



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY

Directorate B - Internal Energy Market  
**B.1 - Internal Market I: Networks & Regional Initiatives**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS CONCERNING PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST UNDER THE  
CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY IN THE FIELD OF TRANS-EUROPEAN ENERGY  
INFRASTRUCTURE**

**CEF ENERGY CALL 2014**

**1. SUBJECT**

Adequate, well integrated and reliable energy networks are a crucial prerequisite for a truly integrated and competitive internal energy market. They enhance security of energy supply and allow the Union to meet the renewables objectives at least cost to the economy.

The aim of the Connecting Europe Facility<sup>1</sup> is to accelerate investment in the field of trans-European networks and to leverage funding from public and private sectors. While the bulk of the investment needed in energy should be delivered by the market and its costs recovered through tariffs, it is however recognised that Union financing may be needed for specific projects with wider regional and European benefits which are unable to attract market-based financing.

In this context and on the basis of the multiannual work programme adopted in 2014<sup>2</sup>, the Commission is launching a call for proposals to support projects of common interest identified in the Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructures<sup>3</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, amending Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 680/2007 and (EC) No 67/2010 (hereinafter the 'CEF Regulation'), OJ L 348 of 20.12.2013, p.129.

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2014)2080 final of 31 March 2014 establishing the multiannual work programme for granting financial aid in the field of trans-European energy infrastructure under the Connecting Europe Facility for the period 2014-2020

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 347/2013<sup>3</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1364/2006/EC and amending Regulations (EC) No 713/2009, (EC) No 714/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009 (hereinafter the 'TEN-E Regulation') OJ L 115 of 25.4.2013, p.39

## **2. BUDGET**

The indicative amount to be allocated on the basis of this call for proposals to projects of common interest in the field of trans-European energy infrastructure is EUR 750 million.

## **3. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives for this call for proposals are defined in the Section 3 of the multiannual work programme adopted in 2014, which aims to enable projects of common interest to be prepared and implemented within the framework of the trans-European networks policy in the energy sector. In particular, this call for proposals shall contribute to supporting energy infrastructure projects of common interest that have significant societal benefits and that ensure greater solidarity among Member States, but which do not receive adequate financing from the market. Special focus shall be placed on the efficient use of public investment.

## **4. PRIORITIES**

The priorities of this call for proposals are defined in Section 4 of the multiannual work programme adopted in 2014. Pursuant to Article 17 of the CEF Regulation and considering that the multiannual work programme adopted in 2014 covers part of the activities for the first two years of implementation of the CEF, priority consideration shall be given to projects of common interest and related actions aiming at ending energy isolation and eliminating energy bottlenecks, and at the completion of the internal energy market.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Recital 57 of the CEF Regulation, the multiannual work programme adopted in 2014 and this call for proposals aim at directing the major part of the financial assistance to electricity projects, subject to market uptake, the quality and maturity of actions proposed and their financing requirements, while fully recognising the importance of the gas projects on the PCI list.

In line with the political objectives of ending the energy isolation by 2015 and implementing the internal energy market by 2014 as well as the multiannual work programme adopted in 2014 and this call for proposals focus in particular on supporting projects of common interest helping to achieve these goals.

## **5. RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

As defined in the Section 6 of the multiannual work programme adopted in 2014, it is expected that the financial assistance (grants and programme support actions) contributes to further the development and the implementation of projects of common interest in electricity and gas, helping to achieve the broader energy policy objectives of:

- increasing competitiveness by promoting the further integration of the internal energy market and the interoperability of electricity and gas networks across borders
- enhancing Union security of energy supply and

- contributing to sustainable development and protection of the environment, inter alia by the integration of energy from renewable sources and by the development of smart energy networks.

## **6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

### **6.1. Eligible applicants**

Pursuant to Article 9 of the CEF Regulation, only those proposals are eligible if submitted in the form of a written grant application by one of the following types of applicants:

- one or more Member States;
- with the agreement of the Member States concerned, international organisations, joint undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies established in Member States
- entities which do not have legal personality under the applicable national law, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and offer guarantee for the protection of the Union's financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons

Where necessary to achieve the objectives of a given project of common interest and where duly motivated, third countries and entities established in third countries may participate in actions contributing to the projects of common interest. They may not receive funding under this call for proposals, except where it is indispensable to achieve the objectives of a given project of common interest.

The proposals submitted by natural persons shall not be eligible.

