

The SAPARD instrument on the eve of accession

*A paper by Alan Wilkinson, former Head of SAPARD Unit
Directorate General Agriculture
Brussels*

Presented at the conference

**The Common Agricultural Policy
- opportunities and perspectives -**

Sofia, Bulgaria

14 to 16 March 2004

It is an enormous pleasure for me to have the opportunity to contribute a paper on SAPARD at this conference, on the eve of eight of the ten beneficiary countries joining the Union, and to be in Bulgaria particularly as it was the first country to set up systems to apply SAPARD.

An assessment of SAPARD on the eve of accession needs to be made in terms of what the instrument has achieved in relation to its objectives. These are laid down in the Council legislation that introduced it, namely to **prepare the beneficiary countries for accession**. More specifically they include facilitating the integration of the accession countries' economies into the Community economy, and helping them to implement the *acquis communautaire*. It must however be borne in mind that this legislation foresaw the instrument operating over a seven year period whereas for most beneficiary countries the effective implementation time span will inevitably be far shorter. The issue of **who is best placed to make this assessment** is also raised in this contribution.

Now is not the time to go into the legislation upon which SAPARD is based, or to set out a history of developments now long past. In any event these are set out the various Commission reports on the instrument already published for 2000, 2001 and 2002. Let us simply recall that by the end of 2000 SAPARD was not functioning in any country, a year later it functioned for just five of the ten eligible countries. Only by the end of 2002 had all ten eligible countries fulfilled the conditions enabling them to apply the instrument.

This progression inevitably had an impact on disbursement of Community budget resources especially as the two largest beneficiary countries were among the last to be able to apply SAPARD. Commentators who assess the instrument essentially in terms of finance, in particular of payments, therefore risk creating a distorted image of SAPARD particularly on the eve of accession.

One important aspect in the expenditure context is the inevitable time lag between commitments being made by the SAPARD agency to final beneficiaries, and the payment to the latter of the corresponding Community co-financing aid. Although such a gestation period is common also for structural fund expenditures in Member States it is generally not visible there. The reason for this is that for Member States eligible expenditure under these funds at any one time involves a substantial proportion of commitments made to final beneficiaries, even by several years prior to payment of money from the Community budget.

For example, at the beginning of the 2000-2006 period much expenditure in Member States eligible for structural fund support related to commitments to final beneficiaries made at some time in the 1994-1999 period. An essentially similar situation prevailed with the three new Member States, Austria, Finland and Sweden, upon their accession. In all these situations the countries concerned already had **structures in place for co-financed aid to be granted**. They also had a **stock of pre existing commitments to final beneficiaries** that were on the point of giving rise to expenditure eligible for Community co-finance as soon as payments under the new programming period could be made, or upon accession. Thus those new Member States were able to absorb substantial Community payment appropriations almost

immediately post accession. **Will the Members joining in 2004 be able to do likewise?**

To reply to this question it must be recognised that, prior to SAPARD being introduced, none of the beneficiary countries had structures in place for aid from the Community to be granted for measures of the type under that instrument and thus had no stock of existing commitments with final beneficiaries that could be eligible for such co-financing either pre or post accession. Much work had to be done both to establish appropriate structures and to make such commitments. No commitment, and hence no payment, could be made to a final beneficiary under SAPARD until, at the earliest, the systems to manage and control aid in the country concerned were tested and accepted by the Commission. Although the first one to reach this stage did so by mid May 2001, the last one took to almost the end of November 2002. It is however pleasing to record that the level of commitments to final beneficiaries under SAPARD is now rising sharply, increasing by almost €400 million in the last half of 2003, to a total at the year end in excess of €1200 million.

It is only these commitments that permit eligible expenditure to be incurred by final beneficiaries under SAPARD and subsequently reimbursed by the Community, and so charged to the Community budget.

The data attached (to end of 2003) ¹ shows commitments over time to final beneficiaries (See Table entitled '*Progression of commitments over time to beneficiaries by the SAPARD Agencies*'). For most countries, especially many of those due to join this year, the uptake of commitments is rising strongly and in some cases already exceeds the total available under SAPARD. On the eve of accession this latter element is a highly positive development in the context of **uptake of Community funds also under post accession provisions**. The reason for this is that this uptake, as was the case with Austria, Finland and Sweden, depends on there being an adequate pipeline of commitments taken prior to accession capable of giving rise to expenditure eligible for reimbursement from the Community budget directly post accession. Without that pipeline there is a very real risk of a lack of uptake of payment appropriations in new Member States post accession especially for investment related activity. Moreover, the **Accession Treaty** allows for commitments entered into under SAPARD in excess of available appropriations to be incorporated into post accession programmes, with expenditure eligible from 1 January 2004.

The Treaty also **introduces concepts from SAPARD**, such as generalised recourse to differentiated appropriations for rural development. This implies that for countries acceding on May 1st, there will be a smooth switch from SAPARD based support for investments to post accession rural development support such that beneficiaries will experience no abrupt changes.

