



**CONSIGLIO
DELL'UNIONE EUROPEA**

**Bruxelles, 7 aprile 2008 (09.04)
(OR. en)**

8163/08

INF 90

NOTA DI TRASMISSIONE

Origine:	Signor Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Direttore, per conto del Segretario Generale della Commissione europea
Data:	7 aprile 2008
Destinatario:	Signor Javier SOLANA, Segretario Generale/Alto Rappresentante
Oggetto:	Comunicazione della Commissione al Parlamento europeo, al Consiglio, al Comitato economico e sociale europeo e al Comitato delle regioni "Debate Europe" — Valorizzare l'esperienza del Piano D per la democrazia, il dialogo e il dibattito

Si trasmette in allegato, per le delegazioni, il documento della Commissione COM(2008) 158 definitivo.

All.: COM(2008) 158 definitivo



COMMISSIONE DELLE COMUNITÀ EUROPEE

Bruxelles, 2.4.2008
COM(2008) 158 definitivo

**COMUNICAZIONE DELLA COMMISSIONE AL PARLAMENTO EUROPEO, AL
CONSIGLIO, AL COMITATO ECONOMICO E SOCIALE EUROPEO E AL
COMITATO DELLE REGIONI**

**"Debate Europe" — Valorizzare l'esperienza del Piano D
per la democrazia, il dialogo e il dibattito**

INDICE

INTRODUZIONE.....	3
1. VALUTAZIONE DEL PIANO D — RISULTATI ED ESPERIENZE.....	4
2. PROSSIME TAPPE - "DEBATE EUROPE"	6
2.1. Stabilire un collegamento tra i dibattiti dei cittadini e le istanze politiche rappresentative	7
2.2. Rafforzare la cooperazione con il Parlamento europeo	8
2.3. Creare sinergie tra i programmi della Commissione.....	8
2.4. Sviluppare altre iniziative nel quadro del Piano D.....	9
3. INVITO A PRESENTARE PROPOSTE E AZIONI DECENTRALIZZATE.....	10
4. CONCLUSIONI.....	11

INTRODUZIONE

Nel giugno 2005, il Consiglio europeo ha invitato ad un periodo di riflessione per valutare le future tappe della riforma istituzionale¹. In risposta a tale richiesta, il 13 ottobre 2005 la Commissione europea ha adottato il "Piano D per la democrazia, il dialogo e il dibattito"². Il suo obiettivo consisteva nell'incoraggiare gli Stati membri ad organizzare un ampio dibattito pubblico sul futuro dell'Unione europea che coinvolgesse i cittadini, la società civile, le parti sociali, i parlamenti nazionali e partiti politici, con l'appoggio delle istituzioni dell'UE.

L'idea centrale del Piano D consisteva nel "saper ascoltare meglio", "spiegare meglio" e "operare sul piano locale" per consentire ai cittadini di partecipare alla riflessione. Ha così preso forma una consultazione sul futuro dell'Europa che completava le consultazioni delle parti interessate e dei cittadini in merito a proposte d'azioni specifiche.

Tra le attività di punta del Piano D figura la realizzazione di sei progetti transazionali di cittadini europei gestiti da organizzazioni della società civile (allegato 1). Con tali progetti si cercava di sperimentare metodi di consultazione innovativi e di consentire a soggetti appartenenti a sfere pubbliche nazionali differenti di collegarsi tra loro in qualità di cittadini europei e di discutere sul futuro dell'Unione.

Nel giugno 2006, il Consiglio europeo ha preso atto del contributo della Commissione al periodo di riflessione ed ha osservato che l'impegno dell'Unione a diventare più democratica, trasparente ed efficiente permane oltre il periodo di riflessione. Esso ha inoltre rilevato che "Un dialogo rafforzato con i cittadini presuppone mezzi e un impegno adeguati"³ ed ha quindi proposto una proroga del periodo di riflessione per il 2007.

La Commissione ha risposto a questa richiesta nel novembre 2006 basandosi sull'esperienza maturata nel primo anno, con una nota d'informazione intitolata "Piano D: ampliare e approfondire il dibattito in Europa"⁴. La Commissione ha rinnovato il suo impegno nei confronti dell'azione intrapresa nell'ambito del Piano D. Essa ha inoltre deciso di cofinanziare una nuova serie di progetti della società civile insistendo in particolare sui giovani, sulle donne e sulla dimensione locale.

Il periodo di riflessione è giunto a termine nel giugno 2007, quando il Consiglio europeo ha deciso il mandato di una nuova conferenza intergovernativa (CIG) intesa a riformare il quadro istituzionale dell'Unione. La CIG si è conclusa in ottobre e il "trattato di riforma" è stato firmato nel dicembre 2007 a Lisbona. Tali avvenimenti hanno segnato l'inizio di una nuova fase che ha coinciso con la ratifica del nuovo trattato cui faranno seguito, nel giugno 2009, le elezioni europee. Il Consiglio europeo ha rilevato l'importanza cruciale di una maggiore e migliore comunicazione con i cittadini, fornendo loro informazioni esaustive sull'Unione europea e facendoli partecipare ad un dialogo permanente⁵.

¹ Dichiarazione dei capi di Stato o di Governo degli Stati membri dell'Unione europea sulla ratifica del trattato che adotta una Costituzione per l'Europa (Consiglio europeo, 16-17 giugno 2005, paragrafo 4).

² COM(2005) 494 del 13.10.2005.

³ Conclusioni della Presidenza, Consiglio europeo, 15-16 giugno, paragrafo 3.

⁴ SEC(2006) 1553.

⁵ SI (2007) 500.

Nell'ottobre 2007, la Commissione ha adottato la comunicazione "Insieme per comunicare l'Europa"⁶, il cui obiettivo globale è quello di rafforzare la coerenza e le sinergie tra le attività portate avanti dalle varie istituzioni comunitarie e dagli Stati membri, in modo da permettere ai cittadini di accedere più agevolmente all'informazione e di comprendere meglio quali ripercussioni abbiano le politiche dell'Unione europea sul piano europeo, nazionale e locale.

La presente comunicazione riguarda la strategia futura del Piano D (2005-2007) consistente in un più attento ascolto, una migliore divulgazione e un'azione a livello locale. Previa introduzione di talune modifiche, tale strategia sarà portata avanti nel 2008 e nel 2009, nel corso del processo di ratifica del trattato di Lisbona, tenendo conto delle prossime elezioni europee.

Essa intende concorrere alla realizzazione di uno degli obiettivi centrali della politica della Commissione in materia di comunicazione: dar voce ai cittadini consentendo loro di accedere all'informazione affinché siano in grado di sostenere un dibattito informato sulle questioni comunitarie.

1. VALUTAZIONE DEL PIANO D — RISULTATI ED ESPERIENZE

Per incoraggiare l'emergere di una sfera pubblica europea, il Piano D ha inteso promuovere un dialogo bidirezionale, sia personale che virtuale, tra le istituzioni dell'UE ed i cittadini dell'Unione. Tale approccio è risultato particolarmente utile nella fase iniziale della discussione sull'avvenire dell'Europa che ha fatto seguito al "no" della Francia e dei Paesi Bassi al trattato che istituisce una Costituzione per l'Europa.

Parallelamente ad altri programmi gestiti dalla Commissione e da altre istituzioni e organismi comunitari, il Piano D si è rivelato uno strumento indispensabile per consentire alle organizzazioni della società civile di sperimentare metodi innovativi di coinvolgimento dei cittadini dalle origini ed esperienze più disparate ad un dibattito sul futuro dell'Europa che accomuni:

- comunicazione personale e virtuale,
- consultazione deliberativa e sondaggi,
- consultazioni ai livelli nazionale, transnazionale e paneuropeo.

I dibattiti on line hanno avuto luogo sul sito Internet "Debate Europe"⁷. Le rappresentanze della Commissione e i centri Europe Direct sono stati consultati con grande frequenza. Le visite effettuate dai membri della Commissione nel quadro del Piano D sono state decisive per avviare il dialogo con i parlamenti nazionali, la società civile, i vertici delle aziende, i dirigenti sindacali e le autorità pubbliche locali e regionali degli Stati membri. Ciò ha confermato l'importanza di stabilire contatti personali e di "dare un volto" all'UE.

⁶ COM(2007) 568 del 3.10.2007.

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/wallstrom/communicating/conference/dialogue/index_en.htm.

La Commissione ha cofinanziato in particolare progetti della società civile nel quadro del Piano D. La selezione dei cittadini è stata casuale e gli incontri hanno avuto luogo in ambito nazionale e transnazionale. Sono state messe a loro disposizione le informazioni utili (ad esempio sulla documentazione relativa ai problemi da dibattere sotto il controllo di un gruppo rappresentativo di membri del Parlamento europeo) e i mezzi necessari a superare gli ostacoli linguistici onde consentire loro di utilizzare la lingua materna nel corso dell'intero processo di consultazione. I cittadini sono stati così in grado di sostenere intense discussioni con i responsabili decisionali e di formulare proposte riguardo al futuro dell'Unione. Sono all'incirca 40 000 i cittadini che hanno preso parte personalmente ai sei progetti transnazionali del Piano D e si ritiene che centinaia di migliaia di persone vi abbiano partecipato virtualmente via Internet. Le organizzazioni della società civile responsabili della gestione dei progetti hanno agito da moltiplicatori ed hanno divulgato nelle diverse fasi dei progetti, attraverso le loro reti strategiche e mediatiche, i pareri espressi dai cittadini.

I progetti della società civile attuati nel quadro del Piano D hanno dimostrato che la democrazia partecipativa può utilmente integrare la democrazia rappresentativa. Essi hanno confermato quanto già era emerso da altri tipi di programmi realizzati a favore dei cittadini: la consultazione rappresenta per coloro che vi prendono parte l'occasione di un'esperienza sul piano sia umano che politico. Nel corso delle consultazioni il punto di vista dei cittadini – qualsivoglia fosse il loro pensiero riguardo all'Unione - è notevolmente cambiato. Al termine del dibattito erano desiderosi di ricevere feedback da parte dei responsabili decisionali, in particolare da istituzioni e organismi comunitari.

Per tale motivo, nel dicembre 2007, la Commissione ha organizzato una conferenza conclusiva sui sei progetti di cittadini preconizzati dal Piano D, dal titolo "Il futuro dell'Europa — L'agenda dei cittadini". Per la prima volta, su scala paneuropea, i cittadini che hanno preso parte ai vari progetti transnazionali di democrazia partecipativa hanno avuto l'opportunità di presentare brevemente le loro aspettative e di esplicitarle di fronte ai responsabili decisionali.

Le proposte scaturite da tale consultazione sono state trasmesse sotto forma di lettera aperta ai capi di Stato e di governo dell'UE, ai parlamenti nazionali, alle istituzioni dell'UE e ai partiti politici europei in previsione del Consiglio europeo di dicembre (allegato 2). Tale lettera esorta i partiti politici europei a tener conto di dette proposte nell'elaborare i loro programmi e a discuterle con i cittadini in vista delle elezioni del Parlamento europeo nel 2009. Essa si rivolge inoltre ai capi di Stato e di governo dell'UE affinché favoriscano l'emergere di una cittadinanza europea attiva a tutti i livelli di governance.