Applicants may designate affiliated entities within the meaning of Article 122 of the Financial Regulation<sup>4</sup>, for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the proposal submitted for funding. Such affiliated entities shall comply with the eligibility criteria for applicants as well as with the selection criteria as specified in Section 7.4 of the multiannual work programme adopted in 2014.

### **6.2. Grounds for exclusion**

Pursuant to Articles 131, 106, 107 and 108 of the Financial Regulation and Article 141 of the Rules of Application, applicants will not be considered for a grant if they are 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

---

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2013 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, OJ L 298 of 26.10.2012, p.1

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 judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the authorising officer 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 authorising officer or those of the country where the grant agreement is to be performed;
- (e) they have 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 EU financial interests;
- (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 109 of the Financial Regulation;
- (g) they are subject to a conflict of interest;
- (h) they have been guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required or have failed to supply this information.

The cases referred to in point (e) above cover:

- 1) cases of fraud as referred to in Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the EU financial interests established by the Council Act of 26 July 1995;
- 2) cases of corruption as referred to in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Union or officials of Member States of the European Union, established by the Council Act of 26 May 1997;
- 3) cases of participation in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2(1) of Joint Action 98/733/JHA of the Council;
- 4) cases of money laundering as defined in Article 1 of Council Directive 91/308/EEC.

Applicants must certify that they are not in one of the situations listed above.

### **6.3. Eligible proposals**

#### *6.3.1. Projects of common interest*

In line with Article 7 of the CEF Regulation, only actions contributing to projects of common interest as identified in the Commission Delegated Regulation No 1391/2013 of 14/10/2013 shall be eligible for support through Union financial aid in the form of grants.

Pursuant to Article 14(1) of the TEN-E Regulation<sup>5</sup>, projects of common interest falling under the categories set out in Annex II.1, 2 and 4 of the TEN-E Regulation are eligible for Union financial assistance in the form of grants for studies (and financial instruments)<sup>6</sup>.

Pursuant to Articles 14(2), 14(3) of the TEN-E Regulation, projects of common interest falling under the categories set out in Annex II.1(a) to (d), 2 and 4 of the TEN-E Regulation, except for hydro-pumped electricity storage projects, are also eligible for Union financial assistance in the form of grants for works if they fulfil all of the following eligibility criteria:

- the project specific cost-benefit analysis pursuant to Article 12(3)(a) provides evidence concerning the existence of significant positive externalities, such as security of supply, solidarity or innovation;
- the project has received a cross-border cost allocation decision pursuant to Article 12; or, for projects of common interest falling under the category set out in Annex II.1(c) and that therefore do not receive a cross-border cost allocation decision, the project shall aim to provide services across borders, bring technological innovation and ensure the safety of cross-border grid operation;
- the project is commercially not viable according to the business plan and other assessments carried out, notably by possible investors or creditors or the national regulatory authority. The decision on incentives and its justification referred to in Article 13(2) shall be taken into account when assessing the project's commercial viability.

Pursuant to Article 14(4) of the TEN-E Regulation, projects of common interest falling under the categories set out in Annex II.1(e) of the TEN-E Regulation, smart grids, are also eligible for Union financial assistance in the form of grants for works, if the concerned project promoters can clearly demonstrate the significant positive externalities generated by the projects and their lack of commercial viability, according to the business plan and other assessments carried out, notably by possible investors or creditors or, where applicable, a national regulatory authority.

The projects of common interest requesting grants for works which fail to comply with the eligibility criteria will not be further evaluated.

### *6.3.2. Other sources of financing*

Pursuant to Article 129 of the Financial Regulation, no Union financial aid shall be awarded to actions receiving funds from other sources of EU financing. In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the Union budget.

In accordance with Article 125 of the Financial Regulation, grants shall not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action. Where a profit is made, the Commission shall be entitled to recover the percentage of the profit

---

<sup>5</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1391/2013<sup>5</sup> of 14.10.2013 amending Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure as regards the Union list of projects of common interest

<sup>6</sup> Financial instruments are not covered neither by the multiannual work programme 2014-2020 adopted on 31 March 2014 nor by this call for proposals.

corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary to carry out the action.

## **7. SELECTION CRITERIA**

### *7.1.1. Financial capacity*

The applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding. The applicants shall provide their annual accounts for the last two financial years for which the accounts were closed or a letter of support in case the applicant has not been operating for two years. These documents must be attached to the application for aid.

The need to demonstrate the financial capacity does not apply to Member States, public bodies and transmission system operators certified following the procedures laid down in Articles 10 or 11 of Directive 2009/72/EC<sup>7</sup> or Articles 10 or 11 of Directive 2009/73/EC<sup>8</sup>. To this effect, the certified transmission system operators are requested to submit their certification decisions or the link if such official certification decision is published on-line.

