

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HUMANITARIAN AID AND CIVIL PROTECTION - ECHO

Director-General

Brussels,
ECHO/C3/JPB/CPI/JF

Mr Antonio Bugada
FARMAMUNDI
C/ Johannes Gutenberg
5, Parque Tecnológico,
46980 –Paterna (Valencia)
Spain
e-mail: alh@farmamundi.org

Subject: Recognition of FARMAMUNDI as a Humanitarian Procurement Centre ("HPC").

Dear Mr Bugada,

I write with reference to your organisation's application to be recognised as a Humanitarian Procurement Centre ("**HPC**") by the European Commission's Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection ("**ECHO**").

I am pleased to inform you that, on the basis of our desk-review of your application file, your organisation satisfies the minimum conditions set for HPCs. The current procedure for recognition of HPCs will last until 31 December 2013 when the assessment procedure may be reviewed again in which case we will contact you for any additional information possibly required.

Your HPC status implies that ECHO's Partners¹ may contact your organisation in order to purchase goods and related services in humanitarian aid operations using a single quote procedure and pass orders without recourse to competitive tendering or publication (irrespective of the amount of the contract). Furthermore, by dealing with a recognised HPC our Partners may be assured that they are respecting the minimum requirements and obligations requested by ECHO. It should be noted, however, that there is no contractual relationship between ECHO and the HPCs which it recognises and so ECHO cannot be held liable for failures by HPCs to respect contractual obligations towards our Partners.

ECHO's recognition of your organisation as an HPC will become effective upon your signature of the *Charter of Humanitarian Procurement Centres*. We attach hereto a signed copy in duplicate for your signature. The Charter sets out a number of enforceable commitments to a set of common principles and good practices and includes a number of obligations towards both DG ECHO and our Partners.

¹ A list of ECHO's partners is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/about/actors/fpa_partners.pdf

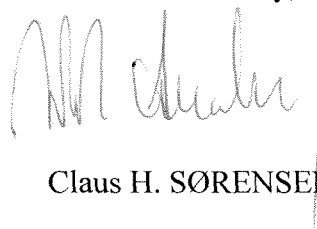
As a recognised HPC, ECHO will conduct an assessment of your status every two years and may launch on-site HPC examinations of your organisation and its procedures. As a newly recognised HPC you may expect to receive your first on-site examination visit within the first 12 months of recognition. The European Commission may suspend or terminate an organisation's HPC recognition, after having given the concerned HPC the opportunity to present its observations, on any of the grounds mentioned in the HPC Charter.

To increase the visibility and effectiveness of HPCs, ECHO posts a list of HPCs on its web-site. In this respect we would also ask you to complete the *Website Information Form* attached to assist in presenting information in a clear and streamlined manner to all interested parties.

More guidance on the characteristics and functioning of HPCs is also available in *ECHO's HPC Fact Sheet*² and the *Guidelines on Humanitarian Aid Procurement*³ and ECHO staff (HPC Focal Point details below) are always available to help you address any queries or problems that you may encounter when dealing with ECHO's Partners.

On behalf of ECHO, I thank you for your work in this important field. We look forward to receiving a copy of the signed Charter by post (contact details below), as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Claus H. SØRENSEN

W. SCHWARZENBRUNNER
Authorised Representative

Documents Attached:

- 1 - Two copies of the *Charter of Humanitarian Procurement Centres* signed on behalf of ECHO
- 2 - Copy of the *Website Information Form*

ECHO HPC Contact Point:

Unit ECHO/C/3 (Legal Sector), AN88, 2/54, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium
E-mail: ECHO-FINANCE-LEGAL-AFFAIRS@ec.europa.eu

² http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/about/actors/Fact_Sheet_D4_140709.pdf & http://www.dgecho-partners-helpdesk.eu/implementing_an_action/procurement/special_rules/hpc

³ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/partners/humanitarian_aid/procurement_guidelines_en.htm