



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

DIRECTORATE B - Trans-European networks - Energy & transport

Call for proposals concerning projects of common interest in the field of trans-European transport networks

Call TEN Transport 2004-1

Title XV of the Treaty establishing the European Community requires the European Community to contribute to the establishment and development of trans-European networks, including in the field of transport. In this context, the Commission is launching a call for proposals aiming to implement projects of common interest relating to trans-European transport networks (TEN-T).

The indicative budget allocation available for this call – concerning the annual part of the TEN-T budget – is €50 million for 2004.

1. OBJECTIVES

The Community encourages the development of networks in an area free of internal frontiers, by ensuring sustainable mobility of persons and goods, under the best possible social and safety conditions, while contributing to the achievement of Community objectives, especially regarding environment and competition, and helping to improve competitiveness and economic and social cohesion, by:

- a) creating and developing connections, key links and interconnections needed to eliminate bottlenecks, fill in missing sections and complete major routes;
- b) creating and developing infrastructure for access to the network, so as to link up island regions, enclaves and outlying regions to the Community's central regions;
- c) combining and integrating the various modes of transport in the optimum way;
- d) integrating the environmental dimension into the implementation and development of the network;
- e) gradually achieving interoperability of the parts of the network;
- f) optimising the capacity and efficiency of the existing infrastructure;
- g) establishing and improving interconnection points and intermodal platforms;
- h) improving network safety and reliability;
- i) developing and establishing systems for the management and control of network traffic and user information, with a view to optimising infrastructure use;

- j) carrying out studies aimed at improving the design and construction of the trans-European transport network.

Among other things, the Commission intends to lay emphasis on key projects designed to ensure a high level of safety and security on the trans-European transport network. It welcomes projects aimed at implementing the guidelines resulting from new Community legislation, in particular to prepare for structural and operational adjustments to air traffic control and foster interoperability between networks and intermodality between modes.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Decision No 1692/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 1996 (as amended by Decision 1346/2001/EC of 22 May 2001) on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, hereinafter referred to as the "guidelines", identifies projects of common interest meeting the above criteria.

Applications for financial aid submitted in response to this call for proposals must relate to Council Regulation (EC) No 2236/1995 (OJ L 228, 23.9.1995, p. 1), as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1655/1999 (OJ L 197, 29.7.1999, p. 1). They must relate to one or more of the projects of common interest listed in the annex to the guidelines and need to be agreed to by the Member State or Member States concerned.

Article 8 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2236/1995 (OJ L 228, 23.9.1995, p. 1), as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1655/1999 (OJ L 197, 29.7.1999, p. 1) identifies the applicants for financial aid, hereinafter referred to as the applicants.

3. GROUNDS FOR EXCLUSION

Where the recipient is a private entity, the Commission would draw applicants' attention to Articles 93 to 96 and 114 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities which entered into force on 1 January 2003, and to Article 133 of the rules for its implementation.

In such cases, applicants must declare in writing that they are not in any of the situations listed in Article 93 of the Financial Regulation.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must have:

- stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is carried out and to participate in its funding;
- the professional skills and qualifications required to complete the action.

4.1 Financial capacity of applicants

Legal persons must be legally constituted and registered.

Applicants must have the financial capacity to complete the action for which the grant is sought and must provide their annual accounts for the last financial year or, in the case of public bodies, their annual budget, which documents must be attached to the application for aid along with the declaration referred to in Article 173 of Regulation No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation No 1605/2002 (Financial Regulation).

4.2 Technical capacity of applicants

Applicants must have the technical and operational capacity to complete the proposal for which the grant is sought and must provide appropriate documents attesting to that capacity (proof of the applicant's experience in carrying out actions of the type in question).

5. AWARD CRITERIA

Award criteria are used to assess the quality of the proposals submitted. Actions are granted financial assistance according to their level of contribution to the set objectives.

In accordance with Article 6 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2236/1995 (OJ L 228, 23.9.1995, p. 1), as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1655/1999 (OJ L 197, 29.7.1999, p. 1), actions will be assessed with reference to:

- their relevance to the common transport policy;
- their contribution to sustainable development;
- the added value of Community funding.