### *7.1.2. Operational capacity*

The applicants must have the operational and technical competencies and capacities required to complete the proposed action for which the grant is awarded and must provide appropriate documents attesting to that capacity (e.g. organisations' activity report, proof of the experience in carrying out infrastructure actions).

The need to demonstrate the operational capacity does not apply to Member States, public bodies and transmission system operators certified following the procedures laid down in Articles 10 or 11 of Directive 2009/72/EC<sup>9</sup> or Articles 10 or 11 of Directive 2009/73/EC<sup>10</sup>. To this effect, the certified transmission system operators are requested to submit their certification decisions or the link if such official certification decision is published on-line.

Project proposals which fail to comply with the selection criteria will not be further evaluated.

## **8. AWARD CRITERIA**

Only those proposals received in response to the call that comply with all the eligibility and selection criteria will be evaluated. Such proposals will be evaluated against the following award criteria taking into account the list of general orientation as stipulated in Article 17(5) and in Part V of the Annex of the CEF Regulation. Each application is assessed against the award criteria independently, with the support of external experts who will be giving marks on scale from 0 (very poor) to 5 (excellent) and providing comments. Marks will be weighted as follows:

---

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 211 of 14.8.2009, p.55

<sup>8</sup> OJ L 201 of 1.8.2009, p.46

<sup>9</sup> OJ L 211 of 14.8.2009, p.55

<sup>10</sup> OJ L 211 of 14.8.2009, p.55

	The description of criterion	Weight (proposals for works)	Weight (proposals for studies)
1	<p>Maturity of the action with regards to the developmental stage of the project, based on the implementation plan (Article 5(1) of the TEN-E Regulation)</p> <p><i>Maturity refers to the specific status of preparation of the action/activities for which the funding is requested, in order to establish the capacity for their implementation in accordance with the foreseen time plan and technical specifications. The criterion also refers to the appropriateness of project management mechanisms and risk control issues, relative to the stage of the implementation of the PCI.</i></p>	20%	20%
2	<p>Cross-border dimension of the action, area of impact and number of Member States involved in the action</p> <p><i>This criterion refers to the extent of the cross-border impact of the action, taking into consideration the area and the number of Member States positively impacted by the action while taking into account also geographical position of the Member States and the level of cooperation between the involved countries.</i></p>	10%	20%
3	<p>The extent of the positive externality (such as security of supply and solidarity among Member States) provided by the action involving works</p> <p><i>This criterion reflects the extent of the benefits that go beyond the benefits attributable to the hosting Member States, such as macro-regional security of supply, solidarity or technological innovation.</i></p>	10%	NA
4	<p>Complementarity between actions of common interest</p> <p><i>This criterion reflects the complementarity or interdependency between actions contributing to different projects of common interest.</i></p>	5%	NA
5	<p>The need to overcome financial obstacles, the impact on solidarity</p> <p><i>This criterion refers to the incentive effect of the Union financial assistance and in particular in the case of works the effect to counteract substantial tariff increase to consumers.</i></p>	15%	15%
6	<p>Quality of the application, the clarity and the completeness of the proposal</p>	5%	5%

	<i>The criterion refers to the completeness and the clarity of the information provided by the applicants, taking into consideration the level of detail and the supporting data and arguments for the information included in the application.</i>		
7	Priority and urgency of the action, will the project remove bottlenecks, end energy isolation and contribute to the implementation of the internal energy market	20%	25%
8	Stimulating effect of the CEF financial assistance on the completion of the action	15%	15%

To be considered for funding, a proposal must reach a result for each criterion of at least 60% (at least 3 points before weighting) of the maximum points foreseen per criterion. A ranking list of Actions proposed to receive CEF-Energy financial aid, including a reserve list if applicable, will be established.

## **9. CO-FINANCING AND ELIGIBLE COSTS**

### **9.1. Co-financing rates**

In accordance with Article 10(3) and 10(5) of the CEF Regulation the amount of Union financial assistance shall not exceed 50% of the eligible cost of studies and/or works. The funding rates may be increased to a maximum of 75% for works actions which, based on the evidence referred to in Article 14(2) of Regulation (EU) No 347/2013, provide a high degree of regional or Union-wide security of supply, strengthen the solidarity of the Union or comprise highly innovative solutions.

