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(Notices)

COMMISSION

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2006
Specific projects in the field of consumer affairs

(2006/C 102/10)

1. Objectives and description

This call for proposals for specific projects relates to the implementation of Article 7(4) (action 18) of Decision No 20/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 December 2003 establishing a general framework for financing Community actions in support of consumer policy for the years 2004 to 2007. This call is foreseen, and the budget allocation is set, in point 4.2 and annex 1 of the 2006 annual work programme in the area of consumer policy.

Projects must contribute significantly to the achievement of the European consumer policy, of which objectives are defined in the Decision No 20/2004/EC and in the Commission's Consumer Policy Strategy for 2002-2006 ⁽¹⁾.

2. Eligible applicants

For project proposals seeking a maximum of 50 % Community funding: financial contributions for projects may be awarded to any legal person or association of legal persons, including appropriate independent public bodies and regional consumer organisations, that act independently of industry and commerce and are actually responsible for the implementation of the projects. In addition to the applicant organisation, proposals must involve as partners at least 8 consumer organisations from different countries, 3 of which must be registered in the new Member States or Acceding countries.

For project proposals seeking a maximum of 75 % Community funding: financial contributions may only be awarded to projects proposed by consumer organisations registered in the new Member States or acceding countries, that act independently of industry and commerce and are actually responsible for the implementation of the projects. They must involve as partners at least 3 consumer organisations registered in any of the countries eligible for this call.

Applicants must be established in one of the following countries:

- the 25 countries of the European Union, of which the 'new Member States' are: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia.
- the European Economic Area countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway
- the acceding countries: Bulgaria and Romania

3. Budget and project duration

The total budget earmarked for the cofinancing of projects is estimated at EUR 2,5 million.

⁽¹⁾ http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/overview/cons_policy/index_en.htm

In principle, Community financial support may not exceed 50 % of the amount of the eligible expenses for implementing the project. However, article 6(5) of Decision No 20/2004/EC allows a Community contribution of up to 75 % of the eligible expenses for implementing the project for certain projects and for the period 2004-2007 the Commission proposes to give priority to projects involving consumer organisations from the new Member States and acceding countries.

The duration of projects should not exceed 36 months.

4. Deadline

Applications must be sent to the Commission no later than 30 June 2006.

5. Further information

The full text of the call for proposals and the application forms are available on the following website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/tenders/information/grants/projects_en.htm

Applications must comply with the requirements set out in the full text and be submitted using the form provided.