I progetti di cittadini hanno dimostrato che tale obiettivo è raggiungibile in vari modi ricorrendo:

- ad un sito web europeo di dibattiti virtuali collegato ad una rete di sottositi nazionali, associati a iniziative di discussione di dimensione locale, nazionale ed europeo;
- ad un sito web multilingue, altamente interattivo, il cui contenuto sia stato deciso da gruppi di riflessione di diversi paesi membri dell'UE e adattato in base al feedback di seminari composti da rappresentanti del pubblico destinatario;
- a consultazioni nazionali sulle stesse tematiche in tutti gli Stati membri, svoltesi pressoché in contemporanea, e successivo riepilogo dei contributi a livello europeo;

- a un sondaggio deliberativo paneuropeo, nell'ambito del quale un campione della popolazione selezionato a caso si è riunito per tre giorni per discutere faccia a faccia;
- a forum di discussione locali organizzati in diversi Stati membri dell'Unione, associati a sondaggi e a registrazioni video dei punti di vista dei cittadini.

Simili progetti hanno dimostrato che è possibile realizzare, in termini sia qualitativi che logistici, una democrazia partecipativa su problematiche di interesse comunitario a livello locale, regionale, nazionale e transnazionale.

Quanto alla sostanza, essi hanno evidenziato lo scarto esistente a volte tra le aspettative dei cittadini e i reali ambiti di competenza dell'UE, ad esempio nel campo del sociale, dell'istruzione, della diplomazia o della difesa. Partecipando alle consultazioni, i cittadini hanno acquisito maggiore dimestichezza con il processo decisionale dell'UE. Il processo di consultazione ha consentito loro di avere una visione più chiara del modo di interpellare i decisori politici e di ridurre, in futuro, il gap che separa questi ultimi dal grande pubblico.

Dai risultati dei progetti è possibile ricavare interessanti insegnamenti anche in termini di programmazione, selezione dei partecipanti, formazione dei moderatori, logistica del dibattito transnazionale e multilingue, nonché tipo di informazioni e competenze necessarie per garantire che i cittadini di qualsivoglia sfera sociale siano in grado di partecipare ad un dibattito informato sulle problematiche europee. Un facile accesso a consulenze e competenze scientifiche è indispensabile in particolare nei processi partecipativi che coinvolgono soggetti interessati e policy maker.

2. PROSSIME TAPPE - "DEBATE EUROPE"

Nella sua prima fase, il Piano D si è concentrato sulla parte del processo definito "dibattito e dialogo". Il follow-up del Piano D farà compiere un nuovo passo avanti a tale processo, mettendo l'accento sulla parte "D per democrazia"; esso consentirà inoltre ai cittadini di esplicitare le loro aspettative di fronte ai responsabili decisionali e di sfruttare al meglio le possibilità offerte dai media. Pertanto, ispirandosi al nome del sito web della Commissione dedicato al Piano D, la nuova fase si chiamerà "Debate Europe".

Debate Europe avrà le seguenti funzioni:

1. Esporre i risultati delle consultazioni dei cittadini nell'ambito della società civile ai decisori politici. I cittadini stessi riassumeranno le loro conclusioni e le trasmetteranno ai rappresentanti eletti, alle fondazioni e ai partiti politici. Il momento centrale di tale processo sarà un dibattito tra cittadini e responsabili della politica sulle proposte formulate nei forum dei cittadini. In tale contesto, Debate Europe si baserà sul nuovo quadro politico e istituzionale europeo, ivi compreso il nuovo regolamento⁸ relativo allo statuto e al finanziamento dei partiti politici a livello europeo.

⁸ Regolamento (CE) n. 1524/2007 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio del 18 dicembre 2007.

2. Dar corpo a una stretta collaborazione e, ove possibile, a un'azione congiunta tra le istituzioni e gli organismi comunitari al fine di ottimizzare l'impatto degli sforzi compiuti per promuovere la cittadinanza europea attiva (forum di cittadini; strategie di comunicazione del Parlamento europeo in vista delle elezioni del 2009 e dibattiti di tipo "Agorà" con organizzazioni della società civile; iniziative del Comitato delle regioni e del Comitato economico e sociale europeo).
3. Valorizzare al meglio le iniziative già in atto a livello comunitario, ivi compresi i programmi della Commissione a favore della cittadinanza attiva — ad esempio il programma "L'Europa per i cittadini", il Fondo europeo per l'integrazione dei cittadini dei paesi terzi, i programmi di lotta contro la povertà e a favore della coesione sociale, le altre iniziative specifiche lanciate nel quadro dell'Anno europeo del dialogo interculturale (2008) e del futuro Anno europeo della creatività e dell'innovazione, nonché l'azione preparatoria e attività correlate di e-Participation e l'iniziativa e-Inclusion. In tal modo, Debate Europe intensificherà gli sforzi intrapresi dalla Commissione per spiegare ai cittadini il valore aggiunto delle politiche comunitarie (ad esempio i risultati positivi del mercato interno, quali la riduzione dei costi del roaming della telefonia mobile, i voli a basso costo, la riduzione delle ineguaglianze in materia di sviluppo regionale, la protezione dell'ambiente e la lotta contro i cambiamenti climatici).
4. Portare avanti altre iniziative di provato successo nel quadro del Piano D (dibattiti in rete per stabilire un contatto più ravvicinato tra i funzionari dell'UE e i cittadini; cooperazione tra gli uffici di informazione della Commissione e del Parlamento europeo, utilizzando le antenne comunitarie per agire nella dimensione locale).

2.1. Stabilire un collegamento tra i dibattiti dei cittadini e le istanze politiche rappresentative

È desiderio unanime colmare il divario esistente tra la politica attuata a livello nazionale da un lato e quella su scala europea dall'altro. I gruppi politici europei devono essere sostenuti nella loro volontà di partecipare ai dibattiti che si svolgono nella sfera pubblica nazionale. In particolare durante le campagne elettorali in vista delle elezioni del Parlamento europeo, occorre mettere in luce le problematiche europee e i cittadini devono rendersi conto dell'impatto, sulla loro vita quotidiana, delle scelte politiche che essi operano a livello europeo.

Debate Europe fungerà da catalizzatore per rafforzare le iniziative attuali lanciate dalla Commissione per sormontare il succitato divario. Esso cofinanzierà un progetto di consultazione pubblica a livello paneuropeo gestito da organizzazioni della società civile in partenariato con gruppi di riflessione, organismi di ricerca, università e fondazioni e partiti politici. Tale iniziativa sosterrà inoltre azioni su scala regionale e nazionale consentendo ai cittadini di diversa estrazione e di qualsivoglia categoria di partecipare a discussioni, presentare le loro opinioni e discuterle con i decisori politici, con il contributo dei media.

Il dibattito beneficerà del nuovo regolamento comunitario sulle fondazioni e sui partiti politici, che costituisce una delle misure concrete scaturite dalla prima fase del Piano D. Il regolamento estende il campo d'attività dei partiti politici europei e sostiene la costituzione di fondazioni politiche europee, che contribuiranno in modo decisivo a coinvolgere i cittadini in un dialogo politico permanente, schietto e informato.

Nel 2007, tali fondazioni hanno presentato alla Commissione piani d'azione volti a lanciare una serie di attività pilota nel 2008: sensibilizzare i cittadini alle prossime elezioni europee tramite azioni di formazione, iniziative di comunicazione mirate, siti Internet, opuscoli informativi e la creazione di reti con fondazioni e gruppi di riflessione nazionali. Dal settembre 2008 in poi, le fondazioni politiche saranno sovvenzionate su base permanente.

Debate Europe intende integrare tali sforzi esortando le fondazioni politiche a partecipare alle consultazioni dei cittadini organizzate dalla società civile.

2.2. Rafforzare la cooperazione con il Parlamento europeo

La conferenza sul Piano D del dicembre 2007 intitolata "Il futuro dell'Europa — L'agenda dei cittadini" ha dimostrato che le istituzioni comunitarie risultano più efficaci quando *uniscono le loro forze* e prendono parte *congiuntamente* ai forum di dialogo con i cittadini. Esse hanno così l'opportunità di dimostrare la dimensione democratica dell'Unione in tutti i suoi aspetti, il che consente a sua volta ai cittadini di comprendere meglio il processo decisionale dell'UE. Tale forma di cooperazione interistituzionale sarà incorporata nei progetti Debate Europe ai livelli europeo, nazionale e regionale.

Il Parlamento europeo, nel contesto della sua strategia di comunicazione in vista delle elezioni, esorta le istituzioni comunitarie a collaborare intensamente. Debate Europe contribuirà a soddisfare tale esigenza. La cooperazione con il Parlamento europeo, il Comitato delle regioni e il Comitato economico e sociale europeo è infatti determinante ai fini della promozione della cittadinanza europea attiva. Ogni istituzione o organismo ha acquisito un'esperienza considerevole in materia di organizzazione di tribune dei cittadini.

La Commissione è disposta a cooperare con le future presidenze dell'UE che desiderino organizzare vertici di cittadini con la partecipazione delle diverse istituzioni e organizzazioni comunitarie, fornendo in tal modo una piattaforma che consentirà ai responsabili decisionali europei di conoscere il punto di vista dei cittadini su problematiche concrete.

2.3. Creare sinergie tra i programmi della Commissione

Debate Europe opererà in sinergia e in modo complementare con altri programmi della Commissione a favore della cittadinanza europea attiva. I progetti da attuarsi nel quadro di Debate Europe si distingueranno per la loro dimensione interistituzionale, politica e mediatica; il risultato delle consultazioni organizzate ai livelli regionale, nazionale e paneuropeo sarà un dibattito pubblico informato tra i cittadini e i responsabili decisionali degli Stati membri e dell'insieme delle istituzioni comunitarie.

Le specifiche dell'invito a presentare proposte nel quadro di Debate Europe garantiranno che i progetti selezionati tengano debitamente conto delle iniziative politiche d'insieme che la Commissione conduce per promuovere la cittadinanza europea attiva, in particolare tramite:

- il programma "L'Europa per i cittadini", che promuove la cittadinanza europea attiva fornendo un appoggio a tutta una serie di soggetti (autorità locali, società civile, organizzazioni professionali e associazioni dei consumatori, cittadini), di modo che possano agire, partecipare a dibattiti e allacciare contatti in vari modi, sia tradizionali (gemellaggio di città, progetti transnazionali della società civile) che innovativi (ad esempio gruppi di cittadini);

- la proclamazione del 2008, Anno europeo del dialogo interculturale, che accomuna tutte le istituzioni e organizzazioni comunitarie, e del 2009, Anno europeo dell'innovazione e della creatività;
- le fondazioni e i partiti politici europei che si adoperano, con l'aiuto finanziario della Comunità, per sensibilizzare i cittadini alle prossime elezioni europee con il sostegno comunitario;
- il Fondo europeo per l'integrazione dei cittadini dei paesi terzi. L'integrazione degli immigranti è un processo caratterizzato da solidi partenariati tra le autorità pubbliche di ogni livello e soggetti non governativi, quali i datori di lavoro, i sindacati, le organizzazioni religiose, la società civile, le associazioni dei lavoratori migranti, i media e le ONG che operano a favore dei migranti;
- l'azione preparatoria dell'iniziativa e-Participation volta ad accrescere la partecipazione dei cittadini ai processi legislativo e decisionale a livello europeo, tramite l'applicazione delle nuove tecnologie. Sono attualmente in fase di sperimentazione nuove forme d'interazione tra i cittadini e le istituzioni europee;
- attività di ricerca e iniziative di accompagnamento finanziate a titolo del settimo programma quadro di ricerca in materia di governance e di cittadinanza (programma di lavoro nelle scienze umane e sociali) e dell'impegno pubblico in campo scientifico (programma di lavoro sulla scienza nella società)⁹.

