

November 12, 2008

Irregular behaviour in the European Commission's services

Every time we had a project with the European Commission (only with maybe 1-2 exceptions), they made at least one big mistake in managing the issue, so we lost plenty of time and money. Now here again.

A set of 17 European organisations led by Italian trade union DirCredito answered a call for proposals about employee share ownership and financial participation. The project was about "Organising employee shareholders rights in European companies" (for Call for Proposals VP/2008/017 on September 1, 2008).

The project was not approved. The motivation by the "Evaluation Committee" is highly shocking (see appendix):

"The project is inopportune taking into account the economic and financial current environment (promoting financial participation in financial services)."

You cannot agree on that.

1. This evaluation committee was out of its role. It based its decision on a political motivation. We don't believe that such committee has the competency to make political choices, in contradiction with those of the European Commission and the European Council. We didn't receive any information saying that the European Commission would change its policy aiming to promote employee financial participation. The French Government, the French Presidency of the European Union constantly confirmed this political choice.
2. You cannot change the rules during the game. If you organise a call for proposals on September 1, you cannot decide on November 5 that such proposals are inopportune. It is just stupid.
3. The proposal has to be realized at the end of 2009. Refusal based on "current" environment seems stupid again. Maybe they had better to say: "Panic here – Waiting for the big night".
4. The proposal is about "organising employee shareholders' rights in European companies". The motivation for refusal is about the inopportunity of "promoting financial participation in financial services". This is not the proposal !!

We think that this committee was out of its role.

We ask this decision to be immediately revised.

Marc Mathieu

Secretary General

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EFES' objective is to act as the umbrella organization of employee owners, companies and all persons, trade unions, experts, researchers, institutions looking to promote employee ownership and participation in Europe.



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

Social dialogue and social rights, working conditions and adaptation to change
Working conditions and Adaptation to change

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Brussels,
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Subject: Call for proposals VP/2008/017 - Budget Heading 04.04.01.03
"Restructuring, well being at work and financial participation", 2nd session,
September 2008

Dear Mr PAIARDI,

I am writing to you with regard to your proposal "HOW ORGANIZING EMPLOYEE SHAREHOLDERS RIGHTS IN EUROPEAN COMPANIES" (Proposal no. VP/2008/017/0056) which you submitted for the 1st of September 2008 deadline of the European Commission's call for proposals VP/2008/017.

I regret to inform you that the Evaluation Committee did not approve your proposal for the following reason:

The project is inopportune taking into account the economic and financial current environment (promoting financial participation in financial services).

I would be grateful if you could inform the other participants in this proposal of the content of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Jean-François LEBRUN
Authorising Officer by
Sub-delegation