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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COMMISSION COMMUNICATION

amending Communication C(2005) 4010 of 19 October 2005 concerning "An interinstitutional policy for offices of the Representations in the European Union" with a view to adapting the key of distribution between the Commission and the European Parliament of the costs incurred by the acquisition of buildings intended as premises for the "European Union Houses"

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1. THE CURRENT SITUATION

1.1. Shared premises

The Commission and the European Parliament have shared premises called "European Union Houses", accommodating their Representations and external offices in almost all the capital cities of the Member States. The two institutions have not yet brought their services together under one roof in the following cities: Athens and Bucharest. At regional level, out of the cities where the two institutions are present, only Edinburgh does not have shared premises.

1.2. Purchasing policy

Communication C(2005) 4010 on "An interinstitutional policy for offices of the Representations in the European Union" confirmed the approach designed to promote a joint purchasing policy with the European Parliament which would allow the Commission to make substantial budgetary savings in the long term.

In this context and as regards the acquisitions financed by the European Parliament from its budgetary resources, the Commission can thus confirm its interest in the property transaction in question, provided that the selected project(s):

- have been the subject of a joint search,
- meet the needs of the Commission,
- are more economical than the current situation,
- provide ideal premises for the services of both institutions.

On 31 December 2007, of the premises shared by the two institutions, the following buildings were purchased jointly: Copenhagen, The Hague, Valletta, Nicosia and the Info-Point in Lisbon.

1.3. Sharing purchasing costs

Communication C(2005) 4010 also indicated that the purchasing costs would be shared between the two institutions in accordance with the 50/50 distribution key, although the Commission generally uses more space in the "European Union Houses" than the European Parliament. Indeed, overall, the current distribution ratio for surface area in the "European Union Houses" is 60% for the Commission and 40% for the European Parliament.

2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

For all buildings intended as premises shared by the two institutions in the form of "European Union Houses" purchased as of 1 January 2008 using the funds of the Parliament and leading to reimbursement by the Commission, the distribution key applied between the two institutions for the assumption of purchasing costs will be

60/40 (60% for the Commission and 40% for the Parliament); the property records of both institutions will also respect this new ratio.

The new distribution key will not affect the total amount allocated annually to the functioning of the "European Union Houses", particularly as, for the purchases made by the European Parliament, the period of reimbursement of the amount owed by the Commission will be extended (from twenty to twenty-five years).

3. CONCLUSIONS

The Commission

- approves the Communication and its transmission in EN/FR/DE to the European Parliament for information purposes;
- approves the amendments to Communication C(2005) 4010 of 19 October 2005 concerning "An interinstitutional policy for offices of the Representations in the European Union", mainly relating to the sharing of purchasing costs and allowing the Commission to acquire 60% of the right to use the buildings purchased as of financial year 2008 by the European Parliament in the name and on behalf of the European Communities, by paying annuities to the Parliament over a maximum period of twenty-five years, in accordance with an administrative arrangement signed for the purpose of the two institutions sharing the premises of the "European Union Houses" established in all the Member States;
- authorises the Director-General of DG COMM to sign for this purpose, with the European Parliament, "administrative letters of intention" concerning the premises chosen jointly by the two institutions, after consulting DG BUDG and the Legal Service, in accordance with the instructions for handling property dossiers and the administrative arrangements for the 60% reimbursement of the purchase price.