2.4. Sviluppare altre iniziative nel quadro del Piano D

Debate Europe opererà di concerto con le iniziative in atto negli Stati membri, molte delle quali potrebbero risultare utili ai fini della cooperazione interistituzionale; tra queste:

- le reti informative sperimentali (PIN), per le quali è già stato stipulato un contratto. Esse metteranno in contatto tra di loro parlamentari europei, nazionali e regionali, giornalisti e altri opinion-maker europei per condividere informazioni, conoscenze e idee sull'UE. Le PIN avvicineranno il dibattito europeo ai Parlamenti nazionali, servendosi di Internet e di altri strumenti e conferenze on line al fine di creare "reti di idee" e contribuire a mettere in collegamento uomini politici e media con i progetti innovativi della società civile;
- gli spazi pubblici europei: le rappresentanze della Commissione e gli uffici di informazione del Parlamento europeo a Madrid, Tallinn e Dublino hanno cooperato alla creazione di spazi pubblici europei che ospitano mostre, dibattiti, seminari e azioni di formazione relativi a tematiche di interesse comunitario. Si prevede l'estensione di questo progetto pilota ad altre capitali europee, nell'ordine Roma, Londra, Copenaghen e Berlino.
- i forum dei cittadini: il Parlamento europeo, il Comitato economico e sociale europeo ed il Comitato delle regioni organizzano forum di cittadini negli Stati membri. Debate Europe incoraggerà i membri delle diverse istituzioni e organizzazioni comunitarie a riunirsi e ad

⁹ Decisione n°1982/2006/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio; decisioni 2006/971/CE e 2006/974/CE del Consiglio.

intervenire congiuntamente in tali tribune, in base al concetto di "Tavole rotonde europee per la democrazia" introdotto dal Piano D¹⁰.

- le visite agli Stati membri: le visite effettuate dai commissari europei negli Stati membri nel quadro del Piano D hanno contribuito al dialogo con i parlamenti nazionali, le autorità regionali e locali, i media e la società civile. Funzionari della Commissione sono stati incoraggiati a recarsi in visita negli istituti scolastici in cui hanno studiato. Debate Europe svilupperà ulteriormente tali incontri "personali diretti", in linea con la strategia d'impegno personale della Commissione¹¹ che esorta i suoi dipendenti a svolgere un ruolo attivo nel campo della comunicazione in qualità di "ambasciatori" dell'istituzione. Si rammentano a questo proposito l'operazione "Back to School" e la "Enterprise Europe Network". Debate Europe incoraggerà inoltre i membri e i funzionari di altre istituzioni e organismi comunitari ad associarsi all'iniziativa.
- una maggiore attenzione alla dimensione locale: i centri Europe Direct, di concerto con le rappresentanze della Commissione, hanno organizzato dibattiti, manifestazioni e seminari con i cittadini in centri urbani al di là delle capitali degli Stati membri. Debate Europe continuerà a sviluppare tali attività, approfittando del lancio, nel 2009, di centri Europe Direct "di seconda generazione";
- l'ottimizzazione dei sondaggi Eurobarometro: tali sondaggi d'opinione della Commissione terranno conto delle esperienze maturate con i progetti della prima fase del Piano D, che hanno sperimentato tecniche di sondaggio deliberativo sul futuro dell'UE su scala paneuropea;
- i dibattiti su Internet: il sito web "Debate Europe" dedicato al Piano D è stato rivisitato nel gennaio 2008 onde incrementarne il potenziale ai fini di un dibattito interattivo con gli utenti di Internet su tematiche comunitarie di attualità, con la partecipazione delle rappresentanze della Commissione. Il recente rilancio di dibattiti su Internet sarà seguito da discussioni on line dello stesso tipo nel corso del 2008 e nel 2009.

3. INVITO A PRESENTARE PROPOSTE E AZIONI DECENTRALIZZATE

Debate Europe assicurerà che lo sforzo globale della Commissione volto a promuovere la cittadinanza europea attiva diventi parte integrante di misure interistituzionali rivolte ai responsabili decisionali a tutti i livelli di governance.

Si propone una strategia "binaria", sostenuta da un bilancio di 7,2 milioni di euro:

- a livello paneuropeo: un invito a presentare proposte centralizzato per cofinanziare un vasto progetto transnazionale a 27 Stati membri dotato di un bilancio di 2 milioni di euro;
- a livello nazionale e regionale: inviti e azioni decentralizzate che sostengano finanziariamente progetti locali con un bilancio di 5,2 milioni di euro¹².

¹⁰ COM(2005) 494, parte 4.1.5.

¹¹ SEC(2007) 912.

¹² Decisione C(2008) 924 della Commissione sul programma di lavoro annuale in tema di sovvenzioni e contratti nel settore della comunicazione per il 2008, adottata dalla Commissione il 12 marzo 2008 (tabella 2.6.2).

A livello paneuropeo, i termini dell'invito a presentare proposte specificheranno che, sulla base dell'esperienza maturata con la prima serie di progetti transnazionali di democrazia partecipativa, Debate Europe assicurerà i seguenti compiti:

- organizzare consultazioni di cittadini in ogni Stato membro;
- formulare una serie comune di conclusioni a livello europeo e trasmetterle alle organizzazioni politiche europee;
- coinvolgere i cittadini in un dialogo con i rappresentanti eletti e le organizzazioni politiche europee, con l'attiva partecipazione del Parlamento europeo, del Comitato economico sociale europeo e del Comitato delle regioni.

A livello nazionale o regionale, le rappresentanze della Commissione:

- hanno programmato per il 2008 circa 140 azioni per animare il dibattito pubblico sull'UE;
- cofinanzieranno un'azione commisurata alle esigenze specifiche (ad esempio azioni mirate a scuole e centri giovanili, esposizioni, fiere e festival, conferenze, seminari, eventi in collaborazione con ONG, ecc.) tramite inviti a presentare proposte a livello locale;
- realizzeranno tali azioni di concerto con altre istituzioni e altri organismi comunitari ad esempio, tramite gli spazi pubblici europei, la proclamazione dell'Anno europeo del dialogo interculturale e del preconizzato Anno europeo della creatività e dell'innovazione e gli istituti nazionali di cultura dell'UE.

In funzione del contesto nazionale, uno stanziamento anche modesto di risorse assegnate alle ONG nazionali potrebbe dar corpo ad un dialogo costruttivo sulle tematiche comunitarie. Le rappresentanze della Commissione, in collaborazione con gli uffici di informazione del Parlamento europeo, contribuiranno all'efficacia delle attività incentrate sul dialogo coinvolgendo le autorità regionali e locali.

Tali iniziative potrebbero dare impulso alle reti regionali e locali – nuove o esistenti - e facilitare la diffusione delle migliori pratiche, avvalendosi degli strumenti di e-Participation¹³. Esse potrebbero essere interessanti anche per i politici che si candidano alle elezioni europee, i quali potrebbero utilizzare tali sedi di discussione come base per il dialogo con i loro elettori.

4. CONCLUSIONI

La partecipazione attiva dei cittadini

L'UE può fruire di un sostegno pubblico unicamente se i cittadini sono impegnati in un dibattito animato ed aperto e si sono resi attivamente partecipi delle questioni d'interesse europeo. Oltre alle numerose consultazioni delle parti interessate e della popolazione organizzate dalla Commissione su questioni specifiche, l'UE necessita di un confronto approfondito e di una maggiore sensibilizzazione sul piano politico se intende conseguire i suoi obiettivi e portare a buon fine le politiche appropriate. Uno degli obiettivi centrali della

¹³ Quali quelli illustrati da e-Participation Community su www.epractice.eu.

politica della Commissione in materia di comunicazione consiste¹⁴ nel *coinvolgere i cittadini, promuovendo la cittadinanza europea attiva*.

Collegamento con i responsabili della politica

I partiti politici ed i loro rappresentanti si trovano in una posizione privilegiata per sollevare questioni europee in seno al dibattito nazionale e per avviare un dibattito pubblico transfrontaliero attraverso l'Europa. Occorre attivare canali di comunicazione transfrontalieri per promuovere il dibattito e il dialogo sulle questioni di interesse comune figuranti tra le priorità dell'Europa. La Commissione ha contribuito allo sviluppo di detti canali di comunicazione tramite proposte legislative intese a facilitare l'emergere di partiti politici europei, attraverso una serie di programmi destinati ai cittadini e attività di sensibilizzazione delle ONG, nonché attraverso il Piano D.

Una volta realizzati i vari progetti pilota, la sfida consiste nel garantire che i loro risultati alimentino il processo decisionale politico. La prima fase del Piano D ha confermato che esiste una chiara domanda di misure volte a consolidare e allargare il dialogo politico sulle questioni europee e che la democrazia partecipativa può integrare utilmente la democrazia rappresentativa.

Nella prossima fase, che interesserà gli anni 2008 e 2009, e in esito alle elezioni europee, Debate Europe fornirà una struttura operativa per allacciare contatti, stabilire relazioni e agire in partenariato. Occorre prevedere tuttavia la sua applicazione anche nel lungo termine: l'obiettivo di Debate Europe consiste nel modificare la percezione secondo la quale le tematiche comunitarie sarebbero troppo astratte e distaccate dalla sfera pubblica nazionale per risultare interessanti per i cittadini; esso offre inoltre l'occasione di sormontare la demarcazione, spesso artificiale, che separa le problematiche nazionali da quelle europee.

¹⁴ COM(2007) 568 del 3.10.2007.

- Allegato 1: Descrizioni dei progetti realizzati nel quadro del Piano D
- Allegato 2: Lettera aperta/raccomandazioni formulate dai partecipanti alla conferenza conclusiva dei sei progetti di cittadini nel quadro del Piano D
- Allegato 3: Progetto di invito centralizzato a presentare proposte
- Allegato 4: Progetto di invito decentralizzato a presentare proposte

ALLEGATO 1

Citizens' consultations projects co-funded by the Commission in the framework of Plan D in 2006-2007 projects

Speak Up Europe

- Co-ordinator: European Movement International
- Amount of the project: EUR 1,039,310.63
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 719,375.70
- Pan-European
- An integrated approach combining virtual and face to face communication, both on a European level and on a national level.
- Virtual: each partner created a national web site. Web animation (e.g. cartoon "What has Europe ever done for us?").
- Face to face: a series of local, national and European events.
- 27 000 people had taken part physically in the project by the end of September 2007.
- Specific multimedia site targeting youth, called "European Vibes".
- Specific site launched by one of the partners, Euractiv, called "EU debates and opinions" to promote the outcome of Speak Up Europe had received 110 000 viewers by end of September 2007.

