



Brussels, 13.2.2015
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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION DECISION

of 13.2.2015

on the adoption of DG ECFIN's annual work programme 2015, including procurement and grants, in the field of economic and financial affairs, serving as a financing decision

ANNEX

1.1 Introduction

This work programme contains the implementing measures for the year 2015 in the field of economic and financial affairs. The distribution of budget and the main actions are the following:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2): €6,880,000
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.3): € 5,220,000 of which € 5,020,000 for EMU-related projects, and €200,000 for macro-financial assistance.
- for administrative arrangement with the JRC (1.5): €100,000.
- for other actions (1.6): €144,409,518 for the provisioning of the guarantee fund for external actions and € 49,898,000 for the provision of paid-up shares to subscribed capital of the European Investment Fund

1.2 Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved in 2015 for grants amounts to €6,880,000 on the 'EMU' line.

1.2.1 Joint Harmonised European Union Programme for Business and Consumer Surveys (BCS)

Grants shall be covered by the specific grant agreements signed with the institutes participating in the BCS programme for a total amount of €5,620,000. Given that existing framework partnership agreements will come to an end in April 2015, a call for proposals was launched in 2014 with specific grant agreements to be signed in the first quarter of 2015. In addition, a call for proposals will be launched in 2015 with specific grant agreements expected to be signed in the first quarter of 2016 for four countries: Malta, Luxembourg, Ireland and Albania. This call for proposals will be subject to the essential criteria and characteristics as listed below and which are similar to those of the 2014 call. As with the 2015 framework partnership agreements, the duration of the four future partnership agreements will exceed four years. Here again, the main rationale is that the usefulness of the data for economic analysis of business-cycles crucially depends on the availability of long and stable time series. Linking of series stemming from different data providers (e.g. by means of regression techniques) can only be done once a sufficient amount of data points are collected and will be reliable only for sufficiently long individual time series. The BCS programme is and will remain a longstanding project which means that no potential beneficiaries are excluded by this extension. A duration of five years is envisaged so as to provide a match with the end of the MFF period.

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d)

BUDGETARY LINE

01.02 01 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union including the euro (EMU)'

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The BCS constitute an essential tool for the Commission for fulfilling its Treaty-based obligations of surveillance of the EU economies. They constitute a basis for decision-making of EU economic policy makers, governments and research institutes. There are few alternative products at European level and none share the features of the Commission's surveys in terms of coverage, frequency and accuracy.

The Commission's objective consists in ensuring that reference to and usage of the analytical tools and EU reference indicators and other products should be comparable to those of other major institutions (IMF, OECD, ECB, ...) as measured in terms of downloads of data, references to publications, number of attendants of events.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND BY THE SPECIFIC GRANTS DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIPS

The BCS Programme ensures the harmonisation, coordination, analysis and dissemination of business and consumer surveys in Member States. Harmonisation is essential to allow the comparison of business cycles in the different Member States and the calculation of meaningful business cycle indices for the euro area and for the EU as a whole, in order to inform the EU authorities, the Member States and the various economic agents about the present economic situation. Business and consumer surveys summarise attitudes and judgements of a large number of managers and consumers for different sectors of the economy in the European Union. Results are published on a monthly basis.

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE CALL(S) FOR PROPOSALS /DIRECT AWARD

Call reference	Date	Amount	
tbd	Q2 2015	€300,000	

A new call for proposals will be launched in Q2/2015 to sign four framework partnership agreements in 2015 with Malta, Luxembourg, Ireland and Albania.

The first specific grant agreements will be concluded for the period 2016-2017 with an estimated total budget of €300,000.

For existing or soon to be finalised framework partnership agreements, specific grant agreements will be concluded under the following framework partnership agreements: ECFIN 2014 001/A4 (JOUE 2014/C 113/07), and ECFINA4/2011/014 (OJ C330 of 12.11.2011). The specific grant agreements will be concluded for the period May 2015-April 2016 with a total budget of €5,620,000 and with submission by the respective entities in Q1/2015.

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

The EU's contribution in the joint financing may not exceed 50% of eligible costs both under the current framework partnership agreements or under the new call for proposals.

