

22 October 1999
Tender dossier approved

22 November 1999
Evaluation of expressions of interest

3 December 1999
Tender evaluation report rejected by EC Delegation – because Spanish NGO that won does not exist (checked by phone by MN)

February 2000
EGP agrees to direct agreement with SERA – SMD notes possible conflict of interest because CT was Secretary of State when technical specifications were drawn up.

February, March, April 2000
Discussions on way of contracting – direct agreement or restricted tender. Agency decided in April that restricted tender procedure would be followed.

10 May 2000
relaunch of the tender: Invitation Expression of interest: (so just after Le Scandal du Contrat OMAS)

June 2000
Evaluation of expression of interest. SERA and Caritas Austria selected.

September 2000
Agency attempts to do technical evaluation without independent expert – MN opposes – John Rawden will be independent expert

October 2000
Contract SERA ready, not Caritas. RP puts as condition that both contracts should be signed at same time.

SERA tries to get higher procurement fee (12,5 instead of 11%). MN opposed.

Agency not happy with paragraph concerning independent inspectors. MN says not subject of negotiation. Sentence by MN that no subcontracting with adoption NGOs is allowed.

Correspondence Agency – Delegation on delay in contracting.

8 November 2000
Again problems with contracts – Delegation wants to reject contract. EGP writes to SMD that if contract not endorsed by 15 November he will speak to EL “given partners and actors involved”.

Daniela Georghe called Simon not to formally reject, she will sent new version. SMD gives her 48 hours. Nothing received, so contracts rejected. Funny detail, Daniela Gheorghe only signed the SERA contract, not the Caritas one...

M

14 November 2000

Contracts endorsed by Delegation. MN spotted that CT's wife is included in SERA's offer and that she works for construction company. Note to CFCU that that company may not benefit from contracts under the SERA offer. Much later we realise that also wife of Bogdan Simion is on the contract and uncle of Bizdoaca.

19 December 2000

Daniela Gheorghe asked OMAS for urgent agreement regarding 22 institutions with contracts above 50.000 Euro. MN insists that first inspection visits are done.

January 2001

Problems with SERA on the role of John Rawden/OMAS – refusal to send tenders and contract to OMAS - . Clarification letter sent by Delegation. MN points out the relation between Bizdoaca and Turturea (note for the file).

1 February 2001

Note EGP to EL about problems with SERA. Lack of cooperation. EGP suggests EL to phone De Combret.

5 February 2001

During evaluation of local TA, MN finds out that Turturea is employee of European Children Trust. SDM writes to Secr. of State Predescu that he should not be responsible for 2nd tranche, in light of the close relationship between ECT and one of the contractors for the second tranche.

6 February 2001

Letter from Caritas complaining about CFCU and NAPC. "The initially presented fiches showing the emblems of the EC and the Government of Romania have been replaced by privately designed SERA fiches...". Etc etc

8 February 2001

Letter EL to De Combret with request to interfere.

9 February 2001

Fax De Combret – EL: Tout va bien

7 May 2001

Letter FdC to EL complaining that Phare 98 – food aid and late 2nd tranche

May 2001

SERA does not want FIDIC + asks 25.000 Euro for purchase and translation of FIDIC Green Book.

16/5 OMAS confirms attempt fraud

23 May 2001

Reply EL to letter De Combret of 7/3 : still problems with SERA and Phare rules.

28 May 2001

Letter De Combret to EL: proposes to end the contract.

Tasi - SERA

Meeting on children: Michael Leigh, Nancy, EGP, MQ, RP
"2nd tranche Phare 1998 contract SERA – written instructions to be given to
Delegation: fine language, not able to do contract, give deadline."

Mail EGP – SDM:

"M. Leigh insists on taking paradoxical threat to break contract by FdC at face value, but I convinced him that this has to be dealt with locally and not from HQ, given your responsibility in implementation and your first-hand knowledge of the situation; he would therefore like to send written instructions to delegation to that effect; my view is that you are best placed to define/decide what instructions you would like to receive, and therefore I would like to ask you to put them in an e-mail for my eyes only, which I would then turn into the instructions you will receive from M. Leigh. The idea is to give SERA Ro a sort of deadline."

May – July 2001

SERA pushes for extension of disbursement. HQ and Delegation disapprove.

1. June 2001

Possible fraud with heating system in Iasi – SERA (first report on this WHEN??)

28 June 2001

CFCU agrees to two SERA contracts, without the approval of OMAS (Iasi and Mehedinti).

6 July 2001

Letter De Combret – EL: "La lourdeur de la procédure est telle que SERA va financer elle-même les travaux les plus urgents." (same ones that were "illegally" agreed by CFCU")
(Note EGP – EL explaining that fault is entirely SERA's).

10 July 2001

PLS takes over from OMAS

12 July 2001

(Preparations for visit Jospin)

13 July 2001

Mail EGP to Lys etc.

"..... Dans ce cas il faudra dire à SERA (don't le prédisent a suivi avec tant d'attention les travaux du Comité des Sages qui a provoqué la chute de la Commission Santer) qu'il ont gaspillé l'argent du contribuable européen. Et pt-être aurions-nous trouvé dans cet épisode (avec tous ses rebondissements) l'argument décisif pour démontrer à ceux auxquels M. d C s'adresse pour critiquer la Commission (Parlement Eur, gouvernement français, Commissaires français et autres amis politiques....) que ses critiques manquent cruellement de crédibilité. Je prie tous les destinataires de se (me) rappeler cet e-mail au moment ou il sera utile de lui donner suite.

.....

La vengeance est un plat qui se mange froid. »

15 July 2001

Mission to Craiova – RP/MN discover two new Viessman boilers paid by Ministry of Education, while SERA's contract foresees to buy two new ones.

25 July 2001

PLS confirms fraud in Craiova. SDM instructs MN to prepare formal letter to EL alerting and asking for OLAF refer to this and Iasi. (The letter was prepared, but never sent)

30 October 2001

Strong mail EGP saying NO to extension request of SERA.

16 November 2001

SERA proposes to buy equipment (186 washing machines domestic type, 182 fridges domestic type, 250 wheelchairs, 68 industrial washing machines).

Price wheelchair 1.000 Euro. Normal price aprox. 215 Euro...