

# Ban the SoE&A!

## CONTENTS:

Meeting DG 12/11 1

Financial support 2

## INITIATORS BAN SOE&A:

Stephen Dewar  
Bill Fraser  
Michael Gericke  
David Hepburn  
Tamer Kirac (  
Henry Leerentveld

## WEBSITE

[www.bansoea.portal4project.net/](http://www.bansoea.portal4project.net/)

## EMAIL

[ban\\_soea@henry-leerentveld.eu](mailto:ban_soea@henry-leerentveld.eu)

## EDITOR IN CHIEF

Stephen Dewar

*Support us*

*Invest in your future*

*Make a financial*

*contribution*

*Go to our website*

*[Follow this link](#)*

*[DONATE!](#)*

***BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS!  
BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS!  
BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS!  
BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS!***

**THE GAME IS ON!!!**

# MEETING DG EUROPEAID 12 NOVEMBER

The first step is there!

We have arranged a meeting with Mr Koos Richelle, Director General of EuropeAid in Brussels on 12th November.

We informed the Commission of the huge dissatisfaction at the SoE&A among our global community and said that we wanted to explore the options for improvement.

The Commission immediately and courteously responded and agreed to our proposed date for the meeting.

We did not go into detail in our letter. We stated that the extremely lengthy tendering period, and the large number of competing contractors/consortia invited to submit proposals, mean that for many months we are unable to work and have a very low chance of being on a winning team. If you would like to read our letter, [follow this link](#).

We have now had legal opinions from qualified persons in the Netherlands, Britain and Ireland.

The consensus view is that it not possible to say that the SoE&A practice is definitely illegal – that would have to be tested in a court of law – but is certainly disproportionate in several aspects. We referred to this in our letter.

We also said that we believed that there were a number of ways in which the system might be improved. These include:

- abolishing the requirement to sign the SoE&A
- setting a short maximum period for the SoE&A (14 - 28 days)
- requiring only the proposed Team Leader to sign the SoE&A
- changing the basis of evaluating tenders to:
  - examining the quality of the technical proposals themselves (i.e. the Organisation and Methodology)
  - and only after a winner had been selected on this basis would Key Experts be invited to participate and sign the SoE&A for the final month of the evaluation process

- We also suggested that experts should be permitted to participate in more than one team bidding for a particular project.

These proposals are, to some extent, mutually exclusive but show that there are various ways that the system could be changed for the better. We are currently finalizing a briefing note on these matters to present to the Commission.

We based these suggestions on the most often mentioned proposals that we received in your written comments to us and on the LinkedIn discussion site.

The meeting will be attended by Henry Leerentveld and Stephen Dewar on behalf of the campaign. The Commission side will be led by Mr. K. Richelle, Director General of the EuropeAid Co-operation Office.

## We need financial support!

Henry will be flying to Brussels from Palestine, where he is on mission, and Stephen is in Kaliningrad, Russia. We therefore appeal to you for financial support to cover our costs for travel and, regrettably (due to travel schedules), two nights and subsistence in Brussels. We think it is advisable to plan for three such visits – the initial meeting, a follow-up working session and a dealclosing occasion. We hope this won't be necessary, but better to be prepared. Our budget is below and after that we show how you can make a contribution.

### Budget

Return airfares, Palestine/Brussels x 3	€2,100
Return airfares, Kaliningrad/Brussels x 3	€2,700
Per diems, Brussels, 3 trips for 2, 2 nights	€2,800
Legal advice	€5,000
Website development and hosting	€3,500
Accounting services, incl. Paypal	€1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€17,600</b>

Given the large numbers of you who have written in support of setting up a professional association, we propose that surplus funds should be used for getting this process started. We will prepare a special newsletter during November to discuss that issue. In the meantime, anybody who contributes now will be considered as contributing to his/her membership subscription, assuming enough of us want to go ahead with the association idea and we have agreed the annual fee. At that stage, hopefully, in some countries you will then be able to claim your subscription as a tax deductible expense.

In the next newsletter we will report on what happened at the meeting and also provide details of how much money we received and how we spent what we needed!

## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

Dear Colleagues,

As you can see, we have come up with a budget for this campaign of €17,600. We are hopeful and confident that it will not cost as much as that to reach a good resolution, but it is important to be prepared for a lengthy process. It would be a disaster for all of us if we were making good progress and could not see matters through to their conclusion for lack of funding.

We appeal to you therefore to be as generous as you can afford in supporting what is truly an investment in our shared future. If we are successful, our chances of being in more continuous paid employment will be significantly improved and we won't be spending all that time – waiting, frustrated and without income.

We don't know how many of you will respond to this appeal, so we cannot suggest an appropriate amount. Some of you have written to us saying you are more than willing to contribute. Others have written to say you would like to, but you haven't worked for a considerable time, you're bound by having signed an SoE&A, you have major financial commitments, and you simply can't afford to help at this stage. We all understand that situation.

We would like to suggest that, as far as possible, we should see this as an investment in our future careers and, with the greatest respect, would ask if donating one day's fees would seem a fair commitment. We recognise that this is a big amount to ask for, but if we are successful the return should be literally a hundredfold and more.

We ourselves (the organizers) have no intention of trying to make any money for ourselves from this campaign. Thus, if we find that we raise more than we actually need we will get back to those of you who contributed, to ask if you would like the surplus returned or whether you would like us to use it as a start towards funding the establishment of a Professional Association, which many of you have urged us to do, or find some other worthy use.

We will of course keep proper accounts, which we will distribute to contributors. Please be as generous as you can in helping us to help us all - thank you!!

**[Please donate here](#)**