ESSENTIAL EXCLUSION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The specific grant award procedure is based on the provisions of the corresponding framework partnership agreements.

Eligibility criteria: see sections 5.1 (legal status of applicants), 5.2 (grounds for exclusion) and 5.3 (illegal activities giving rise to exclusion) of the respective calls for proposals.

For the new call for proposals, to be eligible applicants have to be legal entities established in the EU Member States, the Candidate countries or the EFTA or EEA countries. Applicants will be excluded on the basis of articles 106(1) and 107(1) of the Financial Regulation.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

For the new call for proposals

Selection criteria:

(1) financial capacity of applicants, as demonstrated by their balance sheet and profit and loss account for the last 2 financial years for which the accounts have been closed.

(2) operational capacity of applicants with at least 3 years of proven experience in preparing and carrying out monthly or quarterly surveys in the field of application and sound administrative and financial management structures with access to the required operational resources.

Award criteria:

(1) The quality of the proposed survey methodology with reference to:

- sampling frame (source, survey unit, size, population coverage, updating frequency, cut-offs);
- sampling method (random vs. purposive, use of quota, stratification, panels);
- sample size
- number of completed interviews
- response rate
- survey mode (face-to-face, CATI, email, postal, internet, etc.);
- measures to raise/maintain response rates (advance letters, reminders, follow-up activities, incentives to respond, etc.);
- treatment of missing data (unit non-response and item non-response);
- weighting scheme (characteristics and updating frequency);
- data quality control system;
- questionnaire design;

(2) The effectiveness of the proposed action in terms of organisation and the workflow of activities (including any possible sub-contracting of part of the activities) with a view to delivering results of sufficient quality in time;

(3) Does the proposal contain specific added-value elements in terms of using survey results for cyclical and economic analysis and research, including analysis by sector?

(4) The efficiency of the candidate's work organisation, in terms of the resources deployed in relation to the objectives envisaged (cost-effectiveness);

For the existing or to be finalised framework partnership agreements, specific grants will be awarded on the basis of the relevance and the consistency of the proposals with the action plan submitted for the award of the corresponding framework partnership agreements, as well as on the basis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposals.

FORM OF THE GRANT AND VALUE AND TOTAL AMOUNT OF LUMP SUMS ALLOWED

Total value of the specific grant agreements: €5,620,000. No lump sums are foreseen.

SPECIFIC GRANT AGREEMENT

More than fifty framework partnership agreements have or will be signed with various beneficiaries. Specific grants based on these partnership agreements will be awarded in the first quarter of 2015 and written agreements will be signed. The eligibility period of the actions runs from 1 May 2015 through 30 April 2016.

1.2.2 Timely High-frequency indicators for global and regional trade (THIT)

Grants shall be covered by the grant agreements signed with the institute selected for the THIT project (€50,000). A new call for a framework partnership agreement of 4 years will be launched in 2015 with a first specific grant agreement to be signed in 2016.

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d)

BUDGETARY LINE

01.02 01 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union including the euro (EMU)'

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The project will produce indicators on a regular basis allowing the calculation of timely high-frequency measures of the export performance of the EU, the euro area and the individual Member States. The indicators improve the assessment and accuracy of the forecast for international trade (and GDP) growth for non-EU countries and regions.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS AND BY THE SPECIFIC GRANT DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER THE FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

The timely high-frequency indicators for trade (THIT) constitute valuable input for ECFIN's economic monitoring and forecasting activities.

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE CALL(S) FOR PROPOSALS /DIRECT AWARD

Call reference	Date	Amount	
tbd	Q2 2015	€200,000	

A 4-year framework partnership agreement covering the period 2012-2016 was signed in 2012 and a new call will be launched in 2015.

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

The EU's contribution in the joint financing may not exceed 50% of eligible costs. With respect to the new call the same threshold of 50% will apply.

ESSENTIAL EXCLUSION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For the new call to be eligible applicants have to be legal entities established in the EU Member States. Applicants will be excluded on the basis of articles 106(1) and 107(1) of the Financial Regulation.

