



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT
DIRECTORATE C – THE DIRECTOR

Brussels,

INVITATION TO TENDER No. TREN/C2/346-2009

(open procedure)

Dear Sir/Madam,

1. The European Commission invites tenders for a service contract regarding the following project:

Study on Interoperability - Gas quality harmonisation - Cost Benefit Analysis

This invitation to tender follows the publication of:

- The contract notice in OJEU **2009/S 61-086851**

2. If you are interested in this contract, you must submit a tender in **triplicate**, in one of the official languages of the European Union.

Tenders must be:

(a) **either sent by registered mail or by private courier**

The tender must be sent by registered mail or by private courier, dispatched not later than **18/05/2009** (the postmark or the receipt issued by the courier service serving as proof of the dispatch) to the following address:

By registered mail

European Commission
Directorate-General Energy and Transport
DM 28 - 0/110 - Archives
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

By private courier

European Commission
Directorate-General Energy and Transport - DM 28 - 0/110
Avenue du Bourget, 1
B-1049 Brussels (Evere)
Belgium

(b) **or delivered by hand**

Tenders must be delivered by hand at the **Central Mail of the European Commission** by **18/05/2009 not later than 4 p.m.** (Brussels time), at the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General Energy and Transport – DM 28 0/110
Avenue du Bourget, 1
B-1140 Brussels (Evere)
Belgium

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.

3. Tenders must be placed inside two sealed envelopes, one inside the other. **The inner envelope should be marked:**

Call for tenders No. TREN/C2/346-2009
not to be opened by the internal mail department
DM 28 0/110 – Archives

If self-adhesive envelopes are used, they must be sealed with adhesive tape and the sender must sign across this tape.

The non-compliance with these formal conditions will entail the rejection of the bids at the opening session.

4. Tenders will be opened at **10.00 a.m on 03/06/2009**, at 28 Rue De Mot (Directorate-General Energy and Transport, mail department, ground floor, office 110 1040-Brussels).
This opening session will be public. Each tenderer may be represented by not more than one person. At the end of the opening session, the Chairman of the opening committee will indicate the name of the tenderers and the decision concerning the admissibility of each offer received. The prices mentioned in the bids will not be communicated.
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 and perfectly legible so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures.
7. Validity period of the tender: six months as from the final date for submission of tenders mentioned under point 2 above.

8. Submission of a tender implies acceptance of all the terms and conditions set out in this invitation to tender, in the specification, in the draft contract and, where applicable, waiver of the tenderer's own general or specific terms and conditions. The terms and conditions are binding on the tenderer to whom the contract is awarded during the performance of the contract.
9. Contacts between the awarding authority and tenderers are prohibited throughout the procedure except in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:

Before the closing date for submission of tenders

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

Requests for additional information must be sent in writing not later than six calendar days before the closing date for submission of tenders to the following address:

Mr Mark van Stiphout
European Commission
DM 24-06/45
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Phone (+ 32 2) 298.01.50
e-mail: Mark.Van-Stiphout@ec.europa.eu

- The Commission may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission or any other material shortcoming in the text of the tender documents.

Further information will be sent simultaneously to all tenderers who have requested the specification in writing, where this is appropriate. Tenderers who have downloaded the documents from the Directorate-General Energy and transport website (DG TREN) are invited to consult this site regularly until the deadline for submission.

After the opening of tenders

If a tender requires clarification, or if there is a need to correct material errors which have occurred in the drafting of the tender, the Commission may take the initiative and contact the tenderer(s). Such contact shall not lead to the conditions of the tender being altered in any way.

10. This invitation to tender is in no way binding on the Commission. A commitment will come about only when a contract with the successful tenderer has been signed.

Until a contract is signed, the awarding authority may decide not to award a contract or to cancel the tendering procedure, without the candidates or tenderers being entitled to claim any compensation. Where appropriate, the decision will be substantiated and brought to the attention of the tenderers.

11. Tenderers will be informed of whether their tenders have been accepted or rejected.
12. The follow-up of your response to the invitation to tender will require the recording and further processing of personal data (i.e. name, address, CV, etc.). This data will be processed in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (CE) 45/2001 on the protection of

individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless if otherwise stated, replies to questions and personal data requested are necessary for the purpose of assessing your tender (according to the specifications of the invitation to tender) and will only be processed within DG TREN as data controller, for this purpose. You may, upon request, have your personal data sent to you and rectify any inaccurate or incomplete particulars. Should you have any queries concerning the processing of your personal data, please address them to the entity acting as data controller within DG TREN. As regards the processing of your personal data, you have the right to bring the matter before the European Data Protection Supervisor at any time.

13. You are informed that for the purposes of safeguarding the financial interest of the Communities, your personal data may be transferred to internal audit services, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel and/or to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

Data of economic operators which are in one of the situations referred to in Articles 93, 94, 96(1)(b) and 96(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation may be included in a central database and communicated to the designated persons of the Commission, other institutions, agencies, authorities and bodies mentioned in Article 95(1) and (2) of the Financial Regulation. This refers as well to the persons with powers of representation, decision making or control over the said economic operators. Any party entered into the database has the right to be informed of the data concerning it, up on request to the accounting officer of the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Heinz Hilbrecht

TENDER SPECIFICATIONS
ATTACHED TO THE INVITATION TO TENDER

**Invitation to tender No. TREN/C2/346-2009 concerning
Study on Interoperability - Gas quality harmonisation - Cost Benefit Analysis**

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I. SPECIFICATIONS

I.1. Introduction

European Commission – DG TREN Unit C.2 Mark van Stiphout
Follow-up of Inventory on Interoperability Issues
Related to CEN working group "Gas quality" (CEN BT WG 197)

Background information

Directive 2003/55/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2003 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas and repealing Directive 98/30/EC establishes the legal framework for creating a single natural gas market in the European Union. Notwithstanding the fact that a number of challenges remain to be tackled on the regulatory side, technical problems related to the fact that natural gas markets of Member States have been developed in line with the needs of the respective national market have not been overcome yet. EASEE-gas, the European Association for the Exchange of Energy – Gas, established in 2002 and gathering companies active in the gas market along the whole gas chain as well as their respective European associations, has achieved significant progress in addressing problems hindering the free flow of gas for technical reasons. These problems are usually referred to in the context of interoperability.