European Citizens' Consultations

- Co-ordinator: King Baudouin Foundation
- Amount of the project: EUR 2.715.376,60
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 1.895.751,95
- Pan-European.
- Deliberative consultation of citizens on a national level, on the basis of an agenda set at European level by a sample of citizens.
- European synthesis of the outcome of the national consultations and a European web site.

- 1 800 citizens participated in the project altogether.
- Feedback from 1 000 out of the 1 800 citizens involved via an evaluation survey.

Tomorrow's Europe

- Co-ordinator: Notre Europe
- Amount of the project: EUR 1.352.500
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 849.500
- Pan-European
- Europe-wide deliberative poll.
- 3 550 citizens polled on the future of the EU.
- 362 of them were randomly selected to deliberate for three days in Brussels, with the help of experts.
- They filled in a questionnaire at the beginning of the deliberative phase and were polled at the end to measure the evolution of their views.

Our message to Europe

- Co-ordinator: Deutsche Gesellschaft e.V.
- Amount of the project: EUR 358.000,00
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 250.000,00
- Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland.
- 4 000 participants altogether.
- 70 intensive dialogue events (54 in Germany, 4 in Austria, 4 in Slovakia, 4 in Czech Republic, 4 in Poland) with panel discussions.
- Opinion polls carried out during those events: 2600 people polled altogether, under 21 and over 21.
- In 20 of the events people had the opportunity to have their individual "message to Europe" recorded on video - 300 audiovisual messages collected altogether.

Radio Web Europe

- Co-ordinator: CENASCA-CISL
- Amount of the project: EUR 794.475,03
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR, 556.132,50
- Italy, Lithuania, Austria, UK, Spain, Portugal, Malta.
- Creation of a multimedia and interactive website targeting 18-35 years old. Content determined by face to face meetings with target audience through focus groups (two per country). At a second stage, workshops to collect feedback.
- National reports served as a basis for a synthesis report.
- Users can view and download audiovisual products and post their own (comments, videos, interviews, games, cartoons...). At the end of the project, website hosted 200 multimedia products. Average number of monthly visits: 5 000.

Our Europe-Our Debate-Our Contribution

- Co-ordinator: European House Budapest
- Amount of the project: EUR 364.000
- Grant from the EU budget: EUR 254.500
- Hungary, Austria, Italy, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- Fostering debate at grass-root level by meeting people in the streets and public transport, asking them to reply to a questionnaire (also posted on the project's English-language website).
- A "regional events" dimension (face to face meetings).
- A European bus touring the five countries, displaying a "European labyrinth" at every stop which people were invited to enter with a "European passport". People's views were recorded on video at every stop.
- The aim was to collect 2 500 people's views on Europe either through the questionnaire or by video.

Projects co-funded by the Commission Representations in the framework of Plan D in 2007-2008

Representation	Project
Bulgaria	Regional Dialog Open Forum: Women for Social Inclusion
	The Tender Europe: targeting more marginalised social groups – meetings and debates in schools, youth organisations, municipalities, chambers of commerce etc.
	An Investment for Creating Qualified and Internationally Educated Young People Corresponding to the Requirements of the European Single Market: Advertise the possibilities provided through European funding under the ERASMUS Program.
	No to Discrimination in United Europe: Let us Talk about the Different! Civic debate on issues related to discrimination and dissemination of EU best practices in the field of anti-discrimination measures in the cross-border region Svishtov (BG) - Zimnitch (RO).
Czech Republic	Gender Studies OPS: Flexicurity/labour market/ professional-private life - survey, video, discussions, leaflets, audit of pre-school establishments.
	Klub mladých Evropanu, o.s.: Generation EU: Target group - young people 15-19years. Workshops on labour market, education, security, freedom, future, European social model, European identity/values, 1 national conference.
Denmark	Your Europe
	Food Safety in the Consumers' EU
	Gender Divided Labour Market and Violence against Women
	Global Citizen and EU
	The Model Parliament
Estonia	Federation of Estonian student unions - Estonia in the EU's higher educational system (seminars, conference, articles in student press, discussions on internet forums, publication).
	Junior Achievement Estonia - Youth Entrepreneurship Conference on gender equality Project activities.
	NGO umbrella organisation in Viljandi - promotion of equal opportunities of local level citizens in the EU (conference, seminars, youth forum, study visit to Finnish rural areas).

France Paris	Europe , the future and citizenship in the Aquitaine region.
	Brittany youth's contribution to a European strategy to limit the scale of climate change.
	Know more about Europe to understand it better.
	Young European prize.
	Les Eurois, citizens of Europe.
	Europe for and by the young.
	A silent majority: women in the EU. Awareness raising among women, a major stake for the future of Europe.
	Etats généraux de l'Europe.
	Etats généraux de l'Europe.
	Deedale – Vendée region.
Hungary	Launch of the Hungarian chapter of the European Youth Parliament (Pillar Foundation)
	National consultation of women (Partners Hungary Foundation)
	Climate Change Youth Campaign (WWF Hungary)
Ireland	Institute of European Affairs (Future of Europe including immigration; crime and terror; climate change; Reform Treaty; Citizens Europe; EU@50; What has Europe done for citizens; use of overall theme "Europe 2.0". Use of web based products to widen and deepen the debate; meetings and debates across colleges, and other centres; production and dissemination of publications; explaining the new Treaty to different groups and especially the target groups; specifically target young professionals. Virtual tools and meetings, debates, high visibility events; dedicated Europe 2.0 website; podcasts; production of "6 Pack" information items for use with the target groups; production of a book "What the Reform Treaty Means", pamphlets; Young Professional network; high profile discussions and debates.
	Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) : legal rights in Europe; Irish farm Families; Quality of Life in Europe; Migration; Social Reality. Regional Seminars; training of co-ordinators; use of co-ordinators for training and organisation of seminars; use of expert speakers. Focus is on 16,000 families.
Latvia	Regional debates on social reality
	Youth observers in local and district authorities on cohesion and regional policy
	Training of multipliers - schoolchildren and teachers - on corruption and transparency issues

Malta	Fondazzjoni Temi Zammit
Portugal	Porto, Coimbra, Santarém, Évora and Faro Environment protection / Energy- Youth
	National: Future of Europe; Europe in the world; Migrations; Security - Youth
	All islands of the archipelago of Azores European integration; Future of Europe; Europe in the world
	Vila Real district Prosperity; Solidarity; Security and Freedom e Liberdade; Future of Europe; Europe in the world
	Beira Interior Solidarity – European Year Equality; European Year of Intercultural Dialogue; Cohesion and Rural Development Sept.2007 to August 2008
Spain Madrid - Barcelona	Fundación Ciudadanía Euro activos. ex:talleres para jóvenes que quieren darle la vuelta a Europa
	Europa Action and Lobby Development of a multilingual forum.
	Infocentro de Zaragoza Europa Joven, 50 años de logros
	Casal d'Europa de Sabadell Euroaptive,T
The Netherlands	Communicado Foundation Le Camping: Development of a pilot episode for six broadcastings for NL school TV. EU is visualised as a campsite; Member States are tents with their habitants. EU cooperation issues (enlargement, environment etc..) are explained through interaction of the actors in a comprehensible and educational way.
	ETV NL Europe is Fun! : Production of an educational project for secondary education scholars. A competition for digital EU stories, study materials and teachers training.
	Stichting Eggietalk (io) Eggietalk. Communication translation programme: pupils can communicate in their own language with pupils in other EU languages.
	Click on Europe. "Debatainment" with website and educational material for lower secondary education. Organisation aims at stimulating hard-to-reach target group to debate Europe in a competitive way.
	Nationaal oorlogsmuseum/ CHO Consultants Freedom and Democracy: Fundamental rights in Europe. Creating awareness and stimulating debate among youth in the national war museum. Electronic info pillars will be placed in the museum (including a voting system), and a website will be launched with small clips on 4 basic rights.

	<p>Passage Christelijk-Maatschappelijke Vrouwenbeweging Living together in Europe: Project proposed by the 4 largest woman movements in NL combined. The target group is approximately 120.000 female members, including many housewives. Newsletter, symposium, study days and an EU crafts contest. spin-off through family, friends etc. Create awareness of European issues among the members and to promote woman participation (use of voting right) in the 2009 European Parliament elections.</p>
	<p>Nationale Jeugdraad All about Europe.nl: website aiming at providing youth with a complete overview of the EU, to facilitate a structured dialogue. Bundle all relevant info for youth in one website. Nationale Jeugdraad (National Youthcouncil) portal website: Allesovereuropa.nl. This portal will bundle all relevant EU information for youth and youngsters in an understandable manner. Advertising campaign.</p>
	<p>CED Groep Europe in the news: 8 special topics on the EU. Communication with pupils in other EU countries. EU section added to existing website. Website is part of "learning by discussing/debating" teaching method.</p>
<p>United Kingdom London</p>	<p>Women in Northern Ireland – Connecting to Europe. Northern Ireland Women's European Platform. The platform aims to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of women in Northern Ireland including the advancement of their education and development.</p>
	<p>My Voice in Europe The Community Development Foundation is a leading source of intelligence, guidance and delivery on community development in England and across the UK. The overall aim of the European and International Unit of CDF is to link and feed into practice and policy within the European and International arena by acting as a bridge between the UK and relevant international mechanisms.</p>
	<p>Voicing young people's views on climate change Inspire, support and celebrate young people as agents for change in society. Their aim is to create a generation of young, active citizens, drawn from all sectors of the UK population who will be a force for change in achieving global social and environmental justice.</p>
	<p>Flexicurity: young workers' views in a cohesion region Bevan Foundation, at the forefront of new thinking about achieving a fair and just Wales by carrying out research, organising conferences and debates, and by publishing articles and reports.</p>
	<p>Fem e-U Link, FATIMA Women's Network Innovation Centre. Fatima is a socially responsible minority ethnic-led organisation supporting the social and economic empowerment of all women through inter alia personal development, education and training, networking and engagement, as well as research and consultation.</p>
	<p>Forward Ladies Limited Non-profit business support network for women -networking opportunities, inspirational speakers, training, mentoring, coaching, business support and facilitates international trade missions.</p>

People and Politics Day-Europe: promoting democracy and active citizenship. Research, conferences, reports, promotion of democratic change.

Decentralised communication actions planned by Commission Representations in 2008

Plan D decentralised actions planned for 2008					
Action type		Member State	Associated communication priority	€	
1. Local calls	Programmed	UK	Energy & CC	150 000	
		Italy	Intercultural Dialogue	150 000	
		Netherlands	None	142 000	
		Austria		203 000	
		Germany		200 000	
		Sub-total			845 000
	To be programmed	Amounts confirmed	Netherlands	None	258 000
			Malta		150 000
			Germany		100 000
			Slovakia		50 000
			Czech Rep.		50 000
			Lithuania		20 000
		Sub-total			628 000
		Amounts TBC	Latvia	None	TBC
			Slovenia	Reform Treaty	TBC
Total				1 473 000	
2. Other actions				3 429 867	
Total Plan D	Allocated			5 200 000	
	Requested			4 902 867	

ALLEGATO 2

Open letter / recommendations from the participants at the concluding conference of the six Plan D citizens' projects

The future of Europe-the citizens' agenda

Open letter to the EU Heads of State and Government, the National Parliaments, the European Union Institutions and European political parties

Brussels, 9 December 2007

Next week, the Heads of State and Government of the European Union will sign the Lisbon Treaty. The EU celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year. Since 1957, the European Union has progressed from economic cooperation to a political union that affects the lives of almost 500 million citizens. This evolution also brings responsibilities for the political leaders of Europe. The permissive consensus that existed at the beginning has to be turned into an actively earned consensus in dialogue with the European citizens.