For the existing framework partnership agreement: the grant award procedure is based on the provisions of the corresponding framework partnership agreement.

Eligibility criteria cover the legal status of applicants, the grounds for exclusion and the administrative and financial penalties (cf. sections 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 of the framework partnership agreement).

ESSENTIAL SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

For the new call

Financial capacity of applicants: Applicants must have the financial capacity to complete the proposed action and will be assessed on the basis of a declaration of honour together with their balance sheets and profit and loss accounts for the last two financial years for which the accounts have been closed. This provision does not apply to public bodies and international organisations. In case of low value grants (not exceeding 60 000 EUR) a declaration on honour will suffice.

Operational capability of applicants: Applicants must have the operational capability to complete the proposed action and should provide the appropriate supporting documentation.

The following criteria will be used to assess the applicant's ability:

- at least three years of proven experience in preparing a similar set of indicators,
- proven experience in the construction of international trade indicators and addressing methodological questions (seasonal adjustment, working-day adjustment, aggregation, estimation methodology for missing values and missing deflators, ...)

Award criteria: The following criteria will be used to evaluate the proposals and receive marks (see points hereafter) in order to rank the proposals and to award the grant agreement to one successful candidate, taking into account the cost-effectiveness of the proposals and the budget available for the call:

- Adequacy of resources assigned to the construction of international trade indicators, incl. qualified staff, arrangements for monitoring, supervisions and risk management
- Quality of the proposed methodology including aspects of seasonal adjustment, working-day adjustment, deflation, aggregation and estimation methodology for missing values and missing deflators
- Efficiency of the candidate's work organisation, in terms of flexibility, infrastructure, and facilities for carrying out the work, reporting the results and liaising with the Commission
- Soundness of the proposed budget

For the existing framework partnership agreement

Selection criteria: not applicable

Award criteria: the specific grant will be awarded on the basis of the relevance and the consistency of the proposal with the action plan submitted for the award of the corresponding framework partnership agreement, as well as on the basis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposal.

FORM OF THE GRANT AND VALUE AND TOTAL AMOUNT OF LUMP SUMS ALLOWED [if applicable]

Total value: € 50,000. No lump sums are foreseen. For the new call no lump sums are foreseen either.

SPECIFIC GRANT AGREEMENT [IF APPLICABLE]

A framework partnership agreement was signed in 2012 covering a 4-year period. A specific grant agreement under the partnership agreement will be awarded in 2015. The eligibility period of the action runs from 1 June 2015 till 31 May 2016.

1.2.3 Production and Broadcast of a Magazine on Economic Issues - Euronews

Grant agreement signed with Euronews implementing the framework partnership agreement planned to be signed by December 2014 (€400,000).

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d)

BUDGETARY LINE

01.02 01 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union including the euro (EMU)'

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The multiannual framework partnership agreement with Euronews planned to be awarded by December 2014 will be implemented through specific grant agreements. A specific grant agreement is foreseen for the purpose of raising awareness of the policies related to DG Economic and financial affairs in the form of the production and broadcast of TV news programmes. DG ECFIN intends to cross-sub-delegate the budget needed to finance this project to DG CNECT. The project will continue to increase the volume and quality of the coverage of EU economic and financial affairs. As in previous seasons Euronews will provide more information packaged in new attractive formats able to reach larger audience and therefore contribute to forging closer links between citizens and the institutions of the European Union.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE SPECIFIC GRANT DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER THE FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

Co-financing through an action grant of the production and broadcast of a magazine on economic issues of economic magazine Euronews channel.

IMPLEMENTATION

by DG ECFIN and DG CNECT

TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE CALL(S) FOR PROPOSALS /DIRECT AWARD

Call reference	Date	Amount	

A specific grant agreement under the framework partnership agreement with Euronews (planned to be signed by December 2014) will be awarded in Q1/2015 with DG ECFIN's indicative amount being €400.000.

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

95% of the eligible costs.

ESSENTIAL EXCLUSION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The grant award procedure is based on the provisions of the corresponding framework partnership agreement.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

The grant award procedure is based on the provisions of the corresponding framework partnership agreement.

