



30.1.2015

## NOTICE TO MEMBERS

**Subject: Petition 2067/2013 by Jose Diez-Lanza Eguiguren (Spanish) on ERDF funds in Spain**

### 1. Summary of petition

The petitioner criticises the use of ERDF funds in Cadiz vicinity. He claims the funds have been spent on building offices which remain empty and on a football stadium which has, so he claims, nothing with the purpose of the ERDF funds. He insists that all Europeans contribute to these funds and thus they must be very thoroughly checked.

### 2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 8 August 2014. Information requested from Commission under Rule 216(6).

### 3. Commission reply, received on 30 January 2015

The Commission services have requested explanations from the Spanish managing authorities on the facts presented by the petitioner. On the basis of the information received, the CZFC is an intermediate body involved in the management of ERDF funds in the Andalucía ERDF programme for 2007-2013 with an amount of funding of EUR66 million. The projects concerned are within Priority 2 of the programme, which supports business development, and they are currently being implemented. The managing authority has indicated that the projects so far finalised within the programme (construction of a refrigerated building and construction of the "Europa Building") have an 87% occupancy rate. Therefore, the buildings co-financed and implemented are being used. Finally, the "*edificio Carranza*" (an annex to a football stadium) has not been co-financed by the ERDF.

Concerning the assertion that the investments promoted by this intermediate body do not comply with ERDF objectives, the managing authority confirms that they have as an objective the support of the economic and business activity of its influence area through the development of business parks, industrial parks, commercial and industrial buildings and buildings for enterprises services.

Regarding the sale of office space co-financed by the ERDF by the CZFC, the managing authority states that the CZFC sold offices in the Glorieta and Fenicia Buildings and the Poniente and Levante Business Parks in 2003 and 2008 (all co-financed by the ERDF under the Community Support Framework covering the 1994-1999 period) and the amounts obtained by these sales were used for new actions in the area.

### Conclusion

The Commission services conclude that, on the basis of the information provided by the petitioner and by the managing authority, there seems to be no breach of the ERDF Regulation in the management of the funds by the CZFC.