Although European natural gas companies are becoming increasingly active on neighbouring markets with a view to marketing their gas there, considerable obstacles for the free flow of gas still exist. They do not only accrue from different gas quality specifications, but also, among other things, from existing business rules, different units and communication means used by the network operators. Despite considerable progress in some of these areas, such as harmonisation of units, obstacles related to a lack of interoperability remain and are increasingly difficult to tackle. Full market opening, as required by Directive 2003/55/EC no later than July 2007 and increasing LNG supply against the background of rising import needs are likely to accentuate the need for identifying appropriate solutions to these problems. It is worth highlighting that the completion of the internal market for gas would depend to a considerable extent on if and how interoperability problems are overcome.

Against this background, a process has been launched with a view to creating a comprehensive and as complete as possible inventory of existing interoperability problems at points relevant for the single European gas market. This has been done in the study called 'an Inventory on Interoperability Issues on the EU Internal Market for Gas'. The inventory has now been turned into an interactive database by GIE in cooperation with the Commission (<http://gie.1click.be/>). At the same time the study looked into the costs and benefits of solving gas quality issues at Interconnection Points. Several meetings were held with stakeholders in different geographical zones. These concluded that practical progress was being made in solving issues at the borders, but that one major constraint in harmonisation of gas quality across Europe is the potential downstream impact (e.g. on the existing gas appliance population). The study also concluded that an overall cost benefit analysis is needed for the whole EU taking into account upstream and downstream effects. This conclusion is the basis for this study. It is linked to the mandate to CEN to define standards for gas quality, as the results of this study will be an input in the form of a recommendation to CEN for a definition of gas quality standards that are the broadest possible within reasonable costs. At the end of 2008 the Commission has signed a contract with CEN for a testing programme to analyse the effects of gas quality differences on the functioning of domestic appliances. The testing programme will take two years. For the mandate and related information see the following link

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/standards_policy/mandates/index.htm For more information see also www.cen.eu.

I.2. Purpose of the contract

1 Contract objectives

1.1 Overall objectives

The final result of the Cost-Benefit analysis will be input to CEN for a definition of a gas quality standard. This study will present a Cost Benefit Analysis for the harmonisation of gas quality in the EU, taking an overall view of the gas industry in the EU, from the production upstream to the supply, including the burner tip (appliances). The study is part of the overall aim to define EU-wide gas quality standards to contribute to the creation of an internal market for gas for all users.

1.2 Specific objectives

1.2.1 Inventory and scenario

The contractor shall:

Based on publicly available information, as well as information provided by the Commission, based on inputs from stakeholders, develop scenarios on flows of gas in the EU and supply-flows to the EU until 2030. The scenarios shall be developed with the aim of identifying the distribution of physical gas qualities in the EU (e.g. are there “zones” where certain localised ranges of gas quality are likely to be seen?). The Commission will ensure adequate provision of information to the contractor to be able to develop the scenarios.

1.2.2 Costs and benefits

The contractor shall take into account the following with respect to costs and benefits regarding the supply chain:

1. Treatment of gas & gas processing in the supply chain, e.g. gas blending and ballasting facilities;
2. Role of gas quality in attractiveness of the EU market compared to the USA and Asia;
3. What is the impact of short term supply disruptions on gas quality: Does it play a role in the flexibility of the EU transport system/gas market to deal with short term supply disruptions;
4. Competition in the natural gas market;
5. Short-term and long-term costs and benefits;

The contractor shall take into account the following with respect to costs and benefits regarding appliances:

6. Safety, environmental impact and efficiency of appliances;
7. Investment in new appliances and/or replacement or modification of appliances;
8. Treatment of gas & gas processing at the burner tip;
9. Competition in the gas appliance market;
10. Short-term and long-term costs and benefits;

2 Methodology

2.1 Scenarios

The scenarios shall be based on the following information, that shall be provided to the contractor by the Commission:

1. The limits to gas quality in contracts and cross-border TSO-to-TSO Interconnection Agreements (or in the absence of any contractual agreement – existing practices at that IP), as presented in the Inventory on Interoperability Issues.
2. The legal or regulatory limits to gas quality in Member States.
3. An inventory of the different possible pipeline and LNG-sources for the EU and their respective gas qualities.
4. The evolution of the supply needed in each country.

The scenarios shall be developed as a basis for the cost-benefit analysis. They shall be used as a tool to analyse costs and benefits for a range of potential situations in the future. These scenarios shall focus on gas quality. The scenarios shall include the following aspects:

1. Flows of gas within the EU
2. Supply flows to the EU
3. Gas quality requirements in the EU,
 - a. the adoption of the EASEE-gas CBP in the whole EU (at all IP's),
 - b. other gas quality requirements in the whole EU (wider and smaller than the CBP's);
 - c. adoption of discrete gas quality “zones” within the EU with gas quality conversion services at the interfaces;
 - d. no gas quality standard in the EU.

The scenario will deal with the following assumptions:

1. 2 years (situation in 2015 and 2025).
2. Different assumptions for the supply sources to EU (dealing with 6 supply possibilities: Caspian, Middle East, LNG, Russia, Norway, North Africa).
3. Evolution of the supply needed in each country (hypothesis low, high and medium).

2.2 Indicators

Economic and financial indicators shall be developed on the following topics regarding the supply chain:

1. gas quality aspects in gas price differences in different zones/MS;
2. gas quality aspects in security of supply and gas supply interruptions;
3. treatment of gas & gas processing;

Economic and financial indicators shall be developed on the following topics regarding the appliances:

4. competition in the appliances market;
5. effect of changes in gas quality on existing appliances;
6. replacement/adjustment of appliances.

2.3 Stakeholders

The contractor shall for the harmonisation of gas quality:

1. analyse the costs and benefits for TSO's;
2. analyse the costs and benefits for producers;
3. analyse the costs and benefits for shippers, traders and suppliers;
4. analyse the costs and benefits for large industrial consumers;
5. analyse the costs and benefits for gas appliance manufacturers;
6. analyse the costs and benefits for SME's and households based on the results of the testing of gas appliances within the framework of phase I of the mandate to CEN;

The contractor shall develop a methodology for the above-mentioned analyses and scenario-development, and this is subject to approval by the Commission. This methodology shall include a proposal to limit the analysis to specific gas quality parameters that are most

relevant when determining costs and benefits for a specific stakeholder group (i.e. industry sector) as described above.

