



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL COMMUNICATION

Directorate A – Communication Actions
Deputy Director-General

Brussels,
D(2010)

European Fund for Investigative Journalism
Ms. Brigitte Alfter, Director
Rozenweg 4b
B-1731 Zellik

Subject: Pilot project on investigative journalism

Following an amendment of the European Parliament to the 2010 Budget of the European Union, the Commission has been called to launch a *Pilot project for European research grants for cross-border investigative journalism*. According to the amendment, this pilot project is intended to facilitate and develop serious cross-border journalistic research at EU level. Calls for proposals will be organised with a view to selecting common investigation projects involving journalists from at least two Member States, with a cross-border or European dimension resulting from a national, regional or local perspective. The results of the journalistic investigation selected will be published in at least all of the Member States involved.

In order to ensure a high level of independence, the quality of the tender, the relevance of the selection criteria and the appropriateness of the Commission funding, the Commission intends to set up a group of up to five independent experts, with a high expertise in the field of journalism.

This group will meet to provide the Commission with recommendations that will be taken into account in drafting the Terms of Reference of the Call for Proposals for the research grants. The experts could possibly be called to meet during the implementation of the project, and will be convened again at the end of the project to provide a final opinion of its results.

The Commission will cover the travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses related to the meetings of the expert group.

To ensure the independence, know-how, and understanding of the European media world as well as the reliability of the experts, the Commission is resorting to recognised non-profit organisations in the field of journalism, to identify potential members of the group.

For this reason, I would be grateful if you could recommend up to three names of independent experts that could be available to be part of the group, including a detailed CV of each of the candidates. I would be grateful if you could send your proposals by 10 June at the latest.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that, in order to avoid possible conflicts of interest, the members of this expert group will not in any case be awarded any of the research grants within the project. They will not be able either to make part of the group of experts who should assist the Commission in the selection of grants to be awarded.

Should you have any question about the work of the expert group, please do contact my collaborator Enrique GARCÍA MARTÍN-ROMO (00 32 2 2962081).

I wish to thank you in advance for your help and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Carvounis', written in a cursive style.

Panayotis Carvounis