence of new actors in the field and reporting on any other governance issues deemed relevant
- Wider societal issues such as diversity and its economic and social impacts

This list is not exhaustive. Themes to be dealt with will be specified between the contractor and the Commission at the beginning of the contractual year taking due account of work carried out by other networks, in particular the Academic Network of European Disability experts.

The reports shall be based on a wide set of sources, such as official policy communications, statistics, studies and surveys in the public domain, interviews with relevant actors, press information etc. The contractor shall also base itself on the national activities carried out during the European Year of equal opportunities for all (2007), its follow-up activities and evaluations as well as on relevant Eurobarometer surveys.

The reports shall be provided to the Commission in English as well as in the national language with an approximate length of 20 pages (plus annexes) per country.

National workshops and national reports:

Once a year, draft reports shall be presented to and discussed with NGOs, social partners, equality bodies and government experts before submission to the European Commission. This should be achieved through the organisation of a one-day national workshop in each country (maximum number of participants is 20) and, if the contractor considers it appropriate, bilateral meetings.

The bidder is requested to propose a methodology for the organisation and implementation of the national workshops and for the selection of the stakeholder groups that should participate.

The network's coordinating team shall be responsible for the organisation of the national workshops. This includes:

- The identification, liaison and invitation of participants
- Venue booking and payment
- The preparation of the agenda
- Logistical support for participants
- Dissemination of the draft national reports to the participants at least three weeks before the workshop
- Management of travel and accommodation of participants including reimbursement
- Facilitation of the workshops
- Drafting of minutes from the workshops

The workshop shall be conducted in the national language. However, interpretation into minority languages or into English shall be foreseen, for some of the workshops, by the bidder when presenting his or her bid.

The discussions at the workshops and, if appropriate, the bilateral meetings shall inform the national report.

The minutes from the workshops shall be provided to the European Commission at least 4 weeks after the workshop took place.

European synthesis report:

Based on the final national reports, the network is requested to produce an annual synthesis report covering and comparing all the EU Member States (50 pages maximum plus annexes; to be delivered in English).

Annually, the European synthesis report will be presented to the Commission at a one-day meeting in Brussels (Commission premises) which the entire network's experts, senior experts and the co-ordinating team will attend.

➤ **Summary of main products requested under Task 1:**

- Twice a year the contractor will prepare reports for each of the EU Member States covering a set of three to four policy themes agreed at the beginning of the contractual year. The reports shall be provided to the European Commission in English as well as in the national language with an approximate length of 20 pages (plus annexes) per country.
- The contractor will organise an annual one-day national workshop in each country (maximum number of participants is 20) and, if appropriate, bilateral meetings.
- The contractor will prepare an annual synthesis report covering and comparing all the EU Member States (50 pages maximum plus annexes; to be delivered in English) to be presented to the Commission.

Task 2: Organisation of the exchange of good practice between Member States

The network's coordinating team will organise a series of exchanges of good practice on the basis of a work programme, dedicating six months to a specific theme. The themes to be covered will be decided by the European Commission in cooperation with the Member States but are likely to be related to the following:

- Positive action as a tool to achieve full equality in practice
- Policies and practices to combat multiple discrimination
- Data collection
- Equality mainstreaming

- Involvement of civil society in the development and implementation of national anti-discrimination policy
- Diversity at the workplace within public administrations and public/private partnerships promoting diversity in the workplace

This list is not exhaustive. Details of each of the themes to be dealt with will be specified between the contractor and the Commission taking due account of the work carried out by other networks, in particular the Academic Network of European Disability experts.

The exchanges of good practice should take place twice a year – however, in the first contractual year (scheduled to start in December 2008) only one event will be organised. The events should last 1,5 days and take place in a host country to be decided in agreement with the Commission.

In each meeting of exchange of good practice, there will be between 10 and 15 Member States participating to learn about a particular policy measure of the host country and to discuss its transferability. Each country will be represented by one government official.

The relevant national experts of the network will participate in each meeting of exchange of good practice.