The contractor shall in the analysis of the costs and benefits, cooperate closely with the industry and their associations. The Commission will provide assistance in organising cooperation of the relevant industry sectors and associations. The contractor's analysis of costs and benefits as described under 1 to 6 shall be based on the inputs of the stakeholders listed, and the input from CEN based on their study. The Commission will assist the contractor in obtaining the highest-quality of data possible from the stakeholders.

2.4 Other studies

The results of the testing programme that is part of the CEN mandate will be an input for the analysis of the domestic appliance market. If the results of the testing programme are not ready the analysis of the contractor will be based on preliminary results to be provided by CEN.

The contractor can cooperate with the Commission and use output from other studies as input for the Cost-Benefit analysis. The contractor shall take into account results and ongoing work from other studies that are currently being undertaken or prepared. This includes in particular a study DG TREN Directorate C on different LNG sources to the EU (http://ec.europa.eu/energy/gas_electricity/studies/gas_en.htm), and a study by DG Enterprise and Industry, Directorate I on competition in the appliance market. The final report of this study is expected for publication August 2009.¹

More information on studies that are input for the current study can be provided to interested parties at their request.

More information regarding the gas appliance competitiveness study:

Below is a short summary of the goals of the study that is launched by DG Enterprise and Industry Directorate I.

The scope of the “Study on the competitiveness of the EU gas appliances sector” in terms of products and applications to be covered is seen in the light of the scope of the Directive 90/396/EEC on appliances burning gaseous fuels (GAD) and the possible future widening of its scope. Therefore at least the following main categories of gas appliances will be considered throughout the study:

- All “appliances” and so-called “fittings” as referred to in Article 1 of the GAD;
- All appliances falling under the definition “appliances utilising gaseous fuels as energy source”, but not considered to be covered by the current definition of the scope of the GAD, and
- All components, parts and fittings for in-house gas installations for appliances downstream of the delivery point of the gas supply network.

¹ A number of sector related studies have been carried out that are also related to appliances but not directly relevant for this study. For instance, European Commission, DG Transport and Energy (DG TREN), has funded recently the following studies:

- Eco-design of Boilers and Combi-boilers: <http://www.ecoboiler.org/>
- Water heaters (gas/oil/electric): <http://www.ecohotwater.org/>
- Commercial refrigerators and freezers, including chillers, display cabinets and vending machines: <http://www.ecofreezercom.org/>
- Domestic refrigerators and freezers: <http://www.ecocold-domestic.org/>
- Domestic dishwashers and washing machines: <http://www.ecowet-domestic.org/>

This study aims to get a clear picture of the current and future gas appliances market and the competitiveness of the gas appliances sector in the framework of technological innovation, current and foreseeable future legislation, market structures and differences in gas types and supply pressures in the EU.

Main relevant component of this study that is relevant for the gas quality study is the analysis aiming to identify the main performance indicators in order to benchmark the European gas-appliances and fittings sector against its main competitors. It will include an assessment of the role of the EU gas appliances and fittings sector on the global market and an analysis of the dynamics of competition on the EU internal market in order to identify its competitive positioning. The project will include an assessment and benchmarking of productivity developments of the sector.

With regard to the nature of global competition the study will e.g.:

- identify the key players in world market and their strategies,
- identify where appropriate global value chains,
- examine the developments in global market shares and relative prices of exports,
- examine the developments in terms of trade and relative product prices, and
- examine the extent of international competition for foreign direct investment with other world areas.

In order to determine the competitive position of EU gas appliances sector and the developments on EU internal market, at least the following will be part of the study:

- Developments in profitability and price-cost margins,
- Development of market shares of key industry/manufacturers and other stakeholders involved in the value chain (notified bodies, supply chain/distributors, installation services, after sales market, etc.),
- Identification of potential barriers to entry and exit, like fixed costs and economies of scale, sunk costs (e.g. costs of sales networks, etc.) and possible regulatory² barriers to entry or exit,
- Market structures of the sector: manufacturers, sub-contractors, suppliers and distributors, purchasers, notified bodies, installation services, etc.³,
- Developments in ownership and in expenditures on investment, marketing, and training, and the link with global competition.

The contractor will also examine and analyse the productivity developments in EU gas appliances sector, in particular

- the developments and determinants of labour productivity and total factor productivity growth:
- notable external economies of scale for products, skills, or knowledge,
- measurement (where possible) of international technological efficiency,
- significant developments in key sub-sectors of sector, and

² This should include also potential indirect intra-EU barriers to trade like analyses of impacts of national regulations on gas installations, qualification requirements for gas installers, requirements related to aspects not covered by the GAD (e.g. environmental aspects), etc.

³ It should be kept in mind that there are indications that e.g. appliances are more and more “re-imported” within the single market also by companies not authorised by the manufacturer. This increases the complexity of the market structures and may have an impact on the role of different parties.

- developments in sectors which may have significant impact on the EU gas appliances sector (for instance, building and construction sector, protection of environment).

All the results should be presented in a consistent way so that the period beginning from the adoption of the Directive (1990) until today will be covered and that the forecasts and conclusions of this study are clearly based on the analysis of the gathered data and other input material.

Based on these analyses the study will make conclusions and recommendations including a strategic outlook for the EU gas appliances sector over the medium to long term and identify the main implications both for the sector, its competitiveness, its investment strategy and EU industrial policy. The outcome should include the identification of all obstacles to improved competitiveness, and possible market failures, which might justify actions to address specific problems in gas appliances sector (including linked service sector). Consequently, the study should provide advice and orientation to the Commission on possible measures to strengthen the competitiveness of the sector both on the European and the global marketplace.

3 Relation between scenarios and indicators

3.1 Flexibility and gas quality (short-term SoS and competition)

An analysis per Member State shall be made on the sources of gas at its disposal and its infrastructure, and to the (possibly limiting) role of gas quality.