### **9.2. Eligible costs**

Costs shall be eligible from the date on which an application for aid is lodged, i.e. the date of the submission of the complete paper copy of the application, including relevant annexes, as attested by the date of dispatch (for proposals sent by registered courier) or the date and time of hand delivery (for proposals delivered by hand).

The applicants' attention is drawn to points (3) to (8) of Article 8 of the CEF Regulation concerning the eligibility of costs.

Indirect costs, i.e. costs which are not identifiable as direct cost, but which have nevertheless incurred in connection with the implementation of the Action, shall not be considered eligible costs.

Pursuant to Article 130 of the Financial Regulation, no grants may be awarded retrospectively for actions already completed.

## **10. COMPLIANCE WITH UNION LAW**

In accordance with Article 23 of the CEF Regulation, only actions in conformity with Union law and which are in line with the relevant Union policies shall be financed, in particular those relating to competition, the protection of the environment and public procurement.

## **11. GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR PAYING GRANTS**

In the event that the applicant's financial capacity is not satisfactory, a pre-financing guarantee for up to the same amount as the pre-financing may be requested in order to limit the financial risks linked to the pre-financing payment.

The financial guarantee, in euro, shall be provided by an approved bank or financial institution established in one of the Member State of the European Union. When the beneficiary is established in a third country, the authorising officer responsible may agree that a bank or financial institution established in that third country may provide the guarantee if he considers that the bank or financial institution offers equivalent security and characteristics as those offered by a bank or financial institution established in a Member State. Amounts blocked in bank accounts shall not be accepted as financial guarantees.

The guarantee may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by a third party or by a joint guarantee of the beneficiaries of an action who are parties to the same grant agreement.

The guarantee shall be released as the pre-financing is gradually cleared against interim payments or payment of balance to the beneficiary, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the grant Decision or agreement.

## **12. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

All practical information on this call for proposals and the evaluation process is detailed in the Guide for Applicants, which is available together with other relevant documents such as the application forms, model grant agreement for the granting of financial aid, the multiannual work programme adopted in 2014, the CEF Regulation and the TEN-E Regulation on the website of INEA:

[http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/cef/cef\\_energy/apply\\_for\\_funding/cef\\_energy\\_call\\_for\\_proposals\\_2014.htm](http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/cef/cef_energy/apply_for_funding/cef_energy_call_for_proposals_2014.htm).

### **12.1. Application forms**

Proposals must be submitted using the application forms provided on the website of INEA at the following link:

[http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/cef/cef\\_energy/apply\\_for\\_funding/cef\\_energy\\_call\\_for\\_proposals\\_2014.htm](http://inea.ec.europa.eu/en/cef/cef_energy/apply_for_funding/cef_energy_call_for_proposals_2014.htm).

Proposals in their paper version must be signed by the applicant or his duly authorized representative and be perfectly legible so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures.

The applicant(s) specified in the application form part A (eSubmission) will automatically be considered as the beneficiary(ies) if the proposal is selected for funding. If applicants designate affiliated entities within the meaning of Article 122 of the Financial Regulation to support the implementation of the submitted action, they must encode in the application form Part A the details of these affiliated entities, and provide the related supporting documents as required.

## 12.2. Submission of proposals

Proposals must be submitted **both electronically and on paper**. The electronic and the paper versions have to be identical. In case of discrepancy, the paper copy prevails.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their applications in English language.

### a) Electronic submission

Application form Part A (e-Submission) generated in the TENtec Information System eSubmission module must be submitted electronically before the deadline of **17h00** (Brussels local time) on 19 August 2014.

Application form Parts B, C, D and their annexes duly filled in and scanned electronic versions must be uploaded in the eSubmission module before the deadline of **17h00** (Brussels local time) on 19 August 2014.

### b) Submission on paper

A paper version of the application form including forms A, B, C, D and their annexes (one original, signed and stamped where applicable, and four copies) must be submitted before the deadline of 19 August 2014. It shall also include a CD-ROM or DVD-R disk (non-rewritable therefore USB sticks are not recommended) containing the full proposal in PDF format or formats readable by MS Office programmes.

The application must be sent either by registered courier or by hand delivery to the following address:

European Commission  
Innovation and Networks Executive Agency  
W910 - 01/38  
Avenue du Bourget, 1  
B-1140 Bruxelles (Evere)  
Belgique

Proposals must be sent by registered courier not later than 19 August 2014 (as evidenced by the postmark, or proof of receipt deposit slip). Applicants must keep proof of the date of sending and be able to present it upon request.