The network's coordinating team might also want to invite one or two thematic experts (i.e. experts not being part of the network) in the domain of the exchange of good practice. These thematic experts can present a key note speech on the policy under review, setting it in a broader comparative European context and helping to draw relevant policy conclusion.

According to the specificity of the theme chosen, further participation from other stakeholders (European-level NGOs or social partners and/or national stakeholders) may be foreseen by the Commission. The average participation from other stakeholders per meeting is estimated to be 6 per meeting. Bidders are requested to take this into account in their tender and financial offer.

The Commission representatives will take part, at the Commission's expenses, with two to four participants per meeting.

The network's coordinating team will be responsible for:

Proposing a methodology to review good practice

The network's coordinating team shall propose in its bid a common methodology to review good practices. In its proposal, the bidder shall take into account experiences gained in related EU policy field, such as gender equality or social inclusion.

The network's coordinating team shall be responsible for the timely delivery and good quality of all papers, their circulation and for taking appropriate measures in case of delays. The coordinating team shall also be responsible for the timely dissemination of all other documents useful for the event.

The network's coordinating team will establish the meeting agenda in cooperation with the Commission.

The network's coordinating team will ensure that all papers produced by the network's experts will be approved by the Commission before dissemination.

Complete logistical support for participants

The network's coordinating team will provide full logistical support to the participants and will be responsible for all organisational matters, such as choice and payment of the meeting room, the choice and payment of interpreters (the meetings will normally take place in English only, but sometimes interpretation may need to be provided between the host country language and English – therefore, the bidder should include a budgetary provision for interpretation in the offer), sending of invitations, accommodation and catering, organisation of any study visit, etc.

The network's coordinating team will be responsible for the payments of expenses occurred in the meetings. Travel and subsistence allowance in accordance with Commission rules⁴ for the network's experts and for the Member State officials and other eventual participants will be reimbursed by the network's coordinating team.

Facilitation of meetings, preparation of the agenda and drafting of minutes

A member of the network's coordinating team or one of the senior experts will facilitate the meeting. He/she will liaise well ahead of the meeting with the host country, the network's national expert and the other network's experts. He/she will prepare the agenda in liaison with the Commission and will be responsible for the drafting of the minutes to be submitted to the Commission shortly after the event.

Drafting a report after each meeting

The network's coordinating team is responsible for delivering a report for each meeting. The report shall be drafted in English. The report should contain any papers discussed at the meeting, as well as an executive summary and a summary of discussions and conclusions of the meeting.

The report shall also contain practical guidelines for action, taking into account the lessons learned at the meeting. The guidelines shall be short, clear and practical and should provide a concrete instrument for policy planning, implementation and evaluation.

The final report shall not be longer than 30 pages. It shall be delivered to the Commission six weeks after the event.

➤ **Summary of main products requested under Task 2:**

- Twice a year, the contractor shall organise an exchange of good practice between Member States dedicated to a specific theme based on a pre-established work programme. In the first contractual year (scheduled to start in December 2008) only one event will be organised. The events should last 1, 5 days and take place in a host country to be decided in agreement with the Commission.
- The contractor shall draft a report after each meeting with a maximum length of 30 pages. The report will have to be delivered in English within six weeks after the event.

Task 3: Miscellaneous

3.1) Analysis of the National Strategy reports on Social Inclusion and Protection

Inclusion of vulnerable groups is one of the priorities of the European Social Protection and Social Inclusion Process. In this context, Member States have committed to develop integrated and coordinated responses to the disadvantages and needs of particular groups.

Following the streamlining of the Open Method of Coordination on Social Protection and Social Inclusion⁵, Member States have to translate common objectives into National Plans for each of the three areas of Social Inclusion, Pensions and Health and Long-Term Care. These plans, which cover a period of two years, are submitted to the Commission in the form of a National Report on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion.

The network will be asked to produce a country-by-country analysis of the National Strategy Reports on Social Inclusion and Protection in the years these are submitted by the Member States. The country-by-country analysis should in particular look at how Member States have taken account of disadvantages suffered by persons with different ethnic origins, older people, young people, LGBT

⁴ See draft contract

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/the_process_en.htm

(lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) people. The criteria to be applied for the analysis will have to be agreed with the Commission in advance.