An analysis shall be made per Member State on the sensitivity of the gas quality to short-term interruptions. Financial and economic indicators shall be designed to analyse the effects of short-term interruptions, including price differences and liability of market parties, focusing on the (possible) role of gas quality limitations. This will represent a cost of not harmonising gas quality.

Financial and economic indicators shall be designed that quantify the differences in gas price in different markets with the aim of assessing and quantifying the possible role of gas quality in these price differences.

The different supply scenarios shall be applied to these indicators.

3.2 Supply sources (long-term SoS)

Financial and economic indicators that quantify the need and subsequent costs for treatment of gas due to gas quality restrictions in different Member States shall be analysed. These costs will be analysed for treatment downstream as well as commitment upstream to deliver at a specified gas quality. The relation to competing markets, e.g. the USA and/or Asia shall be taken into account. The different scenarios on flows of gas to the EU and within the EU shall be applied to these indicators.

4 Appliances

4.1 Competition in the appliance market

A quantified analysis shall be made of the effects of EU wide competition in appliances on the prices of gas appliances. An analysis of the competitiveness of EU appliance manufacturers shall be used, and a benchmark shall be used that defines the efficient production of (types of) gas appliances. This shall be based on input from the study by DG Enterprise and Industry that is described above.

4.2 Existing appliances

Financial and economic indicators shall be developed to quantify the effects of changes in gas quality on the functioning of a gas appliance (including industrial gas consuming installations), especially with respect to efficiency, environmental effects and safety.

For the appliances included in the testing programme of the mandate to CEN the test results shall be used, for other appliances the analysis shall be done based on literature and stakeholder input. If the information from the testing programme is not available, the analysis of household appliances shall be based on literature.

The impact on industrial process use shall be analysed – for example, where the gas is used as a chemical feedstock.

4.3 Replacement/adjustment/new appliances

Financial and economic indicators shall be developed to quantify the costs and benefits of developing, producing and installing new appliances that are more efficient and/or better in handling different gas qualities as well as the costs and benefits of adjusting existing appliances.

The indicators shall be applied to the EU gas appliance inventory and shall be calculated using different scenarios as defined in 3.2.

5 Job description

5.1 Scenarios and indicators

The contractor shall develop scenarios as mentioned above, and they shall be approved by the Commission.

The contractor shall develop indicators as mentioned above, and they shall be approved by the Commission.

5.2 Stakeholder meetings

The contractor shall organise meetings, with assistance of the Commission to gather information with:

1. TSOs
2. Suppliers
3. Producers
4. Traders
5. Appliance users: Industry (heat & power producers; feedstock)
6. Appliance manufacturers and sellers
7. Other possible stakeholders to be proposed by the Commission or the contractor.

The contractor shall provide the Commission with the information mentioned above for approval. The contractor shall ensure that the information is provided in such a way that it can be used as input in the other phases of the study.

6 Project team

The project team shall have expertise on the following issues:

Industrial economics
Financial economics
Gas quality
Gas Processing
Gas Appliances

7 Project planning and deliverables

The following documents have to be provided:

Part I: pilot phase for one parameter/area

1. Complete all phases of the project for one gas quality parameter or for one geographical area.

Part II: scenarios

2. 4 Different quantified scenarios on flows within the EU;
3. 4 Different quantified scenarios on supply flows to the EU;
4. 4 Different quantified scenarios on gas quality standards in the EU;

Part III: CBA excluding burner-tip

5. Minutes of meetings with stakeholders mentioned in 5.2;
6. List of economic indicators for the subjects mentioned in 2.3;
7. A report that contains an overview of costs and benefits of harmonising the gas quality specification, under different scenarios, for all costs and benefits;

The project consists of the following phases and deadlines:

- Part II: Inventory and scenarios – 10 months after project start
- Part III: Gas market; consultation of stakeholders, develop indicators and apply scenarios – 16 months after project start
- Part IV: Appliances; consultation of stakeholders, include data from CEN testing programme, develop indicators and apply scenarios – 22 months after project start
- Part V: Final report and recommendation to CEN – 24 months after project start

8 Duties of the contractor

The contractor is responsible and in overall charge for the implementation of the project as described in these terms of reference. The contractor has to ensure close co-ordination with the Commission and to take fully into account the views of stakeholders involved in the project. The contractor shall make best endeavours to obtain the necessary input from all stakeholders that are mentioned above.

The stakeholders that the contractor shall involve in the project are at least those industry associations which participate in the Madrid Forum process.

All reports to the Commission and all communication with the Commission shall be in English.

9 Budget

The duration of the project shall not extend two years.

The contractor has to submit a detailed and substantiated financial proposal setting out the breakdown of costs involved in the implementation of the project.

I.3. Reports and documents to produce - Timetable to observe

Execution of the tasks begins after the date on which the Contract enters into force.

*A **kick-off meeting** will take place in Brussels, at the latest 30 days following the signature of the contract, in order to settle all the details of the study, report, etc... to be undertaken.*

I.3.1. Interim reports

The **interim reports** showing progress of the work shall be submitted to the Commission at the latest:

- Part II: Inventory and scenarios – **10** months after the date of signature of the contract.
- Part III: Gas market; consultation of stakeholders, develop indicators and apply scenarios – **16** months after the date of signature of the contract.
- Part IV: Appliances; consultation of stakeholders, include data from CEN testing programme, develop indicators and apply scenarios – **22** months after the date of signature of the contract.

The Commission shall have twenty days from receipt to approve or reject the report. Within 20 days of receiving the Commission's observations, the Contractor will submit additional information or another report.

I.3.2. Final report

The contractor will submit a draft final report to the Commission at the latest **23** months after the signature of the contract.

The Commission shall have twenty days from receipt to approve or reject the draft final report, and the Contractor shall have 20 days in which to submit additional information or a new final report.

I.3.3. Report format and publication

3 copies of the reports shall be supplied in paper form and one copy in electronic form, either in MS Word or in HTML format.

The Commission may publish the results of the study. For this purpose, the tenderer must ensure that the study is not subject to any restrictions deriving from intellectual property rights of third parties. Should he intend to use data in the study, which cannot be published, this must be explicitly mentioned in the offer.

