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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 17.11.2008
SEC(2008) 2840 final

**AMENDING LETTER No 3
TO THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET 2009**

**STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE BY SECTION
Section II - Council**

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Having regard to:

- the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 272 thereof,
- the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, and in particular Article 177 thereof,
- the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹, as last amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1525/2007², and in particular Article 34 thereof,

the European Commission hereby presents to the budgetary authority the amending letter No 3 to the Preliminary Draft Budget for 2009 for the reasons set out in the explanatory memorandum.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

² OJ L 343, 27.12.2006, p.9.

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STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE BY SECTION

The statement of expenditure by section is forwarded separately via the SEI-BUD system. An English version of the expenditure by section is attached for information as a budgetary annex.

1. EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This budgetarily neutral letter of amendment covers the expenditure relating to the proceedings of the Reflection Group established by the European Council on 14 December 2007.

This requirement could not be specified when the preliminary draft budget for 2009 was drawn up, as the proposal by the Chairman of the Reflection Group and its two Vice-Chairmen, regarding the composition of the Group, was not approved until the European Council meeting on 15 and 16 October 2008. At that meeting, the European Council also decided that the Group would start work as soon as possible and that the General Secretariat of the Council would provide it with material and logistical support.

In the light of the Reflection Group's specific activity, and for reasons of budget transparency, it is proposed that the expenditure relating to the Group's proceedings be presented under a separate title (Section II - Council, Title 4: "Reflection Group") in the 2009 budget.

The draft letter of amendment comprises the following elements:

- (a) a sum of EUR 260 000 in non-differentiated appropriations, to enable the General Secretariat of the Council to engage a special adviser to act as secretary-general to the Reflection Group;
- (b) a sum of EUR 220 000 in non-differentiated appropriations, to cover the expense of travel to Brussels by members of the Reflection Group and their daily subsistence allowances during meetings;
- (c) a sum of EUR 200 000 in non-differentiated appropriations, to cover the cost of interpretation made available to the members of the Reflection Group as necessary;
- (d) a sum of EUR 300 000 in non-differentiated appropriations, to cover the cost of seminars and studies by external experts in line with the Group's mandate as adopted by the European Council;
- (e) a sum of EUR 30 000 in non-differentiated appropriations, to cover the costs of representation, and a sum of EUR 50 000 in non-differentiated appropriations, to cover other operating expenditure.

Material and logistical support for Reflection Group meetings (Secretariat officials, offices and meeting rooms) would be provided by the General Secretariat of the Council at no additional cost.

The Reflection Group's total operating expenditure for 2009 would thus be EUR 1 060 000. It is proposed that this sum be taken from the contingency reserve (EUR 2,5 million) which is included in the preliminary draft budget for 2009.

Details of the budget headings concerned are given in the attached table.

2. SUMMARY TABLE

TITLE 4 - Expenditure related to the Reflection Group				
Item	Description	PDB 2009	AL	PDB 2009+AL
4002	Special advisers		260.000	260.000
400	<i>Other staff and external personnel</i>		260.000	260.000
4010	Missions		p.m.	p.m.
401	<i>Other expenditure in connection with staff</i>		p.m.	p.m.
Total Chapter 40 - Staff			260.000	260.000
4300	Travel expenses of members of the Reflection Group		220.000	220.000
4301	Travel expenses of external experts		p.m.	p.m.
4302	Interpreting costs		200.000	200.000
4303	Entertainment and representation expenses		30.000	30.000
4305	Miscellaneous meeting expenses		p.m.	p.m.
430	<i>Meetings and conferences</i>		450.000	450.000
4311	General publications		p.m.	p.m.
4312	Information and public events		p.m.	p.m.
431	<i>Information</i>		p.m.	p.m.
4321	Expenditure on studies, surveys and consultations		300.000	300.000
4322	Other operating expenditure		50.000	50.000
432	<i>Miscellaneous expenses</i>		350.000	350.000
Total Chapter 43 - Operating expenditure			800.000	800.000
TOTAL TITLE 4 - Expenditure related to the Reflection Group			1.060.000	1.060.000
10 0	Provisional appropriations	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
10 1	Contingency reserve	2.500.000	-1.060.000	1.440.000
TITLE 10 - Other expenditure		2.500.000	-1.060.000	1.440.000
TOTAL BUDGET		unchanged	0	unchanged