Ufficcju tad-Deputat Prim Ministru Ministeru ghall-Affarijiet Ewropej

SEGRETARJAT PARLAMENTARI GHALL-PRESIDENZA UE 2017 U GHALL-FONDI EWROPEJ



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MINISTRY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIAT FOR THE EU PRESIDENCY 2017 AND EU FUNDS

Id-Divizjoni ghall-Fondi u Programmi

Funds and Programmes Division

To: All entities participating in Territorial Cooperation Programmes

and the ENPI CBC Med Programme

From: The Territorial Cooperation Unit within the Funds and Programmes Division

Date: 12 May 2015

Ref: Circular 04 2015

As outlined in the National Eligibility Rules for Territorial Cooperation Programmes (2007-2013), 'all Partners, including non-public entities, should follow the principles of transparency, equal treatment and non-discrimination whenever a good / service is procured'.

In view of the above, as well as the relevant national procurement regulations and recent guidance from the European Court of Auditors, direct orders will not be accepted during first level control checks, unless these are backed up by <u>proper</u> justification, even if such justification would have been endorsed by the authorised officer/s. If, further to our controls, which include both desk-based checks as well as on-the-spot checks, it transpires that the justification provided does not constitute an exceptional case, a financial recovery as per Commission Decision dated December 2013 (attached for ease of reference) shall be applied on the respective amount.

Whilst remaining at your disposal for any clarifications you might require, I solicit your kind cooperation and extend my best regards.

Raphael Scerri

Director General