



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
REGIONAL POLICY

Communication, relations with third countries, coordination of outermost regions, legal advice, procedures  
Communication, information, relations with third countries  
Head of Unit

Brussels,

**Subject: Commission Regulation 1828/2006, Article 9 requirements -  
your letter of 17 November 2011**

Dear Mr Antonovs, *Dear Aleksandrs*

Thank you for your letter of 17 November, in which you raise several questions related to the implementation of the Regulation 1828/2006.

I agree with the point of view of the Managing Authority concerning all questions mentioned under points 1 (article published in the press or on the internet) and 3 (project related documents).

Concerning the questions raised under point 2, I cannot give detailed advice on individual cases, as each case should be carefully assessed taking into account the individual information material and the local circumstances. Only then can a decision be taken by the Managing Authority. It goes without saying that once the Managing Authority has established a clear line and decided to apply a financial correction in one case, all similar cases have to be treated equally.

In general, I would consider the absence of a reference to European Union support on information material to be a serious breach of the publicity rules, i.e. an irregularity, which should give rise to a financial correction. However, as long as the EU emblem and the reference to the European Union are mentioned, one may consider the absence of a mention of the fund and the slogan to be an error. Again it depends on the circumstances - if the same beneficiary makes the same mistakes, even after having received an explanation and warning by the Managing Authority, it may justify further action.

Concerning point 4 regarding a definition of "*small promotional objects*", the Commission does not want to limit the creativity of the communication managers in the 27 Member States and therefore does not publish an exhaustive list. However, the general understanding of a small object is pens, pencils, USB sticks, etc. Umbrellas or cups should not be considered as small so as not to allow all elements of Article 9 to apply.

I do hope you find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

*Best regards*

*Raphaël Goulet*  
Raphaël Goulet

c.c.: R.Hall (REGIO Dir. B), P. Fischer (REGIO B.1), M-J. Cueto Faus (EMPL)  
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