Considering that this contract is scheduled to start in December 2008 and taking into account the reporting cycle, the network will be asked to produce the country-by-country analysis for the first time in 2010. The analysis will have to be submitted to the Commission six weeks after the National Reports on Strategies for Social Protection and Social Inclusion have been made available. The length of the analysis will vary from country to country but should not exceed 10 pages per country.

3.2.) Spontaneous requests

Spontaneous information requests with regard to country-specific developments may arise during the contractual period. The bidder shall therefore provide for some flexibility when presenting his or her technical and financial offer.

1.2.

1.3. Guide and details of how the tasks are to be carried out

The PROGRESS Programme aimed at promoting gender mainstreaming in all its five policy sections and commissioned or supported activities. Consequently, the Contractor will take the necessary steps to ensure that:

- Gender equality issues are taken into account when relevant for the drafting of the technical offer/proposal by paying attention to the situation and needs of women and men;
- Implementation of the requested tasks includes a gender perspective by considering systematically women and men dimension;
- Performance monitoring includes the collection and gathering of data disaggregated by sex when needed.
- its proposed team and/or staff respects the gender balance at all levels.

Equally, needs of disabled people shall be duly acknowledged and met while executing the requested service. This will in particular entail that where the Contractor organises training sessions, conference, issues publications or develops dedicated websites, people with disabilities have equal access to the facilities or the services provided.

Finally, the Contracting Authority encourages the Contractor to promote equal employment opportunities for all its staff and team. This entails that the Contractor shall foster an appropriate mix of people, whatever their ethnic origin, religions, age, and ability.

The Contractor will be required to detail in its activity report accompanying the request for the final instalment the steps and achievements it made towards meeting these contractual provisions.

7. PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED

See Annex IV of the draft contract.

1.4. Additional requirements:

The network shall be composed of ideally one expert per country. The Commission would however, if duly justified, accept a minimum of 20 experts covering all the 27 EU Member States. When presenting the bid, the bidder shall already have identified the experts the network will be composed of.

The coordinator will be responsible for the overall quality control of the work of the network in order to ensure that the Commission is provided with accurate, up-to-date and relevant information of the highest quality. The coordinator will be responsible for the liaison with the experts of the network, as well as the Commission services.

Moreover, the Commission would expect that the responsibility for ensuring a strategic perspective and the overall quality of work would fall to a small group of senior experts (2-4 persons at least some of whom must be additional to the members of the network and the coordinating team).

8. TIME SCHEDULE AND REPORTING

See Article 1.2 of the draft contract.

The duration of the contract will be 12 months and is renewable three times.

Additional contracts for new Member States and/or candidate countries could be awarded by negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice, in conformity with article 126.1.f of the implementing measures.

1.5. Additional requirements:

The specific deadlines for the completion of each of the tasks set out will be agreed between the Commission and the contractor.

9. PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

1.- As a matter of principle, with a view to favouring valorisation by the European Commission of all results obtained and outputs delivered under PROGRESS programme, the Contractor will be required to provide - either upon specific request or in any event with the final activity report - for each of the tasks required under the present Call the following:

- Presentation of their key points in one page. Key points should be concise, sharp and easily understandable. They shall be provided in English, French and German. Other Community languages would be welcome even if not compulsory.
- And an executive summary in 5/6 pages in English, French and German unless otherwise more precisely described in the section "tasks to be carried out".

2.- In accordance with the General conditions, the Contractor is under the obligation to acknowledge that the present service is delivered **on behalf of/with the** support of the Community in all documents and media produced, in particular final delivered outputs, related reports, brochures, press releases, videos, software, etc, including at conferences or seminars, as follows.

This (publication, conference, training session) is supported for under the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013). This programme is managed by the Directorate-General for Employment, social affairs and equal opportunities of the European Commission. It was established to financially support the implementation of the objectives of the European Union in the employment and social affairs area, as set out in the Social Agenda, and thereby contribute to the achievement of the Lisbon Strategy goals in these fields.

The seven-year Programme targets all stakeholders who can help shape the development of appropriate and effective employment and social legislation and policies, across the EU-27, EFTA-EEA and EU candidate and pre-candidate countries.