Proposals delivered by hand to the Central Mail Service of the European Commission must be delivered no later than 19 August 2014. In this case, a receipt must be obtained as proof of submission, signed, dated by the official who took delivery in the Central Mail Service. For information, the Central Mail Service is open from 7h00 to 17h30 Monday to Fridays. It is closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Commission holidays.

The paper version of the full proposal must be placed inside two sealed envelopes, one inside the other. The inner envelope must bear the indication:

CEF Energy  
Call for proposals 2014  
INEA  
- Not to be opened by the Postal Service of the Internal Mail Department –

### 12.3. Failure to comply with formal requirements

A proposal **will not be evaluated** if at least one of the following situations occurs:

- It is not submitted electronically in the TENtec Information System eSubmission module.
- It is not submitted in paper version.
- It is not submitted within the deadline for submission of proposals.
- In this respect, it is the responsibility of the applicant(s) to ensure that the paper version of the proposal is sent to the address set out in the call for proposals. The Commission/ INEA cannot be held responsible for consignments which are not addressed correctly or for proposals sent in several parts which are not clearly marked so as to enable them to be put together.
- The paper version is not complete, i.e. any forms A, B, C or D is missing.
- The paper version is not signed by the applicant(s).

### 12.4. Timetable

Date of publication of call for proposal	5 May 2014
Deadline for the submission of proposals	19 August 2014
Evaluation of proposals	September-October 2014 (indicative)
Consultation of the CEF Committee	November 2014 (indicative)
Adoption of the Selection Decision	December 2014-January 2015 (indicative)
Signature of grant agreements	As from January 2015 (indicative)

### 12.5. Communication on the call for proposals

Further information or clarifications on this call for proposals will be published on the INEA website. Applicants are invited to consult this website regularly until the deadline for submission of proposals.

Any additional specific questions related to this call may be addressed to the helpdesk email: [INEA-CEF-energy-call-2014@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INEA-CEF-energy-call-2014@ec.europa.eu).

The answers to submitted questions will be published in the FAQ list on the INEA website, to ensure equal treatment of all potential applicants. Questions which are specific to a particular proposal and where the answer of the INEA would provide a comparative advantage to the applicant will not be answered. Applications may not be delivered to this email address.

### 13. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

Applicants' reply to the grant application involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name, address and CV), which will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, your replies to the questions in this form and any personal data requested are required to assess your grant application in accordance with the specifications of the call for proposals and will be processed solely for that purpose by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency 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 INEA.

The data subjects have the right of recourse at any time to the Data Protection Officer of the Executive Agency ([INEA-DPO@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INEA-DPO@ec.europa.eu)) or in case of conflict with the Controller or data protection officer concerning the processing of your personal data, you have the right to submit a complaint at any time to the directly to the European Data Protection Supervisor ([http://www.edps.eu.int/01\\_en\\_presentation.htm](http://www.edps.eu.int/01_en_presentation.htm)).

Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available on the privacy statement at the page:

[http://inea.ec.europa.eu/download/calls2014/CEF-energy/privacy\\_statement.pdf](http://inea.ec.europa.eu/download/calls2014/CEF-energy/privacy_statement.pdf).

Your personal data (name, given name if natural person, address, legal form, registration number and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control, if legal person) may be registered in the Early Warning System (EWS) only or both in the EWS and Central Exclusion Database (CED) by the Accounting Officer of the Commission, should you be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- the Commission Decision 2008/969 of 16.12.2008 on the Early Warning System (OJ L 344, 20.12.2008, p. 125) (for more information see the Privacy Statement on [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/info\\_contract/legal\\_entities\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/info_contract/legal_entities_en.htm)), or
- the Commission Regulation 2008/1302 of 17.12.2008 on the Central Exclusion Database (OJ L 344, 20.12.2008, p. 12) (for more information see the Privacy Statement on [http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/sound\\_fin\\_mgt/privacy\\_statement\\_ced\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/sound_fin_mgt/privacy_statement_ced_en.pdf))

You are informed that, to ensure that the Union's financial interests are protected, your personal data may be communicated to internal audit services, the European Commission, the European Court of Auditors, the body specialising in financial irregularities (Financial Irregularities Panel) or the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

The data of applicants in any of the situations referred to in Articles 106(1), 107 and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation may be included in a central exclusion database and communicated to designated persons in the Commission, the other institutions, agencies, authorities and bodies referred to in Article 108(1) and (2) of the Financial Regulation. This also applies to those with powers of representation, decision-making power or powers of control in respect of such applicants. Following a request to the

Commission's Accounting Officer, anyone registered in the database is entitled to be informed of the data recorded about them.