FORM OF THE GRANT AND VALUE AND TOTAL AMOUNT OF LUMP SUMS ALLOWED [if applicable]

The grant will take the form of unit contributions on the basis of unit costs as authorised by the Commission Decision authorising the use of unit costs under action grant agreements signed with Euronews (C(2013)7360final of 07.11.2013) according to article 124 of the Financial Regulation and for a maximum amount of €400.000 No lump sums are foreseen.

SPECIFIC GRANT AGREEMENT [if applicable]

A specific grant agreement under the framework partnership agreement with Euronews (planned to be signed by December 2014) will be awarded in Q1/2015 with DG ECFIN's indicative maximum amount being €400.000.

1.2.4 *Communication on the euro in the framework of the euro changeover campaign in Lithuania*

A direct grant was awarded in 2014 to the Member State concerned (Lithuania), in accordance with bilateral agreement signed on 5 February 2007, which was prolonged on 2 February 2010.

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54 (2)d)

BUDGETARY LINE

01.02 01 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union including the euro (EMU)'

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

To contribute to communication on the euro and the EMU in the framework of the Euro information campaigns in the Member State (Lithuania), including Euro changeover campaigns.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE DIRECT GRANT AWARDED AND OBJECTIVE OF THE IMPLEMENTING MEASURE

Various aspects of the national changeover campaigns can be co-financed, based on a request from Member State and subsequent approval by the Commission. The objective is to improve the knowledge and support for the euro and to address the myths related to euro introduction.

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE CALL(S) FOR PROPOSALS /DIRECT AWARD

Call reference	Date	Amount	

N/A

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

Up to 50% of eligible costs

ESSENTIAL EXCLUSION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

N/A A direct grant was awarded to Lithuania in 2014.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

N/A A direct grant was awarded to Lithuania in 2014.

FORM OF THE GRANT AND VALUE AND TOTAL AMOUNT OF LUMP SUMS ALLOWED [if applicable]

A direct grant was awarded to Lithuania in 2014. The grant application submitted by that Member State included estimates of expenses in 2015 for which acceptance is conditional to a prior agreement by the Commission. This prior agreement will be based on documents and information to be provided by the Member State. The total value to be committed in 2015 amounts to €110,000. The EU's contribution may not exceed 50% of eligible costs. No lump sums are foreseen.

SPECIFIC GRANT AGREEMENT [if applicable]

A direct grant was awarded in 2014 to the Member State concerned (Lithuania).

1.2.5 Co-financing OECD research projects

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d)

BUDGETARY LINE

01.02 01 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro (EMU)'

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The reason for co-funding the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) derives from their technical competence and high-degree of specialisation coupled to the strong and direct relevance of many of their economic studies and research projects for ECFIN's policy-shaping activities in different areas.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE GRANT AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 190.1 (F) RAP

Through the co-financing mechanism, usually along with the OECD Secretariat and several OECD members, the Commission can prioritise work on specific topics of high EU relevance as well as influence the scope and focus of the tasks undertaken by the OECD to fit its own needs.

ESSENTIAL AWARD CRITERIA

Relevance of study or project to ECFIN's policy activities and soundness of the proposed budget

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Reference	Date	Amount
tbd	Q2 2015	€300 000

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

Up to 90% of eligible costs

1.2.6 Co-financing IMF

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d)

BUDGETARY LINE

01.02 01 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro (EMU)'

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organisation of 186 countries established in Washington, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. The reason for co-operating with the IMF is their technical competence and high-degree of specialisation coupled to their role in financial assistance programmes for EU Member States.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE GRANT AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 190.1 (F) RAP

The IMF is closely involved in the different financial assistance programmes in favour of EU Member States such as the Balance-of-Payments (BOP) Facility for non-euro area countries, the rescue packages for Greece, Ireland and Portugal and the European Financial Stability Facility and associated Mechanism (EFSF & EFSM), notably in co-defining and co-monitoring the economic and financial policies that the relevant countries need to implement in order to recover market confidence and to strengthen their fiscal and financial position. Co-financing surveillance and technical assistance actions taken by the IMF contributes efficiently to the Commission's objectives of public finance surveillance.