Associating citizens to the European construction is more than ever a fundamental issue. If we do not want the citizens to desert once more the European elections in 2009, political leaders need to regain the citizens' trust and confidence in the European project and show they care about citizens' involvement in the decision-making machine.

Plan D launched by Commission Vice-President Margot Wallström responded to this challenge in a novel manner. It co-financed a series of projects to learn how ordinary citizens can be involved in the EU decision-making and how they view the EU's future. This exercise responds to a basic value of the EU in the 21st century: active citizenship.

The European Movement International, the King Baudouin Foundation, Notre Europe, Deutsche Gesellschaft, European House Budapest and CENASCA-CISL, with a large network of partners across Europe have engaged actively in Plan D. A series of grass roots debates, consultations, polls and events aimed at consulting citizens on their visions of Europe have been carried out in a number of Member States, while deliberative polling and consultation has taken place on a pan-European scale.

Thousands of citizens took part in those projects throughout the European Union in 2007. Over 250 of them have assembled in Brussels on 8 and 9 December to debate on the major concerns which have emerged through Plan D. There was a clear consensus among participants that more opportunities of this kind should be provided to involve citizens in the debate over Europe's future.

They have structured these concerns into three themes:

1. The human aspects of globalisation
2. Enlargement, political integration and EU citizenship
3. The EU's role on the world stage.

They have consolidated their conclusions into a single set of recommendations (annexed to this letter).

They have debated those recommendations with decision-makers representing the EU institutions as well as the present Portuguese and future Slovenian Presidencies of the EU:

- Mrs. Margot Wallström, Vice-President, European Commission.

- Mrs Jillian van Turnhout, Vice-President, European Economic and Social Committee.
- Mr. Ivo Opstelten, Mayor of Rotterdam, Member of the Committee of Regions,
- Mr. Pierre Jonckheer, Member of the European Parliament
- Mr. Valter Lemos, Portuguese Secretary of State for Education,
- Ambassador Igor Sencar, Permanent Representative of Slovenia.

They call on the European political parties to address those recommendations in their programmes and to discuss them with citizens in view of the elections to European Parliament in 2009.

They call upon the EU Heads of State and Government, both in their capacity as European but also as national leaders, to heed those recommendations and thereby encourage the development of active European citizenship, without which there cannot be a truly political Union.

They call for the dialogue with citizens on European issues to be continued and deepened in the future.

The participants to the conference on "The future of Europe-the citizens' agenda

Twenty–seven recommendations

1.

As work is considered a crucial dimension for individual emancipation, the **welfare systems** should protect citizens' life conditions during periods of transition for example by providing people with an unemployment indemnity when changing jobs.

2.

Citizens expect more action from the EU in the area of **social policy and social cohesion** in order to fight the black market, reduce salary gaps, promote gender-equality, ease unemployment and to make it attractive to work longer before retiring.

3.

The EU should promote **equal rights, comparable standard of living** in all EU member states and foster equal opportunities through harmonised social and economic policies and a welfare model for all member states.

4.

*The Member States and the EU should make sure that **migrants** enjoy equal rights and opportunities and have access to education and work if they observe the laws, rules and values of the host country and commit to learning the language.*

5.

The **European migration policy**, so far based only on restrictive measures, should adopt a more sophisticated approach aiming at the social and economic development of the involved countries. The EU needs to clarify its approach to economic refugee status.

6.

Migration needs to be acknowledged as one of today's most pressing issues, and cannot be tackled without a coherent development aid strategy.

7.

*The EU should ensure that part of each country's national curriculum, in both **schools and universities**, requires a section on Democracy and European Citizenship, to ensure a greater understanding of the EU, its history, and its opportunities.*

8.

The EU should show more commitment to educational promotion in general but also specifically regarding European issues, e.g. through the expansion of existing educational EU programmes or the establishment of new EU programmes as well as the incorporation of the European integration process as a central topic in the national school curricula.

9.

Exchange projects need further support to encourage young people to recognise the importance of their EU citizenship in the global context.

10.

The EU should help preserving, appreciating and respecting the **diversity** of peoples, knowledge, customs and languages identities - while recognising common and shared European values.

11.

Integration strategies such as the **educational policy** incorporating the EU into school curricula will favour the development of a European identity.

12.

The EU should prioritise creating and communicating a new '**memory**' about Europe, to move away from the stereotypes associated with certain countries and history, so that all citizens can be valued and we can understand each other better.

13.

*The EU should increase opportunities for a more active, **direct participation of European citizens** from all walks of life in policy-making through regular citizen Plan D-type participatory projects, debates, public hearings, etc. at EU but also at regional and national levels. More transparency-more influence for European citizens!*

14.

*The EU should make sure that the **current citizen recommendations** are considered and discussed not only by the EU but also national policy-makers or become part of existing policy-making processes (e.g. impact assessments, public consultations). The EU should not only listen but also learn.*

15.

The EU should become more interactive, citizen friendly and inclusive, recognising the growing significance of regional approach and identity. New and innovative information technique should be used to improve communication with citizens especially young people. Specific attention has to be paid to the frequently neglected gender issues.

16.

***Climate change and energy security** cannot successfully be dealt with at the national level alone. The EU should be given stronger powers to develop a common energy policy and ensure that Member States live up to the commitments they have made at European level.*

17.

In a global world, it makes sense for the EU to take greater responsibility than today in the fields of **military action, foreign aid and diplomatic relations**. The EU should be able to speak with one voice on a global level to defend its values.

18.

The EU can be more efficient than national governments in **security, police and struggle against drugs traffic and cartels**.

19.

The EU should lead the world in **protecting the environment** and promoting clean energy.

20.

Europe should develop a strong voice on the global stage with **common foreign and security policies that promote peace**, security in regional conflicts democracy and the respect for human rights providing for a strong role model across the world, whilst recognizing the importance of the nation state.

21.

The EU should show **a united front in international affairs**; the current practice is influenced too much by national short-term interests and considerations.

22.

The EU should tackle the impact of Europe's energy use on both the economy and the environment and foster the transition to environmentally clean, safe and sustainable energy sources.

23.

European citizens want the EU to **take the lead when it comes to social, energy and environmental standards** on a global level.

24.

The EU should develop **specific educational and action-oriented programmes for citizens on global issues** such as trade, energy and the environment.

25.

The EU should **coordinate its aid programmes with NGOs** engaged in humanitarian work to bring timely and efficient relief to crisis regions or to promote sustainable development.

26.

The EU should **lower barriers to international trade** as, overall, freer trade benefits developed and developing countries.

27.

The EU should show **more commitment in the fields of international peacekeeping** as well as humanitarian aid during catastrophes.

ALLEGATO 3

CENTRAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS - DG COMM No < A2-1/2008 >

Financial support for an initiative emanating from organisations with a significant trans-national dimension as provided by the European Commission's Debate Europe Communication

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

On 13 October 2005 the Commission approved its Communication to the Council, to the European Parliament, to the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions: Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate.

This was a listening exercise so that the European Union can act on the concerns expressed by its citizens. The Commission aimed to stimulate debate and widen recognition for the added value that the E U provides.

It was a two-way process which:

- informed the public about the EU's role, with examples of its projects and achievements,
- identified their expectations for the future in return.

On 29 November 2006 Vice President Wallström presented an information note to the College of Commissioners on Plan D – Widen & deepen the debate. The purpose of this was to take stock and further widen and deepen the debate in the period of reflection.

On 2 April 2008, the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Debate Europe-building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate". It noted that the first phase Plan D focused on the "debate and dialogue" part of the process. The next phase of Plan D will take this process one step further and focus on "D for democracy", further enabling citizens to articulate their wishes directly to decision-makers and making better use of the media in the process. This new phase has been named "Debate Europe".

In October 2005 the Commission launched a series of Europe-wide civil society projects for 2006, which it co-financed. In 2007, it promoted a further series of initiatives, targeting young people and women in particular.

2. OBJECTIVES

One of the key lessons from this first round of projects and the concluding conference of Plan D is that the interface between citizens and EU decision-makers needs to be strengthened to ensure that issues of interest and concern Europe-wide are debated and addressed at a European level. There is a need to communicate those Europe-wide issues and concerns

which affect to a large degree all of Europe's citizens identified from consulting on a pan-European basis and to communicate these to European political decision-makers and media especially in view of the June 2009 European elections.

As a result, the Commission wishes to strengthen the existing debate about the future of Europe and its impact on citizens' daily lives by launching one or more pan-European projects with the following objectives:

In a first phase;

- Carry out a Europe-wide dialogue between citizens, political decision-makers and other key opinion formers through a series of debates/conferences/consultations and other events, with a view to ascertaining citizens' principal issues and concerns at a European level which touch their daily lives. This dialogue will ensure a close involvement of the other EU institutions (EP, EESC, COR) and European political parties' foundations.
- The conclusions arising from these events would be synthesised and made public. At a concluding event they should be presented to European decision makers to give them the opportunity to react and take into account the concerns of the European electorate. This phase of the project should be completed ideally before the June 2009 European elections.

In a second phase, the contractor could continue with a series of meetings with newly-elected MEPs and representatives from the principal European media (television, radio, press).

In carrying out both phases, the contractor will take into account the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue and on-going Commission programmes such as Europe for Citizens and e-Participation.

The resulting projects will involve consortia of civil society organisations with a view to replying to these objectives on a Europe-wide scale. These consultations will complement those planned to be held at local level designed to address concerns focused on European issues with a more local impact.

3. TIMETABLE

3.1. Submission of applications

Publication of call beginning April 2008.

Applications must be submitted by end June 2008 at the latest.

Contracts will be signed September 2008.

Please read carefully section 10 of this call for proposals concerning the procedures for submitting applications.

3.2. Duration of projects

The project should begin between 1 September and 1 October 2008 and will be in two phases as described above.

The first phase will be completed by mid-May 2009 (before the European elections) and the second phase by 1 November 2009.

Applications must clearly state the project's starting and finishing dates (dd/mm/yy).

The maximum duration of projects is 14 months.

However, if, after the signing of the agreement and the start of the project, the beneficiary observes that, for fully justified reasons beyond his control, it becomes impossible to complete the project within the scheduled period, an extension to the eligibility period may be granted. A maximum extension of 3 months will be granted, provided that this is requested before the deadline specified in the grant agreement. The maximum duration will then be 18 months.

The period of eligibility of expenditure resulting from implementation of a project will begin on the day of signature of the grant contract by the last of the parties. If the nature of the project requires the project to start before the contract is signed, expenditure may be considered eligible before the signature of the contract. Under no circumstances can the eligibility period start before the date of submission of the grant application.

3.3. Information on the results of the selection

It is planned that applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection procedure in July 2008.

The lists of selected projects will be published on the following website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm

Applicants whose applications have not been selected will be informed in writing.

4. FINANCING

The budget initially available for part-financing projects is estimated at € 2 000 000.