I.4. Duration of the tasks

The duration of the tasks shall not exceed **24** months. This period is calculated in calendar days.

I.5. Place of performance

The tasks will be performed on the Contractor's premises. However, meetings between the contractor and the Commission may be held on Commission premises in Brussels.

I.6. Estimate of the amount of work involved

The amount of work involved to carry out this contract is assessed at about 350 man-days.

The total value of the offer should be expressed all expenses included.

II. TERMS OF CONTRACT

In drawing up his offer, the tenderer should bear in mind the provisions of the draft contract attached to this invitation to tender (Annex 5). Any limitation, amendment or denial of the terms of contract will lead to automatic exclusion from the procurement procedure.

The Commission may, before the contract is signed, either abandon the procurement procedure or cancel the award procedure without the tenderers being entitled to claim any compensation.

II.1. Terms of payment

Payments shall be made in accordance with the provisions specified in Annex 5, the draft service contract

II.2. Financial guarantees

Guarantee on pre-financing

For any pre-financing higher than 100,000 EUR, a financial guarantee equivalent to the amount of the pre-financing will be requested.

Depending on the financial situation of the tenderer, the Commission may ask for the financial guarantee for amounts lower than 100,000 EUR.

II.3. Subcontracting

If the tenderer intends to subcontract part of the service, he shall indicate in his offer which part will be subcontracted and to what extent (% of the total contract value).

Tenderers must ensure that Article II.17 of the contract (Annex 5) can be applied to subcontractors. Once the contract has been signed, Article II.13 of the above-mentioned contract shall govern the subcontracting.

II.4. Legal form to be taken by the grouping of service providers to whom the contract is awarded (if applicable)

Groupings, irrespective of their legal form, may submit bids. Tenderers may, after forming a grouping, submit a joint bid on condition that it complies with the rules of competition. Such groupings (or consortium) must specify the company or person heading the project and must also submit a copy of the document authorising this company or person to submit a bid. If awarded, the contract will be signed by the company or the person heading the project, who will be, vis à vis the Commission, the only contracting party responsible for the performance of this contract. Tenders from a consortium of firms or groups of service providers, contractors or suppliers must specify the role, qualifications and experience of each member of the consortium or group. Each member must provide all the necessary documents for assessing the bid as a whole with regard to the exclusion criteria, selection criteria (in their entirety) and award criteria.

III. FORM AND CONTENT OF THE TENDER

III.1. General

Tenders must be written in **one of the official languages** of the European Union.

Tenders must be clear and concise, with continuous page numbering, and assembled in a coherent fashion (e.g. bound or stapled, etc...). Since tenderers will be judged on the content of their written bids, they must make it clear that they are able to meet the requirements of the specifications.

III.2. Structure of the tender

All tenders must include three sections i.e. an administrative, a technical and a financial proposal.

III.2.1. Section One: administrative proposal

This section must provide the following information, set out in the standard identification forms attached to these tender specifications (Annexes 1, 2 and 3):

- Tenderers' identification (Annex 1)
 - All tenderers must provide proof of **registration**, as prescribed in their country of establishment, on one of the **professional or trade registers** or provide a declaration or certificate.
 - If the tenderer is a natural person, he/she must provide a copy of the identity card/passport or driving licence and proof that he/she is covered by a social security scheme as a self-employed person.

Each tenderer (including subcontractor(s) or any member of a consortium or grouping) must complete and sign the identification forms in Annex 1 and also provide above-mentioned documents. However, the subcontractor(s) shall not be required to fill in or provide those documents when the services represent less than 20% of the contract.

- Financial identification (Annex 2)

The **bank identification form** must be filled in and signed by an authorised representative of the tenderer and his/her banker. A standard form is attached in Annex 2 and a specific form for each Member State is available at the following Internet address:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/ftiers_en.htm

In the case of a grouping, this form must only be provided by the person heading the project.

- Legal entities (Annex 3)

The legal entity form in Annex 3 must be filled in and should be accompanied by a number of supporting documents, available on the Web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal_entities_en.htm

In the case of a grouping, this form must only be provided by the person heading the project.

The Commission reserves the right, however, to request additional evidence in relation to the bid submitted for evaluation or verification purposes within a time-limit stipulated in its request.

III.2.2. Section Two: Technical proposal

This section is of great importance in the assessment of the bids, the award of the contract and the future execution of any resulting contract.

Some guidelines are given below, but attention is also drawn to the award criteria, which define those parts of the technical proposal to which the tenderers should pay particular attention. The technical proposal should address all matters laid down in the specifications and should include models, examples and technical solutions to problems raised in the specifications. The level of detail of the tender will be extremely important for the evaluation of the tender. Tenderers must present in their bids a proposal on the methodology and the organisation of the work to carry out in the framework of the study.

The technical proposal must provide all the information needed for the purpose of awarding the contract.

III.2.3. Section Three: Financial proposal

All tenders must contain a financial proposal. The tenderer's attention is drawn to the following points:

- Prices must be quoted in **euros**, including the countries which are not in the euro-area. As far as the tenderers of those countries are concerned, they cannot change the amount of the bid because of the evolution of the exchange rate. The tenderers choose the exchange rate and assume all risks or opportunities relating to the rate fluctuation.
- Prices must be fixed amounts and include all expenses, such as travel expenses and daily allowances.
- **Prices should be quoted free of all duties, taxes and other charges, i.e. also free of VAT**, as the Communities are exempt from such charges in the EU under Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities of 8 April 1965 (OJ L 152 of 13 July 1967). Exemption is granted to the Commission by the governments of the Member States, either through refunds upon presentation of documentary evidence or by direct exemption. For those countries where national legislation provides an exemption by means of a reimbursement, the amount of VAT is to be shown separately. In case of doubt about the applicable VAT system, it is the tenderer's responsibility to contact his or her national authorities to clarify the way in which the European Community is exempt from VAT;

- **Prices shall be** fixed and not subject to revision during the performance of the contract;
- For each category of staff involved in the project, the tenderer must specify:
 - the total labour costs;
 - **the daily rates** and **total number of days** (man/days) each member of staff will contribute to the project;
 - other categories of costs, indicating the nature of the cost, the total amount, the unit price and the quantity.