ESSENTIAL AWARD CRITERIA

Relevance of the surveillance and assistance actions ECFIN's surveillance activities and soundness of the proposed budget

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Reference	Date	Amount
tbd	Q4 2015	€400 000

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

Up to 90% of eligible costs

1.3 Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved in 2015 for procurement contracts amounts to € 5,220,000 of which €5,020,000 on the 'EMU' line (EMU coordination and surveillance: € 2,530,000 and EMU communication activities: € 2,490,000) and €200,000 on the MFA line.

1.3.1 Coordination and surveillance of economic and monetary union (EMU)

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d)

BUDGETARY LINE

01.02 01 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro (EMU)'

INDICATIVE NUMBER AND TYPE OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

The main subjects of the contracts will be the following: external data supply (approx. 20 contracts), speakers and authors of papers (approx. 30 contracts), studies and evaluations (approx. 20 contracts), specialised software (approx. 10 contracts), other (approx. 20 contracts).

SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACTS ENVISAGED (if possible)

The contracts will cover several types of activities:

- I. Access to external commercial data supply services; development and maintenance of internal data bases;
- II. Conferences, workshops, seminars and visiting fellows;
- III. Studies and evaluations;
- IV. Business surveys;
- V. Rating services and other costs related to borrowing/lending activities;
- VI. Publications and associated software;
- VII. Statistical and economic software packages, including maintenance;
- VIII. IT developments;
- IX. Other

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct implementation by DG ECFIN.

INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME FOR LAUNCHING THE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

I. Access to external commercial data supply services; development and maintenance of internal data bases

- call for tender to access public and private companies accounting data
- call for tender to access bond and equity data
- call for tender to access bank and insurance financial data
- call for tender to access GDP forecast data
- calls for tender for contracts with a value not exceeding €15,000 for economic subscriptions and databases will be launched regularly throughout the year depending on the needs of the services

II. Conferences, workshops, seminars, visiting fellows, seminar speakers

The tenders will essentially cover:

- calls for papers/essays and calls for speakers (low-value contracts)
- calls covering logistical aspects (external venue, catering, ...).

Calls are launched regularly throughout the year, depending on the date of the event.

III. Studies and evaluations

- call for tender to study the export capacity and external competitiveness of Italian firms from a micro-economic perspective

- call for tender to evaluate the mid-term application of Decision 466/2014/EU on the EU guarantee to the EIB against losses.

IV. Business surveys

V. Rating services and other costs related to borrowing/lending activities

VI. Publications and associated software

VII. Statistical and economic software packages, including maintenance

VIII. IT developments

IX. Other

INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE CALL FOR TENDERS [not mandatory]

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SPECIFIC CONTRACT [if applicable]

I. Access to external commercial data supply services

- Automated feed of valuation prices and rates for financial market instrument: renewable yearly contracts (Interactive Data)
- Financial market data sources and trading platform: renewable yearly contracts (Bloomberg and Thomson Reuters)
- Provision of Macro-economic and financial data: renewable yearly contracts (IHS Global Insight)
- Purchasing Managers Indices – PMI: renewable yearly contracts (Markit PMI)
- Ratings data and research services: renewable yearly contracts (Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Solutions)
- Economic forecast data: one year service contract (Consensus Economics Inc.)
- Bond and Equity data: renewable yearly contracts (Dealogic)
- Bond Indices: renewable yearly contracts (Markit iBoxx)
- Annual Accounts: renewable yearly contracts (ORBIS/Bureau Van Dijk)
- FDMS+: Forecast Data Management System: specific contracts based on a framework contract (Prognoz)
- Online News and Information Services for Emerging Markets: renewable yearly contracts (Internet Securities Limited)

II. Conferences, workshops and seminars

Specific contracts against framework contracts PMO2/PR/2013/001 (travel and accommodation) and OIB.DR2-PC-2012-117-558 (catering)

III. Studies and evaluations

IV. Business surveys

The contract for Financial Services Sector Surveys will be signed with a new contractor for the first annual period 04/2015 – 03/2016 (contract notice 2014/S154-275797 refers).