If during the 2008 budget year, additional amounts are allocated to boost the initial budget for this call for proposals, they might be allocated to co-financing projects which were adopted at the selection phase but not given priority for co-financing in the overall budget initially available. The Commission therefore reserves the right to set up a “reserve list” of proposals evaluated positively in order to take account of the resources actually available in the 2008 budget.

The grant awarded may not exceed 70% of the total eligible project costs.

Community contributions are meant to facilitate the implementation of a project which could not otherwise be implemented easily without the support of the European Union. They are based on the co-financing principle.

Consequently, a minimum of 30% of the total estimated eligible expenditure of the project must come from sources other than the European Union budget. Applicants must include evidence that co-financing is available (secured) for the remainder of the total cost of the project.

The Commission intends to finance 1 to 2 projects for a budget of € 1 or € 2 million in total..

The European Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

The amount allocated by the Commission may not in any circumstances exceed the amount requested. Moreover, the Commission reserves the right to award a grant lower than the amount requested by the applicant.

An organisation is not entitled to receive more than one grant from the Commission for the action covered by the selected project.

After approval by the Commission, a “grant contract”, a draft of which is reproduced at Annex VI, expressed in euros and specifying the conditions and the financing level, will be concluded between the Commission and the beneficiary. The originals of the finance contract must be signed and returned to the Commission immediately for signature. The Commission will be the last party to sign.

The payment methods are detailed in the draft contract (Article I.4), with a list of eligible and ineligible costs (Article II.14 of the general conditions and Article I.3 of the special conditions of the grant contract).

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications which comply with the following criteria will be the subject of an in-depth evaluation.

5.1 Eligible countries

Grant applications are eligible if they are presented by organisations having a legal status and established in one of the 27 Member States.

Organisations established in countries other than the countries listed above are not eligible.

5.2 Types of cooperation eligible

The types of cooperation eligible include partnerships. The term partnership/partners implies full or partial active intellectual collaboration in the execution of the project. In no case will financial support alone (sponsorship) be deemed to constitute a partnership. However, any financial support accompanied by active intellectual collaboration in the execution of the project will be accepted as a partnership. In all cases, the purpose of partnership is to add value to the project.

6. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants must certify on their honour, by signing the application form, that they are not in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002), which are listed below.

Applicants will be excluded from participating in this call for proposals if they are in one 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 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 judgement which has the force of res judicata;
- c) they have committed serious professional misconduct recorded by any means that awarding authorities 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 contracting authority or those of the country where the contract 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 Communities' financial interests;
- f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Applicants will not receive financial support if, during the grant allocation procedure:

- a) they are subject to a conflict of interests;
- b) they are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the European Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure, or fail to supply this information.

In accordance with Articles 93 to 96 of the Financial Regulation, administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation or are found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations under a previous contract award procedure.

To respect these provisions, the applicant and his partners must provide evidence that they are in none of the situations listed in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection criteria are designed to demonstrate the applicant's capacity to see the project through to a successful conclusion.

Applicants must provide evidence of stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out and/or grant-aided, as well as evidence of their financial participation. The applicant must also provide evidence of professional competencies, qualifications and/or experience relevant to the proposed project.

7.1 Technical capacity

Candidates must show that they have the operational (technical and management) capacity needed to complete the proposed action and provide evidence of their capacity to direct a large-scale activity corresponding to the dimension of the project for which the grant is requested. Particular attention will be devoted to the capacity for integration in society in the Member States, to the mobilisation of the public and to the analysis of their contributions. The capacity to operate in a large number of Member States (ideally in all of them) would be an advantage.

Applicants must attach to the grant application a curriculum vitae for the project leader and for the personnel of their organisation who will actually do the work. They must also enclose a recent activity report .

7.2 Financial resources

In order to permit assessment of this criterion, applicants must submit with their application the following documents:

- annual accounts for the last complete financial year;
- the “financial identification” form (bank details) (Annex III), completed by the beneficiary and certified by the bank (with original signatures).

If, on the basis of the submitted documents, the Commission assesses that the financial capacity of the applicant is not sufficient, it may:

- reject the request for a Community grant;
- ask for further information;
- ask for the deposit of a guarantee;
- propose a grant agreement without a pre-financing payment.

7.3 Audit

Where the cost of the project to be financed exceeds €300 000, the grant application must be accompanied by an external audit report produced by an approved auditor.

This report must certify the accounts for the last year available and give an assessment of the applicant’s financial viability.

8. AWARD CRITERIA

Account will also be taken of other Commission programmes such as the European Year for Intercultural Dialogue in 2008, Europe for Citizens and INTI (Integration of Third-Country Nationals).

Eligible projects will be evaluated on the basis of:

- a) the consistency of the overall concept of the project with the objectives of Debate Europe, as described at point 2 of the call for proposals;
- b) the quality of the work programme and the *modus operandi*;
- c) the dynamics of networking and the establishment of pan-European cooperation;
- d) the capacity of the project to:
 - act in the largest number of Member States as possible, and ideally in all 27;
 - involve the largest number of citizens as possible;
 - ensure their diversity of origin and their representativeness;
 - provide for the use of the largest number of national languages possible;
 - generate transnational results;
- e) the likely multiplier effect through the media and civil society networks, as calculated on the basis of the measures proposed to give visibility to the project and its outcomes;
- f) the system of feedback to European political decision-makers and citizens involved, as recommended by Debate Europe;
- g) the mechanism for evaluation of the objectives pursued by the project.

9. PUBLICITY

Provided the successful tenderer agrees (unless the publication of information is likely to endanger the successful tenderer's safety or harm his interests), the Commission will publish the following information in whatever form and on whatever medium it wishes, including the Internet:

- the name and address of each beneficiary;
- the subject of the grant;
- amount awarded and rate of funding.

10. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

10.1 Publication

The text of the call for proposals, the annexes and, for information purposes, a copy of the standard agreement can be obtained from the Europa website at the following address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm

10.2 Application form

Applications must be presented in one of the official languages of the EU.

Since the call is addressed first of all to organisations operating in several Member States, DG Communication would, however, appreciate it if grant applications (which must be made out on the 2006 form devised for the purpose) are accompanied by a version in one of the European Commission's working languages (French, English or German).

This form can be downloaded from the above Internet address.

Only grant applications submitted on the application forms attached to this call for proposals and comprising all the necessary documents mentioned in Annex D will be considered.

Applications must be:

- typed; hand-written applications will not be accepted;
- duly dated, filled in and signed by the legal representative of the organisation;
- sent in quadruplicate (the original, which must be identified as such, plus three copies).

10.3 Submission of the application

Deadline for the submission of applications: end May/early June 2008

Applications submitted after will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted in one of the following ways:

Proposals must be submitted on paper:

- by registered post to the following address, for which purposes the relevant date is to be the date of dispatch by post, as evidenced by the postmark or the registered delivery receipt issued by the postal services:

European Commission
Directorate-General COMMUNICATION
Unit A2 (Communication: planning and priorities)
Debate EuropeOffice BERL 5/234

B-1049 Brussels

Belgium

- by hand delivery or courier service.

For security reasons, applications submitted personally or conveyed by a courier service can be presented only to the Commission's Central Mail Department (Rue de Genève 1, 1140 Evere, Belgium), and envelopes must be marked "DG COMMUNICATION, Unit A2 (Communication: planning and priorities), BERL 05/234 – Debate Europe Project". In the event of hand delivery, the submission date is the date of receipt. In the event of delivery by a courier service, the submission date is the date of receipt by the mail department.

Applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be considered.

No modification of the application will be authorised after the submission of the application and its annexes. However, the Commission reserves the right to request any additional information needed for it to take a final decision on the award of financial support.

Applicants will be informed in writing when their application is received.

Only applications complying with the eligibility and exclusion criteria will be considered for the possible award of a grant.

Applicants whose applications are judged to be ineligible will be notified by mail, with an explanation as to why they were judged ineligible.

Tenderers will be informed, as soon as possible, of the decision taken by

the Commission on their grant application. No information will be released until the Commission's decision on project selection has been taken.

All selected applications will be subject to technical and financial analysis. In this connection the Commission may ask the applicant organisation for supplementary information, or possibly for guarantees.

Any applicant whose application for a Community grant is not accepted will be informed in writing.

10.4 Legal framework

- European Commission Communication datedMarch 2008 (Comm): "Debate Europe-building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate".
- European Commission Communication dated 13 October 2005 (COM(2005) 494 final): The Commission's contribution to the period of reflection and beyond: Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate
- European Commission Communication dated 03 October 2007 (COM(2007) XXX final): Communicating Europe in Partnership

- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002 (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)
- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002 (Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

10.5 Contacts

The Commission department responsible for the implementation and management of call for proposals DG COMM No A2-1/2006 is Unit A2 (Communication: planning and priorities) of Directorate-General Communication (COMM).

Additional information can be obtained by electronic mail or by fax, either at the electronic address COMM-A2@cec.eu.int , or by fax number from ++ 32 2 295 24 69 , indicating clearly the reference of this call for proposals.

Annexes:

Annex A: Daily allowance scale

Annex B: Contractual obligations

Annex C: Text of the banking guarantee to be completed (only on request)

Annex D: Application checklist

Annex I: Application form (parts A and B)

Annex II: Budget form

Annex III: Financial identification form

Annex IV: Financial capacity form

Annex V: Legal entity form

Annex VI: Draft contract (for information)

Annex VII: Acknowledgement of receipt of the application

ALLEGATO 4

CALL FOR PROPOSALS MANAGED BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATIONS IN EU MEMBER STATES (LOCAL CALL)

- DG COMM No xxxxxx, EC Representation xxxxxxxx

**Grants for local and national civil society initiatives
to promote public debate about European issues
- part of the European Commission's "Debate Europe" initiative**

1. BACKGROUND

On 13 October 2005 the Commission approved its Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate".

This was a listening exercise to enable the European Union (EU) to act on citizens' concerns. The Commission aimed to stimulate debate and widen recognition for the added value that the EU provides.

It was to be a two-way process which:

- informed the public about the EU's role, with examples of its projects and achievements,
- identified their expectations for the future in return.

On 29 November 2006 Vice President Wallström presented a note to the Commissioners entitled, "Plan D – Widen & Deepen the Debate". Its purpose was to take stock and further widen and deepen the debate in the period of reflection. The note is publicly available and has been sent to Member States and other EU institutions.

On 2 April 2008, the Commission adopted a Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions entitled "Debate Europe - Building on the Experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate". It noted that the first phase of Plan D focused on the "debate and dialogue" part of the process. The next phase of Plan D will take this process one step further and focus on "D for democracy", further enabling citizens to articulate their wishes directly to decision-makers and making better use of the media in the process. This new phase has been named "Debate Europe".

In October 2005 the Commission launched a series of Europe-wide civil society projects¹⁵ for 2006, which it co-financed. In 2007, it promoted a further series of initiatives, targeting young people and women in particular.

¹⁵ "Tomorrow's Europe" introduced by the foundation "Notre Europe" (Paris)

<http://www.notre-europe.eu/>

"European Citizens' Consultations" introduced by the "King Baudouin Foundation" (Brussels)

<http://www.european-citizens-consultations.eu>

"Speak up Europe" introduced by the "European Movement International" (Brussels)

Drawing on this experience, the Commission, through its Representations in EU Member States, will offer grants in each Member State for civil society initiatives focusing on "Debate Europe" priority issues¹⁶. These are:

- Priority issue 1: involvement of citizens with political decision-makers;
- Priority issue 2: joint action between EU institutions and bodies to promote active citizenship.

