



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
International economic and financial affairs

Brussels,
AL/fs D(2007)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: - Study on the adjustment capacity to external shocks of EU candidate and potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans, with a focus on labour markets
- Contract notice OJ 2007/S73-088492 of 14.04.007

1. I enclose the call for tenders relating to the above-mentioned contract.
2. If you are interested in this contract, you should submit a tender in triplicate in one of the official languages of the European Union.
3. Where submission is by letter, tenderers may choose to submit tenders:
 - a) either by post or by courier not later than 21/05/2007, in which case the evidence shall be constituted by the date of the postmark or the date of the deposit slip, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs
For the attention of: Head of Unit R-2
BU1 3/13
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

b) or delivered by hand to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs
For the attention of: Head of Unit R-2 – Office BU1 3/13
1, avenue du Bourget
B-1140 Brussels (Evere)
Belgium

not later than 16.00 on 21/05/2007. In this case, a receipt must be obtained as proof of submission, signed and dated by the official in the Commission's central mail department who took delivery. The department is open from 08.00 to 17.00 Monday to Thursday, and from 8.00 to 16.00 on Fridays. It is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Commission holidays.

4. Tenders must be placed inside two sealed envelopes. The inner envelope, addressed to the department indicated in the invitation to tender, should be marked as follows: "Invitation to tender ECFIN/D/2007/001 - not to be opened by the internal mail department". If self-adhesive envelopes are used, they must be sealed with adhesive tape and the sender must sign across this tape.
5. The specification, listing all the documents that must be produced in order to tender, including supporting evidence of economic, financial, technical and professional capacity and the draft contract are attached.
6. Tenders must be:
 - signed by the tenderer or his duly authorised representative;
 - perfectly legible so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures;
7. Period of validity of the tender, during which tenderers may not modify the terms of their tenders in any respect: 6 months from the deadline for the submission of the tender.
8. Submission of a tender implies acceptance of all the terms and conditions set out in this invitation to tender, in the specification and in the draft contract and, where appropriate, waiver of the tenderer's own general or specific terms and conditions. It is binding on the tenderer to whom the contract is awarded for the duration of the contract.

9. Contacts between the contracting authority and tenderers are prohibited throughout the procedure save in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:

- Before the final date for submission of tenders:

* At the request of the tenderer, the contracting authority may provide additional information solely for the purpose of clarifying the nature of the contract.

Any requests for additional information must be made in writing only to:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Economic and Financial Affairs
Unit D4
Office BU-1 00/002
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Email: ecfin-d1-study@ec.europa.eu

Requests for additional information received less than five working days before the closing date for submission of tenders will not be processed.

* The Commission may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission or any other clerical error in the text of the call for tenders.

* Any additional information including that referred to above will be sent simultaneously to all tenderers who have requested the specification.

- After the opening of tenders

* If clarification is required or if obvious clerical errors in the tender need to be corrected, the contracting authority may contact the tenderer provided the terms of the tender are not modified as a result.

10. This invitation to tender is in no way binding on the Commission. The Commission's contractual obligation commences only upon signature of the contract with the successful tenderer.

Up to the point of signature, the contracting authority may either abandon the procurement or cancel the award procedure, without the candidates or tenderers being entitled to claim any compensation. This decision must be substantiated and the candidates or tenderers notified.

11. You will be informed whether or not your tender has been accepted.

12. Processing your reply to the invitation to tender will involve the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name, address and CV). Such data will 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. Unless indicated otherwise, your replies to the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate your tender in accordance with the specifications of the invitation to tender and will be processed solely for that purpose by Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs. You are entitled to obtain access to your personal data on request and to rectify any such data that is inaccurate or incomplete. If you have any queries concerning the processing of your personal data, you may address them to the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs. You have the right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor for matters relating to the processing of your personal data.

Antonio de Lecea