In addition, for granting Community aid, the following aspects will be taken into account:

- the maturity of the project;
- the stimulative effect of Community intervention on public and private finance;
- the soundness of the financial package of the project;
- the direct or indirect socio-economic effects, in particular on employment, competitiveness and growth;¹
- the impact on the environment and on interoperability, having regard to the Community rules in force.

5.1. Arrangements for Community funding

Successful proposals will be financed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2236/1995 (OJ L 228 of 23.9.1995, p.1), as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1655/1999 (OJ L 197 of 29.7.1999, p.1), which lays down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks.

Community aid may take one or more of the following forms:

- co-financing of studies. As a general rule, the Community contribution may not exceed 50% of the total cost of a study;

¹ See, in particular, COM(2003) 690 of 11 November 2003: Communication from the Commission - A European initiative for growth: Investing in networks and knowledge for growth and jobs. Final Report to the European Council.

- subsidies of the interest on loans granted by the European Investment Bank or other public or private financial bodies. As a general rule, the duration of subsidy must not exceed five years;
- contributions towards fees for guarantees on loans from the European Investment Fund or other financial institutions;
- direct grants to investments in duly justified cases;
- a share in venture capital for investment funds or comparable financial undertakings.

In principle, Community aid is granted only if the implementation of a project runs into financial obstacles. Irrespective of the chosen form of intervention, the total amount of Community aid under this Regulation may not exceed 10% of the total investment cost.

5.2. Arrangements and deadline for the submission of proposals

Organisations or project promoters which meet the conditions laid down for this call are invited to submit their proposals:

- through the Member State concerned or
- directly to the Commission. Nevertheless, applications will be taken into consideration only if approved by the competent national authorities.

In order to harmonise the presentation of applications and facilitate their evaluation, the attached application form must be used.

As a rule, the actions proposed must be for a significant amount, with the Community financial aid amounting to no less than €1 000 000 per successful project, and the duration should not exceed three years.

Application forms for Community financial aid for the projects referred to in point 1 are available from DG TREN, B3. Duly completed and signed forms should be sent by fax or e-mail to Mr Scala, DG TREN B (antonio.scala@cec.eu.int, fax: +32 2 29 56 504) by 23 April 2004. Cost eligibility will commence on the date on which a proposal is submitted.²

Proposals may also be submitted:

- a) **by registered letter postmarked no later than the closing date for submission**, addressed to:

² Eligible costs are understood to be all expenditure relating to physical activities (studies, works) carried out as from the date of eligibility.

European Commission
Directorate-General for Energy and Transport
Mr Antonio Scala
DM 28, 0/91 Courrier/archives
B-1049 Brussels

- b) **by hand delivery to the European Commission's Central Mail Office** (personal delivery or delivery by any authorised representative of the applicant, including private delivery services) at the following address:

European Commission
Mr Antonio Scala (Office DM 24 – 8/112)
Central Mail Office
Rue de Genève 1
B-1140 Brussels

by no later than **16.00 hrs** (Brussels time) **on the closing date for submission**. In this case, proof of submission will be by means of a dated and signed receipt issued by the receiving official in the abovementioned department.

Applications not received by the Commission within the above deadlines will not be taken into consideration.

Applications may not be delivered to the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport (whether personal delivery or delivery by any authorised representative of the applicant, including private delivery services).

Further information can be obtained from the Commission department specified in the application form.

The decision to grant financial aid will be notified to the Member States and to the beneficiaries it nominates. The latter will be informed of the detailed arrangements and specific conditions of implementation.

In the interests of transparency and in order to give as much information as possible to the organisations concerned, the following documents are included in the Annex.

- Decision (EC) No 1692/96 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down a series of guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, as amended by Decision 1346/01/EC;
- Regulation (EC) No 2236/95 laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks, as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1655/1999.

Annexes:

- (1) Application form
- (2) Decision No 1692/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network
- (3) Decision No 1346/2001/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 1692/96/EC as regards seaports, inland ports and intermodal terminals as well as project No 8 in Annex III
- (4) Council Regulation (EC) No 2236/95 laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks
- (5) Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (EC) No 1655/1999 amending Regulation (EC) No 2236/95 laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks
- (6) Communication from the Commission COM(2003) 690 of 11 November 2003: A European initiative for growth: Investing in networks and knowledge for growth and jobs. Final Report to the European Council