Differences in economic, social and other aspects of national life greatly affect the public's attitudes to the EU and to particular European issues. So the new round of local calls will therefore be **tailored to each Member State's needs**.

The Commission's Representations will help define the content, and manage and follow up the calls. Depending on the national context, even limited funding for country-level NGOs could result in a fruitful debate **on EU issues**.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. General

The Commission wishes to help fund national and regional initiatives by civil society organisations to:

- solicit citizens' views on European issues which have a direct impact, locally and nationally, on their daily lives; and
- encourage citizens to become more informed about these issues, and to discuss and debate them with local opinion-formers.

http://www.europeanmovement.org/emailing/newsletter/speakupeurope_briefing_nonote.pdf

"Our message to Europe" introduced by the Deutsche Gesellschaft (Berlin)

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/grants/index_fr.htm

"Radio Web Europe" introduced by CENASCA (Rome)

<http://www.cenasca.cisl.it/entra.htm>

"Our Europe – Our Debate – Our Contributions" introduced by the European House (Budapest)

<http://www.europeanhouse.hu/>

All data on the 6 Plan D projects are summarized at the following address:

http://europa.eu/debateeurope/paneurope_en.htm

¹⁶ Priorities specified in the Commission's communication entitled "Debate Europe - Building on the Experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate"(2 April 2008) and in its 2008 annual work programme.

These initiatives will:

- facilitate dialogue between citizens, national and/or local political decision-makers and opinion-formers through debates, conferences, consultations and/or other events;
- closely involve local members of:
 - the European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee, and Committee of the Regions, and
 - European political parties, and those parties' foundations
- collate and publish these events' conclusions to:
 - identify specific European issues which matter to people in their particular local/national environment;
 - raise local media and politicians' interest in the debate on Europe;
 - increase understanding of the EU's impact on citizens' everyday life;
- create networks of participatory democracy which integrate the European dimension of local/regional/national debates;
- complement:
 - Commission Representations' other initiatives to target local constituencies;
 - current EU programmes with similar goals, including:
 - the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (EYID) 2008
 - Europe for Citizens
 - e-Participation
 - Integration of Third Country Nationals (INTI).
- be tailored to meet each Member State's specific needs.

2.2. Detailed

2.2.1. Form

Projects can:

- take many different forms – from public debates to online fora.
- be combined with events targeting the public
 - schools and youth centres,
 - exhibitions,
 - fairs and festivals,
 - conferences and seminars

2.2.2. Content

They should:

- define specific issues to be addressed around the overarching topic of debating the relevance of the EU to ordinary citizens lives;

- be accessible to the public and provoke their interest;
- link in with current issues:
 - of local/regional/national interest
 - at EU level.
- allow a variety of opinions to be expressed, without excluding any opinions
- include:
 - dialogue with local, national or EU political authorities;
 - participation by members of the European Parliament, European Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions;
- use the internet to promote the project and facilitate debate.

2.2.3. *Impact*

As a result, projects should:

- make a lasting contribution to the debate on the EU;
- promote genuine local and national participation in debates on the EU;
- lead to the creation of regional and local networks or strengthen existing ones with a view to continuing and deepening the involvement of citizens in the debate on Europe;
- identify those issues at EU level of greatest local concern and how best they can be addressed on an ongoing basis.

2.2.4. *Action plan*

To allow the Commission to assess whether proposals meet these criteria, the applicant will need to present an action plan setting out:

- the issues which the project will address;
- the project's overall concept and the tools it will use;
- measures to attract the awareness and involvement of the:
 - media - through partnerships and press relations activities;
 - target audience
- actions to follow up the debate including the preparation of a structured summary of citizens' concerns and describe how these will be brought to the attention of local decision-makers including Members of the European Parliament;
- a detailed schedule which respects the deadlines in section 3.1 below.

3. TIMETABLE

3.1. Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted by end June 2008.

Please read carefully section 12 of this call for proposals concerning the procedures for submitting applications.

3.2. Duration of projects

The project should begin before 1 September 2008.

The project must finish no later than 01 November 2009.

Applications must clearly state the project's starting and finishing dates (dd/mm/yy).

The maximum duration of projects is 14 months.

The period of eligibility of expenditure resulting from implementation of a project will begin on the day of signature of the grant contract by the last of the parties. If the nature of the project requires the project to start before the contract is signed, expenditure may be considered eligible before the signature of the contract. Under no circumstances can the eligibility period start before the date of submission of the grant application.

3.3. Information on the results of the selection

It is planned that applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection procedure [deadline needs to be no later than Jul. 2008]

The lists of selected projects will be published on the following website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm &

<http://xxxxxxxxx>

Applicants whose applications have not been selected will be informed in writing.

4. FINANCING

The budget available for this call for proposal is € [to be filled by each Representation].

The grant awarded may not exceed 70% of the total eligible project costs.

Community contributions are meant to facilitate the implementation of a project which could not otherwise be implemented easily without the support of the European Union. They are based on the co-financing principle.

Consequently, a minimum of 30% of the total estimated eligible and final expenditure of the project must come from sources other than the European Union budget. Applicants must include evidence that co-financing is available (secured) for the remainder of the total cost of the project.

Indicatively, the amount of the grant from the EU will be between 50 000 and 100 000 EUR per project.

The European Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

The amount allocated by the Commission may not in any circumstances exceed the amount requested. Moreover, the Commission reserves the right to award a grant lower than the amount requested by the applicant.

An organisation is not entitled to receive more than one grant from the Commission for the action covered by the selected project.

After approval by the Commission, a “grant contract”, a draft of which is reproduced at Annex VI, expressed in euros and specifying the conditions and the financing level, will be concluded between the Commission and the beneficiary. The originals of the finance contract must be signed and returned to the Commission immediately for signature. The Commission will be the last party to sign.

The payment methods are detailed in the draft contract (Article I.4), with a list of eligible and ineligible costs (Article II.14 of the general conditions and Article I.3 of the special conditions of the grant contract).

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications which comply with the following criteria will be the subject of an in-depth evaluation.

5.1. Eligible organisations

Grant applications are eligible if they are presented by organisations having a legal status and established in one of the 27 Member States¹⁷.

6. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants must certify on their honour, by signing the application form, that they are not in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002), which are listed below.

Applicants will be excluded from participating in this call for proposals if they are in one 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 analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

¹⁷ Based on the organisation's registered place of business or its place of main activity.

- b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of res judicata;
- c) they have committed serious professional misconduct recorded by any means that awarding authorities 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 contracting authority or those of the country where the contract 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 Communities' financial interests;
- f) following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

Applicants will not receive financial support if, during the grant allocation procedure:

- a) they are subject to a conflict of interests;
- b) they are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the European Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure, or fail to supply this information.

In accordance with Articles 93 to 96 of the Financial Regulation, administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation or are found to have seriously failed to meet their contractual obligations under a previous contract award procedure.

To respect these provisions, the applicant and his partners must provide evidence that they are in none of the situations listed in Articles 93 and 94 of the Financial Regulation.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection criteria are designed to demonstrate the applicant's capacity to see the project through to a successful conclusion.

Applicants must provide evidence of stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out and/or grant-aided, as well as evidence of their financial participation. The applicant must also provide evidence of professional competencies, qualifications and/or experience relevant to the proposed project.

7.1. Technical capacity

Candidates must show that they have the operational (technical and management) capacity needed to complete the proposed action and provide evidence of their capacity to direct an activity corresponding to the dimension of the project for which the grant is requested. Particular attention will be devoted to the capacity for mobilising the public and to analyse of their contributions. The capacity to involve organisations from other EU countries would be an advantage.

Applicants must attach to the grant application a curriculum vitae for the project leader and for the personnel of their organisation who will actually do the work. They must also enclose a recent activity report.

7.2. Financial resources

In order to permit assessment of this criterion, applicants must submit with their application the following documents:

- annual accounts for the last complete financial year;
- the “financial identification” form (bank details) (Annex III), completed by the beneficiary and certified by the bank (with original signatures).

If, on the basis of the submitted documents, the Commission assesses that the financial capacity of the applicant is not sufficient, it may:

- reject the request for a Community grant;
- ask for further information;
- ask for the deposit of a guarantee;
- propose a grant agreement without a pre-financing payment.

8. AWARD CRITERIA

Commission Representations will evaluate eligible projects against four criteria:

- a) consistency – is the project's overall concept consistent with the:
 - i. objectives of Plan D?
 - ii. general and detailed objectives of the call (see point 2 above)
- b) quality – are the work programme and working methods of sufficient quality?
- c) feasibility – is the project feasible, based on the action plan?
- d) visibility – what is the likely effect of the project's actions to raise awareness?

9. ELIGIBLE COSTS

For all projects, the eligibility period for expenditure relating to the implementation of a project will be stipulated in the grant agreement and will, except as described in the next point, be no earlier than the signature of the agreement by the Commission.

A grant may be awarded for a project which has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the project before the agreement is signed. In such cases, expenditure eligible for financing may not have been incurred before responding to the call for proposals.

The eligibility period for expenditure will not exceed the time allowed under each type of action, and **may not go beyond**.

Only the categories of expenditure listed below are eligible, provided that they are properly accounted for and evaluated in accordance with the market conditions, and that they are identifiable and verifiable. **They must be direct costs** (i.e. generated directly by the project and indispensable for its implementation, having regard to the cost/benefit principle):

- **personnel costs** incurred exclusively for the purpose of implementing the project are eligible only where the accounting systems of the applicants in question can clearly isolate and demonstrate the percentage of staff time devoted to the implementation of the project within the period of expenditure eligibility, and therefore the percentage of personnel costs which can be attributed to the project;
- **travel / accommodation / subsistence costs** associated with the project. Organisations must use their own daily scales to calculate these costs. However, these may not exceed the maximum amounts set by the Commission¹⁸;
- **the cost of organising and running conferences and seminars** (rental of rooms, welcoming and reception services, interpretation, speaker fees);
- cost of **hire or depreciation of technical equipment and services** (only the depreciable element of durable goods can be considered);
- **information dissemination** costs (production, translation, distribution and dissemination costs, etc.);
- cost of **consumables and supplies**
- costs entailed by **other contracts awarded** by the beneficiary for the purposes of the project (also see Section 10);
- costs arising from **requirements imposed by the agreement**;

¹⁸ Commission Decision C(2004) 1313 of 7 April 2004: General implementing provisions adopting the Guide to missions for officials and other servants of the European Commission.

- **general costs** (or "**eligible indirect costs**": office supplies, sundry consumables, depreciation of computer equipment, etc.). These costs may be eligible if incurred by the beneficiary for the purpose of implementing the project, but **may not exceed 7% of total eligible direct expenditure**.

N.B.: indirect costs will not be eligible if the applicant already receives an operating grant from the Commission during the lifetime of the project.

10. NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS

Non-eligible expenditure

The following expenditure cannot be considered eligible **under any circumstances**:

- costs of invested capital;
- general provisions (e.g. for losses, possible future liabilities);
- debts;
- interest owed;
- doubtful debts;
- exchange losses;
- expenditure on luxuries;
- the production of material and publications for commercial purposes; however, monographs, books, journals, discs, CDs, CD ROMs and videos will be taken into consideration if they are an integral part of the project;
- VAT, unless the beneficiary proves that he cannot recover it;
- contributions in kind.

Contributions in kind

Part of the contribution from project sponsors to the project costs may be in kind. These contributions in kind must be included in the provisional budget under the "receipts" section, expressed as a financial equivalent of the services or materials provided, and for an identical amount in the "expenditure" section, but separately from the rest of the budget. In fact, they cannot be considered as eligible costs.

Contributions in kind refer in particular to the provision of durable capital goods, raw materials and unpaid voluntary work by a private individual or corporate body.

The amount declared by the beneficiary as contributions in kind must be valued either on the basis of objective factors or on the basis of official scales laid down by an independent authority or by an outside independent professional.

The cost of private charity work must be valued in accordance with the national rules regarding the calculation of hourly, daily or weekly labour costs.

Contributions in kind will not be accounted for as eligible costs but rather as an increase in the grant in terms of value or as a percentage of the eligible costs.

The Community contribution is subject to a ceiling relating to the total eligible cost (70% maximum of the total eligible cost), excluding the value of contributions in kind.

Subcontracting and calls for tender

Where the implementation of subsidised actions requires a subcontract or the launch of a call for tender, the beneficiaries of the grant must award this contract to the tender offering the best value for money, respecting the principles of transparency and equal treatment of potential contractors and ensuring there is no conflict of interests. None of the basic activities of the project may be subcontracted, et subcontracting must account for only a limited part of the project.

For all contracts, beneficiaries must keep evidence that the selection of subcontractors was competitive, involving at least three offers, unless it can be shown that only one supplier exists in a given market. Grants may only be awarded after a project's start date (given in the application) upon prior written approval from the Commission.

11. PUBLICITY

The Commission will publish the list of successful applicants (unless the publication of information is likely to endanger the successful applicant safety or harm his interests). The Commission will publish the following information in whatever form and on whatever medium it wishes, including the Internet:

- the name and address of each beneficiary;
- the subject of the grant;
- amount awarded and rate of funding.

12. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

12.1. Publication

The text of the call for proposals, the annexes and, for information purposes, a copy of the standard agreement can be obtained from the Europa website at the following address:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/dgs/communication/grants/index_en.htm &

<http://xxxxxxxxx> (Website of the Representation)

12.2. Application form

Applications must be presented in one of the official languages of the EU.

This form can be downloaded from one of the above Internet addresses.

Only grant applications submitted on the application forms attached to this call for proposals and comprising all the necessary documents mentioned in Annex D will be considered.

Applications must be:

- typed; hand-written applications will not be accepted;
- duly dated, filled in and signed by the legal representative of the organisation;
- sent in quadruplicate (the original, which must be identified as such, plus three copies).

12.3. Submission of the application

Deadline for the submission of applications: 30 June 2007

Applications submitted after will not be considered.

Applications may be submitted in one of the following ways:

Proposals must be submitted on paper:

- by registered post to the following address, for which purposes the relevant date is to be the date of dispatch by post, as evidenced by the postmark or the registered delivery receipt issued by the postal services:

European Commission

EC Representation XXXXXXXX

- by hand delivery or courier service.

For security reasons, applications submitted personally or conveyed by a courier service can be presented only to the Commission's Representation xxxxxx, and envelopes must be marked "DG COMMUNICATION, EC Representation xxxxxxxx - Plan D Project". In the event of hand delivery, the submission date is the date of receipt. In the event of delivery by a courier service, the submission date is the date of receipt by the mail department.

Applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be considered.

No modification of the application will be authorised after the submission of the application and its annexes. However, the Commission reserves the right to request any additional information needed for it to take a final decision on the award of financial support.

Applicants will be informed in writing when their application is received.

Only applications complying with the eligibility and exclusion criteria will be considered for the possible award of a grant.

Applicants whose applications are judged to be ineligible will be notified by mail, with an explanation as to why they were judged ineligible.

Tenderers will be informed, as soon as possible, of the decision taken by

the Commission on their grant application. No information will be released until the Commission's decision on project selection has been taken.

All selected applications will be subject to technical and financial analysis. In this connection the Commission may ask the applicant organisation for supplementary information, or possibly for guarantees.

Any applicant whose application for a Community grant is not accepted will be informed in writing.

12.4. Legal framework

- European Commission Communication dated 2 April 2008 - COM(2008) 158: "Debate Europe-building on the experience of Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate"
- European Commission Communication dated 13 October 2005 - COM(2005) 494: The Commission's contribution to the period of reflection and beyond: Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate
- **Information note from Vice President Wallström to the Commission – Plan D, Wider and deeper debate on Europe - SEC(2006) 1553, 24.11.2006.**
- OJ L 248, 16.9.2002 (Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)
- OJ L 357, 31.12.2002 (Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities)

12.5. Contacts

The Commission department responsible for the implementation and management of the call for proposals is EC Representation XXXXXXXX

Additional information can be obtained by electronic mail or by fax, either at the electronic address xxxx@ec.europa.eu, or by fax number from ++ xx xx xx xx xx , indicating clearly the reference of this call for proposals.

Annexes:

Annex I: Application form (parts A and B)

Annex II: Budget form

Annex III: Financial identification form

Annex IV: Financial capacity form

Annex V: Legal entity form

Annex VI: Draft contract (for information)

Annex VII: Acknowledgement of receipt of the application

Annex VIII: Application checklist

SCHEDA DI INCIDENZA SUL BILANCIO

Comunicazione della Commissione: "Debate Europe" – Valorizzare l'esperienza del Piano D per la democrazia, il dialogo e il dibattito

SETTORE:	COMUNICAZIONE
ATTIVITÀ:	AZIONI SPECIFICHE SU TEMI PRIORITARI, TRA CUI PRINCE

PROGRAMMA DI LAVORO PER L'ESERCIZIO: 2008

1. LINEA DI BILANCIO E DENOMINAZIONE

16.0304 - Azioni specifiche su temi prioritari, tra cui PRINCE

2. BASE GIURIDICA

Compiti risultanti dalle prerogative della Commissione sul piano istituzionale, come previsto dall'articolo 49, paragrafo 6 del regolamento (CE, Euratom) n. 1605/2002 del Consiglio, del 25 giugno 2002 sul regolamento finanziario applicabile al bilancio generale delle Comunità europee (GU L 248 del 16.9.2002, pag. 1), modificato dal regolamento (CE) n. 1995/2006 (GU L 390 del 30.12.2006, pag. 1).

3. DATI GLOBALI IN CIFRE PER L'ESERCIZIO (IN EURO)

3.a - Esercizio in corso

	SI
Stanziamento iniziale per l'esercizio (bilancio)	12 830 000
Storni	0
Stanziamenti supplementari	0
Stanziamento totale	12 830 000
Stanziamenti già riservati da un altro programma di lavoro	0
Saldo disponibile	12 830 000
Importo per l'azione proposta	7 200 000¹⁹

¹⁹ L'importo dell'azione (7 200 000 EUR) rientra negli stanziamenti del bilancio 2008 per la linea di bilancio 16.0304 (Azioni specifiche su temi prioritari, tra cui PRINCE). Di conseguenza non sono necessarie risorse supplementari.

La ripartizione dettagliata di tale importo figura nella decisione C (2008) 0924 della Commissione sul

■ **3.b - Riporti**

N.P.

■ **3.c – Prossimo esercizio**

N.P.

4. DESCRIZIONE DELL'AZIONE

Debate Europe estenderà il Piano D al 2008 e 2009. Tale iniziativa assicurerà che l'azione globale della Commissione tesa a promuovere la cittadinanza europea attiva sia condotta su scala interistituzionale nel quadro delle priorità politiche e di comunicazione delle istituzioni comunitarie e sia diretta ai responsabili decisionali a tutti i livelli di governance.

Si propone una strategia binaria, sostenuta finanziariamente da un bilancio di 7,2 milioni di euro:

- un invito centralizzato a presentare proposte ai fini del cofinanziamento di un progetto transnazionale globale dotato di un bilancio di 2 milioni di euro;
- azioni e inviti decentralizzati che sostengano progetti locali con un bilancio di 5,2 milioni di euro.

A livello paneuropeo, i termini dell'invito a presentare proposte specificheranno che, considerata l'esperienza acquisita con la prima serie di progetti transnazionali di democrazia partecipativa cofinanziati a titolo del Piano D, Debate Europe sosterrà un'iniziativa della società civile volta ad organizzare consultazioni dei cittadini in ogni Stato membro, a formulare una serie comune di conclusioni o proposte su scala europea e, sulla base di tale piattaforma comune, a coinvolgere i cittadini in un dialogo con i rappresentanti eletti e le organizzazioni politiche europee, in collaborazione con le fondazioni politiche europee.

A livello nazionale, considerata l'esperienza acquisita con i progetti della società civile cofinanziati dalle rappresentanze della Commissione in alcuni Stati membri, Debate Europe cofinanzierà azioni decentralizzate commisurate alle esigenze specifiche (ad esempio azioni mirate a scuole e centri giovanili, esposizioni, fiere e festival, conferenze, seminari, eventi in collaborazione con ONG, ecc.). Tali azioni si baseranno su inviti a presentare proposte a livello locale e altre azioni definite nel quadro di Debate Europe (ad esempio dibattiti su Internet, visite di commissari europei, attività realizzate nel contesto degli spazi pubblici europei e di reti informative sperimentali, azioni locali tramite i centri Europe Direct, ecc.).

programma di lavoro annuale in materia di sovvenzioni e appalti nel campo della comunicazione per l'anno 2008, adottata dalla Commissione il 12 marzo 2008 (cfr. tabella 2.6.2).

5. METODO DI CALCOLO ADOTTATO

Il bilancio di 7,2 milioni di euro destinato a Debate Europe è ripartito come segue:

- come indicato sopra, un invito a presentare proposte sarà indetto dai servizi della DG COMM per un importo stimato pari a 2 milioni di euro, ai fini del cofinanziamento di un progetto transazionale globale.

Inoltre, le rappresentanze lanceranno inviti decentralizzati a presentare proposte per un importo stimato pari a 3,1 milioni di euro. Vi sarà probabilmente un invito a presentare proposte per Stato membro; il bilancio medio sarà compreso tra 100 000 e 200 000 euro.

Tali cifre sono state stimate sulla base delle realizzazioni precedenti (gli inviti a presentare proposte nel quadro del Piano D del 2007 prevedevano un bilancio pari a 2,4 milioni di euro per 13 Stati membri).

- Per quanto riguarda i rimanenti 2,1 milioni di euro, oltre ai contratti in corso, le rappresentanze prevedono di indire 136 gare d'appalto circa (131 di valore inferiore o pari a 60 000 euro e 5 di importo superiore a 60 000 euro).

6. SCADENZARIO DEI PAGAMENTI (IN EURO)

Linea 16.0304	2008	2009	2010	Totale
Impegni	7 200 000	0	0	7 200 000
Pagamenti	3 600 000	1 800 000	1 800 000	7 200 000