PROGRESS mission is to strengthen the EU contribution in support of Member States' commitments and efforts to create more and better jobs and to build a more cohesive society. To that effect, PROGRESS will be instrumental in:

- *providing analysis and policy advice on PROGRESS policy areas;*

- *monitoring and reporting on the implementation of EU legislation and policies in PROGRESS policy areas;*
- *promoting policy transfer, learning and support among Member States on EU objectives and priorities; and*
- *relaying the views of the stakeholders and society at large*

For more information see:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/progress/index_en.html

For publications it is also necessary to include the following reference: "The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission".

With regard to publication and any communication plan linked to the present service, the Contractor will insert the European Union logo, and if any another logo developed for the employment and social solidarity fields, and mention the European Commission as the Contracting Authority in every publication or related material developed under the present service contract.

10. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

PROGRESS will be implemented through a results-based management - RBM. Managing for outcomes and results is about working to maximise results for European citizens. This includes:

- Identifying the most important results for European citizens;
- Managing for these results, including setting clear desired results, implementing plans based upon these results and learning about 'what works' in the process;
- Seizing opportunities to work together whenever this helps achieve the results.

As a first step, a Strategic Framework for the implementation of PROGRESS has been developed in collaboration with Member states and organisations from the civil society. The Strategic Framework provides the framework for implementing PROGRESS, complemented by the Performance Measurement, which defines PROGRESS mandate, its long-term and specific outcomes. See in Annex the overview of PROGRESS performance measurement framework. For more information on the strategic framework, please visit PROGRESS website.

The Commission will in that context monitors the effect of PROGRESS supported or commissioned initiatives and considers how these initiatives contributes to PROGRESS outcomes as defined in the Strategic Framework. In that context, the Contractor will be asked to loyally work in close cooperation with the Commission and/or persons authorised by it to define their expected contributions and the set of performance measures against which their contribution will be assessed. The Contractor will be asked to collect and report on its own performance on a regular basis to the Commission and/or persons authorised by it. In addition, the Contractor will make available to the Commission and/or persons authorised by it all documents or information that will allow PROGRESS performance measurement to be successfully completed and to give them the rights of access.

1. Additional information to the Tender specifications and monitoring

See attached document(s): 1 pages.

Contractor's Tender

ANNEX II

Registre CAD Ref. No. of

See attached document: pages.

Draft
Draft

ANNEX III Breakdown of prices

1. Breakdown of prices

Description	Unit price in €	Max. No of units	Unit type	Sub-total per item	Total amounts in €
FEES AND DIRECT COSTS (fixed prices)					
Experts' fees (to be specified for each specific task)					0,00
Details	0,00	0	w.d.	0,00	
Other direct costs (to be specified)					0,00
Details	0,00	0	unit	0,00	
Sub-total "Fees and Direct Costs" (Art. I.3.1)					0,00
REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES (max. prices)					
Travel expenses					0,00
Journeys for experts as mentioned in Annex I					
Details	0,00	0	trip	0,00	
Provision for supplementary journeys upon request of the Commission					
Details	0,00	0	trip	0,00	
Accommodation expenses					0,00
Hotel expenses for experts as mentioned in Annex I					
Details	0,00	0	pers..	0,00	
Provision for supplementary accommodation expenses upon request of the Commission					
Details	0,00	0	pers.	0,00	
Subsistence expense					0,00
Subsistence expenses for experts as mentioned in Annex I					
Details	0,00	0	w.d.	0,00	
Provision for supplementary subsistence upon request of the Commission					
Details	0,00	0	w.d.	0,00	
Shipment and/or other reimbursements (to be specified)					0,00
Details	0,00	0	unit	0,00	
Contingencies (cannot be used without the prior and express approval by the Commission, by the way of a written note allowing for reallocation(s) of part or total of this provision to one or several items above)					
Calculation base	0,00				
Contingencies: approx. % of calculation base		0	%	0,00	
Sub-total "Reimbursable Expenses" (Art. I.3.3)					0,00
Overall Total					800.000,00

w.d. =1 working day for 1 expert

Additional information to the Breakdown of prices

See attached document: pages.