Bids involving more than one service provider (consortium) must specify the amounts indicated above for each provider.

IV. ASSESSMENT AND AWARD OF THE CONTRACT

The assessment will be based on each tenderer's bid.

All the information will be assessed in the light of the criteria set out in these specifications. The procedure for the award of the contract, which will concern only admissible bids, will be carried out in three successive stages.

The aim of each of these stages is:

- 1) to check on the basis of the exclusion criteria, whether tenderers can take part in the tendering procedure;
- 2) to check on the basis of the selection criteria, the technical and professional capacity and economic and financial capacity of each tenderer;
- 3) to assess on the basis of the award criteria each bid which has passed the exclusion and selection stages.

IV.1. Exclusion criteria (exclusion of tenderers)

IV.1.1. Exclusion criteria (Article 93 Financial Regulation⁴)

1. To be eligible for participating in this contract award procedure, tenderers must not be in any of the following situations:

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- (d) they have 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 they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) they have been the subject of a judgement which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96(1) of the Financial Regulation⁵ for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the

⁴ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248 of 16.9.2002)

information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a contract procurement procedure or by the authorising officer as a condition of participation in a grant award procedure, for failing to supply this information or for having been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts or grants covered by the Community budget.

2. The cases referred to in point IV.1.1. e) above shall be the following:
 - a) cases of fraud as referred to in Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests established by the Council Act of 26 July 1995 (OJ/C 316 of 27.11.1995, p. 48);
 - b) cases of corruption as referred to in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, established by the Council Act of 26 May 1997 (OJ/C 195 of 25.6.1997, p. 1);
 - c) cases of involvement in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2(1) of Joint Action 98/733/JHA of the Council (OJ/L 315 of 29.12.1998, p. 1);
 - d) cases of money laundering as defined in Article 1 of Council Directive 91/308/EEC (OJ/L 166 of 28.6.1991, p.77).

IV.1.2. Other cases of exclusion (Article 94 Financial Regulation)

Contracts will not be awarded to tenderers who, during the procurement procedure:

- a) **are subject to a conflict of interest;**

Tenderers must declare:

- that they do not have any conflict of interest in connection with the contract; a conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest;
- that they will inform the contracting authority, without delay, of any situation constituting a conflict of interest or which could give rise to a conflict of interest;
- that they have not made and will not make any offer of any type whatsoever from which an advantage can be derived under the contract;
- that they have not granted and will not grant, have not sought and will not seek, have not attempted and will not attempt to obtain, and have not accepted and will not accept, any advantage, financial or in kind, to or from any party whatsoever, constituting an illegal practice or involving corruption, either directly or indirectly, as an incentive or reward relating to the award of the contract.

The Commission reserves the right to check the above information.

- b) **are guilty of misrepresentation** in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure or fail to supply this information.
- c) find themselves in one of the **situations of exclusion**, referred to in paragraph IV.1.1. above for this procurement procedure.

⁵ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, OJ L 248 of 16 September 2002, p. 1, amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1995/2006 of 13 December 2006, OJ L 390 of 30 December 2006, p.1.

IV.1.3. Evidence to be provided by the tenderers

1. When submitting their bids, each tenderer (including subcontractor(s) or any member of a consortium or grouping) shall provide a declaration on their honour, duly signed and dated, stating that they are not in one of the situations mentioned above (cf. IV.1.1 and VI.1.2). For that purpose, they must complete and sign the form attached in Annex 4. Where the tenderer is a legal entity, they shall, whenever requested by the Commission, provide information on the ownership or on the management, control and power of representation of the legal entity.
2. The tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded shall provide, within 15 calendar days after notification of the results of the procurement procedure and in any case before the signature of the contract, the following evidence, confirming the declaration referred to above:

The Commission shall accept, as satisfactory evidence that the tenderer is not in one of the situations described in point IV.1.1 (a), (b) or (e) above, a recent extract from the judicial record or, failing that, an equivalent document recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance showing that those requirements are satisfied.

The Commission accepts, as satisfactory evidence that the tenderer is not in the situation described in point IV.1.1 (d) above, a recent certificate issued by the competent authority of the State concerned.

Where no such document or certificate is issued in the country concerned, it may be replaced by a sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance.

3. Depending on the national legislation of the country in which the candidate or tenderer is established, the documents referred to in paragraph 1 and 2 above shall relate to legal and/or natural persons including, if applicable with regard to points b) and e), company directors or any person with powers of representation, decision-making or control in relation to the tenderer.
4. When the subcontracted part is above 20% of the contract value, the subcontractor(s) must also provide the above-mentioned declaration on honour. In case of doubt on this declaration on the honour, the contracting authority may also request the evidence referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above..
5. The Commission reserves the right to request any other document relating to the proposed tender for evaluation and verification purpose, within a delay determined in its request.

Remark:

The tenderers will be waived of the obligation to submit the documentary evidence above mentioned if such evidence has already been submitted for the purposes of another procurement procedure launched by Directorate General for Energy and Transport and provided that the documents are not more than one year old starting from their issuing date and that they are still valid. In such a case, the tenderer shall declare on his honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure,

specifying the reference of the call for tender for which the documents have been provided, and confirm that no changes in his situation have occurred.

IV.1.4. Administrative and financial penalties

Without prejudice to the application of penalties laid down in the contract, candidates or tenderers and contractors who have been found guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure or have failed to supply this information or have been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts covered by the Community budget may be subject to administrative or financial penalties, in accordance with Article 96 of the Financial Regulation and Articles 134b and 133a of the Implementing Rules.⁶

IV.2. SELECTION CRITERIA (SELECTION OF TENDERERS)

To be eligible, the tenderers must have the economic and financial capacity as well as the technical and professional capacity to perform the tasks required in this call for tender.

IV.2.1. Economic and financial capacity – References required

Tenderers must provide proof of their financial and economic capacity by means of the following documents: the balance sheets or extracts from balance sheets for the last three financial years, and a statement of overall turnover and turnover relating to the relevant services for the last three financial years.

