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Conformément au règlement (CEE, Euratom) n° 354/83 du Conseil du 1er février 1983 concernant l'ouverture au public des archives historiques de la Communauté économique européenne et de la Communauté européenne de l'énergie atomique (JO L 43 du 15.2.1983, p. 1), tel que modifié par le règlement (CE, Euratom) n° 1700/2003 du 22 septembre 2003 (JO L 243 du 27.9.2003, p. 1), ce dossier est ouvert au public. Le cas échéant, les documents classifiés présents dans ce dossier ont été déclassifiés conformément à l'article 5 dudit règlement.

In accordance with Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 354/83 of 1 February 1983 concerning the opening to the public of the historical archives of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 43, 15.2.1983, p. 1), as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1700/2003 of 22 September 2003 (OJ L 243, 27.9.2003, p. 1), this file is open to the public. Where necessary, classified documents in this file have been declassified in conformity with Article 5 of the aforementioned regulation.

In Übereinstimmung mit der Verordnung (EWG, Euratom) Nr. 354/83 des Rates vom 1. Februar 1983 über die Freigabe der historischen Archive der Europäischen Wirtschaftsgemeinschaft und der Europäischen Atomgemeinschaft (ABl. L 43 vom 15.2.1983, S. 1), geändert durch die Verordnung (EG, Euratom) Nr. 1700/2003 vom 22. September 2003 (ABl. L 243 vom 27.9.2003, S. 1), ist diese Datei der Öffentlichkeit zugänglich. Soweit erforderlich, wurden die Verschlussachen in dieser Datei in Übereinstimmung mit Artikel 5 der genannten Verordnung freigegeben.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

Request for assent, pursuant to Article 56 2a) of the ECSC Treaty to the granting of a global loan to Société Générale de Banque, Belgium

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Communication to the Council

Subject : Request for assent, pursuant to Article 56 2a) of the ECSC Treaty to the granting of a global loan to Société Générale de Banque, Belgium.

I. FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARY
=====

No. 384

Applicant : Société Générale de Banque

Registered Office : Brussels

Shareholders :

- S.A. Société Générale de Belgique (20.42%)
- S.C.S. Mutuelle "Solvay, Washer et Cie" (1.9%)
- S.A. Union Boël (1.03%)
- Groupe Assurances Générales (2.68%)
- Groupe Royale Belge (2.64%)
- Assurantie van de Belgische Boerenbond (1.10%)
- Balance of shares held by private persons (about 70%)

II. RECIPIENTS
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: Société Générale de Banque will on-lend the global loan funds to small businesses setting up new operations and creating new jobs.

Field of Activity of recipients

: Industrial and service operations.

III. THE PROJECT
=====

Procedure

: The Commission will make BFR 1 000 million available to Société Générale de Banque. This decision will be put into effect by concluding a framework agreement : this will be implemented in successive tranches. Sub-loans will be approved by Commission departments. Société Générale de Banque will send the Commission an annual report on the use of the funds borrowed. The Bank will also send the Commission each year a report on the jobs created, the jobs filled and the number of former ECSC workers re-employed.

Total amount of investment

: at least BFR. 2 000 million (+ 44.30 MioECU)

IV. THE REGION
=====

Project location

: Coal and steel areas experiencing heavy redundancies.

Unemployment rate

: at least 12%.

National aid status of project area

: development areas.

The ECSC industry has been and still is a major employer in the area.

V. CONFORMITY WITH ARTICLE 56 OF THE ECSC TREATY
=====

<u>ECSC redundancies in project area</u>		1977 - 83
	: Brabant Province	350
	Hainaut Province	3 967
	Liège Province	2 059
	Namur Province	45
		<u>6 421</u>

Jobs to be created by the project : At least 1 660

Training : Government training scheme under unemployment legislation

The Commission considers that the application complies with Article 56 2a) of the ECSC Treaty.

VI. GLOBAL LOAN
=====

Loan applied for : BFR 1 000 million (about 22.15 MioECU)

Loan to be granted : The Commission has approved a loan of BFR 1 000 million (about 22.15 MioECU) or equivalent to the above mentioned institution in accordance with Art. 56 application criteria (OJ C 82, 29 March 1979).

Interest rebate : 5 percentage points per year for five years on 22.15 MioECU

Job basis of interest rebate : 1 107 jobs suitable for former ECSC workers, to whom they will be offered in priority.

VII. COUNCIL ASSENT
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The Commission requests the Council to give its assent to the foregoing decision.