2. Calculation of amounts due under the present Contract

2.1. Fees

Initial calculation based on unit price(s) per w.d. of expert(s) depending on the level of qualification of the expert(s) executing the mission. The unit price(s) is (are) expected to cover the expert(s) fees, the

Contractor's administrative expenses, as well as the costs of producing the contractual number of copies of the required report(s) ⁶ in the required format(s), but does not include the reimbursable expenses defined below.

N.B. Duration of the services: This includes, besides the time necessary for the carrying out of the services themselves, the necessary time for preparatory work, trips and travelling back and forth between the offices of the Contractor and/or the expert(s) and the places where the services are being carried out and for meetings with the services of the Commission, as well as time for the preparation of reports and output documents related to the work.

2.2. Reimbursements

If the reimbursement of expenses is foreseen in the Special Conditions, the Commission will reimburse only:

- the subsistence expenses of the Contractor and his staff,
- travel expenses (other than local transport costs),
- expenses for the shipment of equipment or unaccompanied luggage,

directly connected with performance of the tasks specified in Article I.1. of this Contract.

2.2.1 DSAs (Daily Subsistence Allowances)

The daily subsistence allowance (DSA) is paid as a flat-rate amount and is considered to cover breakfast and two main meals, local travel, the cost of telecommunications, including fax and Internet, and all other sundries. They will be paid for each calendar day spent on mission away from the usual place of work, provided that the corresponding assignment is of a short-term nature. The DSA will vary according to the country in which the missions are to be carried out.

Daily subsistence allowances (DSA) are to be calculated as follows according to the length of the mission:

- 6 hours or less: reimbursement of actual expenses (on production of supporting documents);
- more than 6 hours but not more than 12 hours: 0.5 DSA;
- more than 12 hours, but not more than 24 hours: 1 DSA;
- more than 24 hours but not more than 36 hours: 1.5 DSA;
- more than 36 hours but not more than 48 hours: 2 DSA;
- more than 48 hours but not more than 60 : 2.5 DSA, and so on.

The agreed rates (in EUR per calendar day) to be used for the purposes of the present Contract are set as follows:

Destinations		DSA in EUR	Maximum hotel price in EUR
AT	Austria	95,00	130,00
BE	Belgium	92,00	140,00
BG	Bulgaria	58,00	169,00
CY	Cyprus	93,00	145,00
CZ	Czech Republic	75,00	155,00
DE	Germany	93,00	115,00
DK	Denmark	120,00	150,00
EE	Estonia	71,00	110,00
EL	Greece	82,00	140,00
ES	Spain	87,00	125,00
FI	Finland	104,00	140,00
FR	France	95,00	150,00
HR	Croatia	60,00	120,00
HU	Hungary	72,00	150,00
IE	Ireland	104,00	150,00

Destinations		DSA in EUR	Maximum hotel price in EUR
IT	Italy	95,00	135,00
LT	Lithuania	68,00	115,00
LU	Luxembourg	92,00	145,00
LV	Latvia	66,00	145,00
MK	F.Y.R. of Macedonia	50,00	160,00
MT	Malta	90,00	115,00
NL	The Netherlands	93,00	170,00
PL	Poland	72,00	145,00
PT	Portugal	84,00	120,00
RO	Romania	52,00	170,00
SE	Sweden	97,00	160,00
SI	Slovenia	70,00	110,00
SK	Slovakia	80,00	125,00
TR	Turkey	55,00	165,00
UK	United Kingdom	101,00	175,00

⁶ All details on Monitoring and Reporting are to be indicated and included in the Tender Specifications.

2.2.2 *Travel expenses*

Travel expenses shall be reimbursed following the provisions of Article II.7.3.

3. Additional provision

It is understood that the Parts “Fees and Direct Costs” and “Reimbursable Expenses” are set as provisions only. They constitute a maximum for the overall cumulative value of all services rendered by the Contractor under the present Contract – they will be due only if services are actually rendered to the Commission according to this Contract and its Annexes, both in quantity and in quality.