This rule applies to all service providers, regardless of the percentage of tasks they intend to execute, once they have chosen to submit a tender. However, if the tender includes subcontractors whose tasks represent less than 20% of the contract, those subcontractors are not obliged to provide evidence of their economic and financial capacity.

IV.2.2. Technical and professional capacity – References required

- 1) Educational qualifications of project elaborators: University degree(s) in related disciplines*
- 2) Working experience 15 years for senior and 5 for junior project elaborators*
- 3) List of the main services and tasks delivered during the last five years as well as related amounts, dates and beneficiaries with mention of the sector they belong to (private/public) ;*
- 4) Part of the contract which the service provider intends to subcontract;*
- 5) Working experience of the applicant and the project elaborators in the field of this project, in particular the field of gas quality and its impact on the supply chain and gas appliances.*

If several service providers/subcontractors are involved in the bid, each of them must have and show that they have the professional and technical capacity to perform the tasks assigned to them.

⁶ Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, OJ L 357 of 31 December 2002, p. 1, last amended by Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 478/2007 of 23 April 2007, OJ L 111 of 28 April 2007, p.1.

Tenderers should provide with their offer detailed curriculum vitae of each staff member responsible for carrying out the work, including his or her educational background, degrees and diplomas, professional experience, research work, publications and linguistic skills.

The CV's shall be presented, preferably, in accordance to the Commission Recommendation on a common European format for curricula vitae, published in OJ L79 of 22 March 2002, p. 66.

IV.3. EVALUATION OF TENDERS – AWARD CRITERIA

The contract will be awarded according to the criteria given below, on the basis of the economically most advantageous tender.

Only bids that have reached a total score of a minimum of 70% and a minimum score of 60 % for each criterion will be taken into consideration for awarding the contract.

a) Technical evaluation criteria in their order of importance as weighted by percentage

N°	Award Criteria	Weighting
1	Proposed methodology	40
2	Adequacy of the offer to Terms of Reference	40
3	Overall quality, completeness and presentation of the offer	20
Total number of points		100

b) Total price

The contract will be awarded to the tender which offers the best ratio quality/cost.

IV.4. INFORMATION FOR TENDERERS

The Commission will inform tenderers of decisions reached concerning the award of the contract, including the grounds for any decision not to award a contract or to recommence the procedure.

Upon written request, the Commission will inform the rejected tenderers of the reasons for their rejection and the tenderers having submitted an admissible tender of the characteristics and relative advantages of the selected tender and the name of the successful tenderer.

However, certain information may be withheld where its release would impede law enforcement or otherwise be contrary to the public interest, or would prejudice the legitimate commercial interests of economic operators, public or private, or might prejudice fair competition between them.

V. ANNEXES

1. Identification of the Tenderer
2. Financial Identification
3. Legal Entity Form
4. Declaration by the Tenderer (relating to the exclusion criteria)
5. Draft Service Contract

ANNEX 1

IDENTIFICATION OF THE TENDERER

(Each service provider , including subcontractor(s) or any member of a consortium or grouping, must complete and sign this identification form)

Call for tender TREN xx/xx/xxxx

Identity	
Name of the tenderer	
Legal status of the tenderer	
Date of registration	
Country of registration	
Registration number	
VAT number	
Description of statutory social security cover (at the level of the Member State of origin) and non-statutory cover (supplementary professional indemnity insurance) ⁷	
Address	
Address of registered office of tenderer	
Where appropriate, administrative address of tenderer for the purposes of this invitation to tender	
Contact Person	
Surname: First name: Title (e.g. Dr, Mr, Ms) : Position (e.g. manager): Telephone number: Fax number: E-mail address:	

⁷ For natural persons

Legal Representatives	
Names and function of legal representatives and of other representatives of the tenderer who are authorised to sign contracts with third parties	
Declaration by an authorised representative of the organisation⁸ I, the undersigned, certify that the information given in this tender is correct and that the tender is valid.	
Surname: First name:	Signature:

⁸ This person must be included in the list of legal representatives; otherwise the signature on the tender will be invalidated.

ANNEX 2

(to be completed by the tenderer and his or her financial institution)

The tenderer's attention is drawn to the fact that this document is a model and that a specific form for each Member State is available at the following Internet address:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/ftiers_en.htm

FINANCIAL IDENTIFICATION

ACCOUNT HOLDER

NAME	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	
ADDRESS	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	
TOWN/CITY	<input type="text"/>	POSTCODE <input type="text"/>
COUNTRY	<input type="text"/>	VAT NUMBER <input type="text"/>
CONTACT PERSON	<input type="text"/>	
TELEPHONE	<input type="text"/>	FAX <input type="text"/>
E - MAIL	<input type="text"/>	

BANK

BANK NAME	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	
BRANCH ADDRESS	<input type="text"/>	
	<input type="text"/>	
TOWN/CITY	<input type="text"/>	POSTCODE <input type="text"/>
COUNTRY	<input type="text"/>	
ACCOUNT NUMBER	<input type="text"/>	
IBAN (optional)	<input type="text"/>	

REMARKS :

BANK STAMP + SIGNATURE of BANK REPRESENTATIVE (Both Obligatory)

DATE + SIGNATURE of ACCOUNT HOLDER : (Obligatory)

ANNEX 3

Legal entity form

Complete the legal entity form, which should be accompanied by a number of supporting documents, available on the Web site:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/execution/legal_entities_en.htm

Please note that we can only accept either original documents or certified copies, which must be less than 6 months old.

In the case of a grouping, this form must only be provided by the person heading the project.

ANNEX 4

DECLARATION BY THE TENDERER

Each service provider, including subcontractor(s) or any member of a consortium or grouping, must sign this declaration

1. In accordance with Article 93 of the Financial Regulation⁹, I declare on my honour that I am not in any of the following situations which would exclude me from participating in this procurement procedure:
 - a) I am not bankrupt, being wound up or having my affairs administered by the courts, I have not entered into an arrangement with creditors, I have not suspended business activities, I am not the subject of proceedings concerning any such matters, and I am not in any similar situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in legislation or regulations;
 - b) I have not been convicted of an offence concerning my professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
 - c) I have not been found guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
 - d) I have not failed to fulfil 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 I am established or with those of the country or the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
 - e) I have not been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
 - f) I am currently not subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96(1) of the Financial Regulation for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a contract procurement procedure or by the authorising officer as a condition of participation in a grant award procedure, for failing to supply this information or for having been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts or grants covered by the Community budget.
2. In addition, the undersigned declares on his or her honour:
 - a) that on the date of submission of the tender, the company or organisation I do represent and the staff proposed for this tender are not subject to a conflict of interests in the context of this invitation to tender; I undertake to inform the Commission without delay of any change to this situation after the date of submission of the tender.
 - b) that the information provided to the Commission within the context of this invitation to tender is accurate, sincere and complete.