V. Rating services and other costs relating to borrowing/lending activities

- The rating services needed in 2015 will be covered by 3 framework service contracts signed with the major rating agencies (Moody's, Standard & Poor's, Fitch).

- The legal update of Euro Medium Term Note Programme is covered by a listing agent and fiscal agent service contract (Deutsche Bank)

VI. Publications and associated software

Specific contracts against framework contracts managed by OP.

VII. Statistical and economic software packages, including maintenance

Specific contracts against framework contracts managed by DIGIT.

VIII. IT developments

Specific contracts against framework contracts managed by DIGIT and by ECFIN.

1.3.2 EMU communication activities

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d)

BUDGETARY LINE

01.02 01 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro (EMU)'

INDICATIVE NUMBER AND TYPE OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

Framework contracts of DG ECFIN and other Commission services will be used in the large majority of cases. The number of specific contracts will amount to approximately 80, virtually all of which will be service contracts. The main subject of the contracts will be the following: conferences and events (approx. 20 contracts), exhibitions (approx. 5 contracts), seminars (approx. 20 contracts), publications (approx. 30 contracts or order forms) and surveys (approx. 5 contracts).

SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACTS ENVISAGED (IF POSSIBLE)

The contracts will cover several types of activities, in particular to inform about the EU's response to the crisis, economic governance in the EU, to improve the general knowledge on the euro and EMU and to contribute to communication efforts in line with the 2015 work programme. These activities will also contribute, as far as possible, to the corporate communication priorities of the Commission, and in particular to the theme "EU for fairness", as identified by the Communication Steering Board".

I. Conferences, events and seminars on the euro/EMU within the EU, covering in particular:

- (a) network meetings;
- (b) seminars for journalists and other multipliers;
- (c) annual conferences (e.g. the Brussels Economic Forum and other high profile events);
- (d) high-level conferences in pre-in countries;
- (e) workshops and seminars

II. Exhibitions, notably including:

- (a) the itinerant euro exhibition;
- (b) stands with publications on the euro and EMU

III. Competitions, such as poster competitions, coin design competitions, competitions targeted at photographers and cartoonists, etc.

IV. Public stands

V. Information activities in third countries, covering conferences and seminars, distribution of publications, school competitions, etc.

VI. Twinning programmes (between pre-in countries and euro-area countries)

VII. Studies and surveys, notably including:

- (a) surveys on citizens' perceptions in countries preparing for the imminent introduction of the euro;
- (b) Eurobarometer surveys on the euro;
- (c) studies on the impact of information activities on the euro

VIII. Publications, including ECFIN's flagship publications (European Economy, Economic Papers, etc.) and associated software (EP/kit) as well as publications for the general public and posters

IX. Electronic newsletter

X. Promotional material

XI. Advertising campaigns

XII. ECFIN website, including ad-hoc articles for the web

XIII. Audio-visual material

XIV. Technical assistance

The above list is not exhaustive.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct implementation by DG ECFIN.

INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME FOR LAUNCHING THE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

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INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE CALL FOR TENDERS

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SPECIFIC CONTRACT [IF APPLICABLE]

The majority of the specific contracts will be concluded on existing framework contracts such as:

ECFIN-222-2011 Organisation and management of events

ECFIN-223-2011 Organisation and management of events

ECFIN-224-2011 Organisation and management of events

ECFIN-044 (045/046)-2013 - Promotional material

ECFIN-038-2013 - Writing, the web, graphic design

ECFIN-041-2013 - Audio-visual production

PMO2/PR/2013/001 Travel and accommodation

PO/2010-30/A2 Flash Eurobarometer Opinion polls

PO/2010-24/A6 Information briefings and seminars for journalists

Most of the contracts relating to printing publications will be implemented through framework contracts managed by OP (co-delegation).

Other framework contracts from different Commission services may be used.

1.3.3 Macro-financial assistance (procurement part)

The present financing decision covers only MFA expenditure related to procurement (€200,000). All other measures, representing €77,755,000 will be subject to *ad hoc* financing decisions.

