1. **QUESTION**

   We have noted that the contract notice, together with the relevant tender documents, have been published on July 18th 2014, while the letter of invitation bears the date 27 June. The time allowed for the preparation of the proposals, originally planned in approximately 8 weeks, is thus reduced to only 5 weeks.

   We therefore hereby submit the request for an extension of the deadline, such that the delay for proposal preparation is restored to the original duration of 8 weeks.

   **Answer**

   In open procurement procedures, the time limit for receipt of tenders must be no less than 52 days from the date on which the contract notice was dispatched to the Official Journal.

   This minimum period can be shortened by five days – to 47 days – in the case if unrestricted and direct access is available by electronic means to all tender documents **from the date of publication of the contact notice**.

   In this case, we comply with the first requirement, as the contract notice was sent to the Official Journal for publication on 27/06/2014. The deadline for the submission of tenders is 25/08/2014. Therefore, there are 58 days between sending the contract notice for publication and the deadline for the submission of tenders.

   On the other hand, the tender documents were published at MOVE Europa webpage on 18/07, i.e. 9 days after the date of publication of contract notice (9/07). On these grounds, we will extend the deadline for the submission of tenders until 5 September 2014.

2. **QUESTION**

   The tender specifications mention a series of meetings with stakeholders to be held in Brussels at the EC premises. Can you confirm that the costs/expenses arising from the participation of the stakeholders in these meetings will not be charged to the study budget?

   **Answer**

   Yes, we can confirm that the costs/expenses arising from the participation of the stakeholders in the meetings at stake will not weigh on the study budget.