Draft
Draft

ANNEX IV CVs and classification of experts

1. Classification of experts according to level of expertise

Level of qualification	Category of personnel
I	Highly qualified expert having assumed important responsibilities in his/her profession, recruited for his/her management/supervisory, thought and creativity skills as regards professional practise. He/she must have at least 15 years professional experience of which at least 7 must be connected with the professional sector concerned and the type of tasks to be performed.
II	Highly qualified expert having assumed responsibilities in his/her profession, recruited for his/her management/supervisory, thought and creativity skills as regards professional practise. He/she must have at least 10 years professional experience of which at least 4 must be connected with the professional sector concerned and the type of tasks to be performed.
III	Certified expert having received a high-level training in his/her profession, recruited for his/her thought and creativity skills as regards professional practise. He/she must have at least 5 years professional experience of which at least 2 must be connected with the professional sector concerned and the type of tasks to be performed.
IV	Junior expert, newcomer to the profession but holding a university degree or equivalent training related to the professional sector concerned and the type of tasks to be performed.

2. List of experts assigned

Full names of experts assigned	Level of Qualification (I to iv, see above)
Xxxxxxx	III
Xxxxxxx	V
xxxxxxx	IV

3. CVs of experts assigned

See Annex II.

Fiscal provisions regarding invoicing by the Contractor

Choose 1 out of 4 options:

- **(option 1: the Contractor is subject to VAT and his place of fiscal imposition is in Belgium)**

Local supplies and services

Supplier with fiscal imposition place in Belgium – delivery address in Belgium

1. VAT exemption – Exemption level

In Belgium, the terms of the present Contract have the same value as the VAT exemption request No 450 (VAT exemption – Article 42, § 3.3, VAT Code).
The European Commission benefits of a direct VAT exemption for all invoices EUR 123.95 and more.

2. Invoicing the Commission

An invoice will be made for each payment related to the present Contract. The applied VAT rate and amount shall be specified.

In view of VAT exemption, invoices addressed to the European Commission should bear the mention:

“Exonération de la TVA, article 42, § 3.3, du code de la TVA” or

“Vrijstelling van BTW, artikel 42, § 3.3, BTW-Wetboek”.

The above indication is given only as piece of information. The Contractor must refer to the Belgian national laws.

- **(option 2: the Contractor is subject to VAT and his place of fiscal imposition is a Member State other than Belgium)**

Intra-community supplies and services

Supplier with fiscal imposition place in a Member State other than Belgium – delivery address in Belgium

1. VAT exemption level

The European Commission benefits of a direct exemption of VAT for all invoices of EUR 123.95 and more.

2. Use of form 15.10

To allow the Contractor to justify to the fiscal authorities an invoicing to the European Commission using a 0% VAT rate (direct exemption) or to enable the benefit of the exemption by reimbursement, it is necessary to use the form 15.10.

These forms have recently been up-dated, and the new versions are the only ones to remain in official use. They entered into force on 01.04.1997, with a new ref. XXI/03278 – 01.04.1997.

See attached document: 2 pages and 1 page of explanatory notes.

3. Signature of the form 15.10 – Delegation of signature

The forms must normally be signed by the fiscal authorities of Belgium. However, a delegation of signature has been awarded by the Belgium authorities to the European Commission – ref. ET 76430 of 22.12.1992 (this ref. No. should be inserted in box 7 of new form 15.10). The Commission being represented for the present Contract by Stefan OLSSON, Head of Unit - EMPL/G/4 of Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG, form 15.10 will therefore be signed by the latter.

4. Invoicing the Commission

An invoice will be made for each payment related to the present Contract. The applied VAT rate and amount shall be specified. Concerning the direct VAT exemption or VAT exemption by the way of reimbursement, the invoice shall bear all the necessary mentions.

The above indication is given only as piece of information. The Contractor must refer to the national laws in force in his Member State of fiscal imposition.

Draft
Draft

- **(option 3: the Contractor is not subject to VAT)**

Not applicable to the present Contract.

- **(option 4: the country of fiscal imposition of the Contractor is unknown)**

Provisions to be applied depending on the country of fiscal imposition of the Contractor..

Draft
Draft