⁹ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, OJ L 248 of 16 September 2002, p. 1, amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) n° 1995/2006 of 13 December 2006, OJ L 390 of 30 December 2006, p.1.

Done at on.....

Name

Title

Signature:

ANNEX 5



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG
Directorate
Unit

DRAFT SERVICE CONTRACT

CONTRACT NUMBER – []

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 Mr Heinz Hilbrecht, Director in the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, Directorate C for Security of Supply and Energy Markets.

of the one part,

and

[official name in full]

[official legal form (Delete if contractor is a natural person or a body governed by public law.)]

[statutory registration number Delete if contractor is a body governed by public law. For natural persons, indicate the number of their identity card or, failing that, of their passport or equivalent]

[official address in full]

[VAT registration number]

(hereinafter referred to as "the Contractor"), represented for the purposes of the signature of this contract by [name in full and 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 [] of []) and Monitoring

Annex II – Contractor's Tender (No [] of [])

which form 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) shall take precedence over those in the Tender (Annex II).

Subject to the above, the several instruments forming part of the 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 a study on Interoperability - Gas quality harmonisation - Cost Benefit Analysis.

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.

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 **24** months. This period and all other periods specified in the Contract are calculated in calendar days. Execution of the tasks shall start from [*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.

ARTICLE I.3 – CONTRACT PRICE

I.3.1. The maximum total amount to be paid by the Commission under the Contract shall be EUR [] covering all tasks executed.

I.3.2 The total amount referred to in the above paragraph shall be fixed and not subject to revision for the whole period of the Contract.

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:

Following signature of the Contract by the last contracting party, within 30 days of:

- *the receipt by the Commission of a duly constituted financial guarantee equal to at least EUR []*

a pre-financing payment of EUR [] equal to 30 % of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1. shall be made.

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, after Parts I, II, and III of the interim reports as mentioned in point I.3.1 'Interim reports' of the tender specifications have been finalized.
- the relevant invoice(s)

provided the report has been approved by the Commission.

The Commission shall have twenty days from receipt to approve or reject the report, and the Contractor shall have 20 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 [] equal to 40 % 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 twenty days from receipt to approve or reject the report, and the Contractor shall have 20 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 corresponding to EUR [] equal to 30 % of the total amount referred to in Article I.3.1 shall be made.

[For Contractors established in Belgium, the provisions of the Contract constitute a request for VAT exemption No 450, provided the Contractor includes the following statement in his invoice(s): “Exonération de la TVA, article 42, paragraphe 3.3 du code de la TVA” or an equivalent statement in the Dutch or German language.]

[For Contractors established in Italy, the provisions of the Contract constitute a request for VAT exemption, provided the Contractor includes the following statement in his invoice(s): “Operazione non imponibile ai sensi dell’articolo 72, comma 3) paragrafo 3 del D.P.R. n. 633 del 26/10/1972 come modificato da ultimo dal D.L. n. 323 del 20/06/1996 convertito in Legge n. 425 dell’8/8/1996”.]

ARTICLE I.5 – BANK ACCOUNT

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

Name of bank: [complete]
Address of branch in full: [complete]
Exact designation of account holder: [complete]
Full account number including codes: [complete]
[IBAN code: [complete]]

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:

Commission:

European Commission
Directorate-General for energy and transports
Directorate C – Security of Supply and Energy Markets
Unit C2
B-1049 Bruxelles

Contractor:

Mr/Mrs/Ms [complete]
[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 Community law complemented, where necessary, 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 Belgium.

ARTICLE I.8 – 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 the entity acting as data controller within DG TREN without prejudice to possible transmission to internal audit services, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel and/or to the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) for the purposes of safeguarding the financial interests of the Community. 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 the entity acting as data controller within DG TREN. The Contractor shall have right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

ARTICLE I.9 – TERMINATION BY EITHER CONTRACTING PARTY

Either contracting party may, of its own volition and without being required to pay compensation, terminate the Contract by serving 2 months formal prior notice. Should the Commission terminate the Contract, the Contractor shall only be entitled to payment corresponding to part-performance of the Contract. 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.

ARTICLE I.10 – OTHER SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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:

- Ø an interim technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I;
- Ø the relevant invoices indicating the reference number of the Contract to which they refer;
- Ø 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:

- Ø to approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend such period and request additional information; or
- Ø 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:

- Ø a final technical report in accordance with the instructions laid down in Annex I;
- Ø the relevant invoices indicating the reference number of the Contract to which they refer;
- Ø 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:

- Ø to approve it, with or without comments or reservations, or suspend such period and request additional information; or
- Ø 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 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 months¹⁰ 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 acknowledgment 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

For the Contractor,
[*Company name*/forename/surname/function]

For the Commission,
[forename/surname/function]

signature[s]: _____

signature[s]:_____

Done at [Brussels], [date]

Done at [Brussels], [date]

In duplicate in English.

ANNEX I

Tender Specifications and Monitoring

The purpose of this Annex is to enable the Commission to conduct, throughout the duration of the Contract, an accurate appraisal of whether the Contractor is executing the tasks assigned to him in accordance with the provisions of the Contract.

So that the Commission can regularly identify the progress made in execution of the tasks in accordance with the Tender Specifications, appropriate monitoring, assessment, and supervisory procedures shall be set up. For these purposes, this Annex shall include all necessary details, in particular, where relevant, the following:

- (i) schedule of interim and final reports – terms for approval, structure and content (where provision is made for such reports and a specific annex is not necessary);*
- (ii) schedule of audits to be carried out in accordance with Article II.17 of the Contract.*

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