LEGAL BASIS

For operational assessments: Council decision granting MFA to the country.

For evaluations: FR Art. 30.

BUDGETARY LINE

01.03 02 'Macro- financial assistance'

INDICATIVE NUMBER AND TYPE OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

Several operational assessments through specific contracts against framework contracts.

SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACTS ENVISAGED (if possible)

Operational assessments of financial circuits and controls in the countries concerned by macro-financial assistance. The objective is to obtain reasonable assurance of the reliability of the financial and administrative procedures implemented in these countries. Recommendations contained in these OA reports give the Commission the possibility to assist these countries to improve their public finance management. Evaluations assess the contribution of MFA to structural reforms in the recipient countries and the macroeconomic performances of these countries.

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct implementation by DG ECFIN.

INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME FOR LAUNCHING THE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE**INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE CALL FOR TENDERS****SPECIFIC CONTRACT [IF APPLICABLE]**

Specific contracts will be entered into with the company(ies) selected under call for tender OJ 2014/S 133-237741 dated 15th July 2014.

1.4 Administrative Arrangement with the JRC**LEGAL BASIS**

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d)

BUDGETARY LINE

01.02 01 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro (EMU)'

AMOUNT

€100,000.

IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

The Joint Research Centre (JRC).

OVERALL OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE OF THE ACTION

The development of a multi-countries macro-economic model for quantitative analysis of spill-overs, forecasting, medium-term projections and others.

1.5 Other actions

1.5.1 Provisioning of the guarantee fund for external actions

LEGAL BASIS

Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 of 25 May 2009 establishing a guarantee fund for external actions.

BUDGETARY LINE

01.03 06 'Provisioning of the Guarantee Fund'

AMOUNT

€144,409,518

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE IMPLEMENTING MEASURE

(1) The Guarantee Fund for External Actions was created in 1994. It provides the financial resources which are used as a smoothing mechanism to avoid a direct call on budget resources when, due to defaults of beneficiaries of loans, the Community must assure the reimbursement of maturing financial obligations (e.g. interest, principal). The Fund is financed from the general budget of the European Communities and its financial management is entrusted to the EIB.

(2) Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) 480/2009 of 25 May 2009 lays down the provisioning mechanism for the Guarantee Fund for External Actions. The level of provisioning under the current system is determined on an ex-post basis, and depends on the outstanding amount of loans and guaranteed loans. The transfer to the Fund takes the form of a single commitment and a single payment early in the budgetary year.

1.5.2 Provision of paid-up shares of subscribed capital for the European Investment Fund

LEGAL BASIS

Decision No 562/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the participation of the European Union in the capital increase of the European Investment Fund (OJ L 156, 24.5.2014, p. 1).

BUDGETARY LINE

01.04 01 01 'European Investment Fund – Provision of paid-up shares of subscribed capital'

AMOUNT

€49,898,000

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE IMPLEMENTING MEASURE

Following the adoption of the Decision No 562/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, and in line with the Statutes of the Fund, the General Meeting of the Fund authorised on 27 May 2014 the Fund to increase its capital by 50% in nominal terms of which 20% will be paid-in. The price of the new shares will be set annually during 2014-2017 based on a formula agreed between the Fund's shareholders. In total, the European Commission, on behalf of the Union, will subscribe to up to 450 shares of the Fund during 2014-2017.

1.5.3 Regional and horizontal programmes (co-delegation DG ELARG)

No commitment appropriations are foreseen in the 2015 budget for the IFI Facilities. However, interests earned on the trust accounts are considered as additional resources and may be used under the Agreement for the co-financing of projects with Participating Banks. Therefore it is necessary to proceed on an annual basis to the regularisation of the interest generated in order to keep the amount on the trust account and to reuse for projects under the Facilities.

The budget line concerned is 22.02.51 (Completion of former pre-accession assistance prior to 2014 - IFI Facilities managed by the EBRD, EIB and CEB: SMEFF, MFF, EEFF and MIF) and the amount of interests expected in 2015 is up to around €140,000.