The data attached also shows payments by the Commission to each country since the instrument first began to function. (See table attached entitled '*Financial execution of SAPARD Programmes*'). At the end of 2003 these payments totalled some €30

¹ The data in these tables is prepared quarterly. On the basis of data for some countries available for January and February it is confidently expected that the situation at least to end March 2004 will show overall further strong progress .

million, well up on the level reached one year earlier. Not too much should be read into that growth for technical reasons – the key development is much more the progression in reimbursement payments where a strong underlying upward trend is seen, and of course reflects, with a time lag, the corresponding progression of eligible expenditure being incurred by final beneficiaries, which in turn is based on project commitments to them by the SAPARD agencies.

On this latter aspect the number of SAPARD projects by the end of 2003 approached 13000. This was an increase of over 50% since mid 2003 and a good augury on the eve of accession. It shows that the instrument is attractive to many. More recent information from the largest beneficiary, Poland, a country where earlier on scepticism over SAPARD was marked, is also positive. Headlines from that country now claim that “SAPARD is swamped with applications”, all available funds are expected to be used and in that country alone farmers have submitted 30 000 applications.

Such information is excellent news. It also casts real doubt on earlier assertions that the systems set up were inappropriate or excessively burdensome. In any event where simplification possibilities have been identified they have been examined in a positive spirit. They have been brought to the attention of the Monitoring Committees (the competent national organ responsible for overseeing the programme and the exclusive channel through which programme changes may be initiated). They have resulted in improvements being made to the programmes. The role of professional organisations in that context has developed accordingly, putting them in a better position for their work also in a post accession context.

SAPARD has provided beneficiary countries with first hand experience of operating Community inspired rural development systems, prior to them taking on the full responsibilities of a Member State. This too is an element valuable for the post accession context. The importance of this is underlined by the prospect that during the 2004-2006 period some 40% of the total CAP expenditure in the new Member States will go into rural development. All parties need to have practical experience on the application of rural development actions, such as under SAPARD, to be best able to ensure effective management, and policy development, including in the post accession context.

Moreover the systems set up under SAPARD are not redundant upon accession. Staff and agencies set up to run SAPARD are continuing, with appropriate name changes, post accession, building on experience under SAPARD. All parties will thus be better able to take on Membership responsibilities, including additional functions such as market support tasks.

A crucial factor in the **capacity building context** is the way SAPARD is managed. In all beneficiary countries this is on a **fully “decentralised” basis**. SAPARD is unique in this regard as other pre-accession instruments, PHARE and ISPA, even just weeks before accession, still require at least some key points be managed by the Commission. **No Community instrument other than SAPARD has ever been run in any third country on a fully decentralised basis.**

With fully decentralised management of SAPARD the Commission is not involved in any of these “key points”. In each of the ten SAPARD beneficiary countries it is the

national authorities that assume entire responsibility for management of this instrument, subject only to ex-post control by the Commission. In this regard SAPARD operates on a basis similar to that of structural funds in all Member States. The SAPARD experience therefore implies that the countries concerned are now far better placed to apply the *acquis* than would otherwise have been the case.

All SAPARD projects, as is the case for Member States, need to respect relevant Community provisions such as for the environment, animal welfare and hygiene, and where relevant, those relating to public procurement. This aspect links in with another element behind the decision to opt for fully decentralised management. This was the assessment that skills and experience gained in the Candidate Countries from this form of management would be excellent preparation for them as new Member States. They would obtain timely, hands-on experience that would make a major contribution to administrative capacity building. A similar observation is valid for the involvement of **representatives from civil society**. For many such bodies SAPARD was a new experience, and a springboard for their further development in the context of Community membership.

As regards the **immediate prospects for SAPARD on the eve of accession**, beneficiary countries due to join in May that are now absorbing significant proportions of their appropriations have the option to continue to issue commitments to final beneficiaries based on SAPARD. The relevant provisions are in Article 33 of the Act of Accession. This stipulates that expenditure incurred consistent with SAPARD can be eligible under post accession rural development instruments if incurred after 31 December 2003. As regards Bulgaria and Romania both need their SAPARD agencies to continue to enter into commitments with beneficiaries but at a high rate. In the case of Romania this need is now acute because by the end of this year, and for the first time, any unused appropriations from 2000 are due to be cancelled. On the basis of performance to date, Romania is the one country where this risk of loss of money is still real. As it is almost the largest beneficiary country, second only to Poland, even a relatively modest cancellation there in percentage terms could run into tens of millions of euro. That would be painful and might occur at a sensitive time, namely when the Council and Parliament are considering possible modifications in the basic SAPARD regulation, modifications of particular interest to that country (and to Bulgaria).

SAPARD does not have pretensions to solve all problems facing new Member States. No pre-accession instrument could do that. In all countries many of the difficulties have deep roots, some problems will only be soluble over time, such as certain of those associated with title to land.

What are the objective means to judge SAPARD on the eve of accession?

One basis would be by recourse to monitoring indicators such as the numbers of abattoirs, dairies, food processing plants, kilometres of mains water distribution pipes, and jobs in rural areas, each indicator related to one or other SAPARD measure. Whatever the figures and without belittling their value, they would show that, in relation to the size of the overall problems addressed, their contribution is at best modest. The reason for this is the scale of the difficulties to be tackled, and their intensity. In many respects these difficulties are of a scale at least comparable to those

Ireland faced some thirty years ago since when billions of euro of Community budget monies have been needed before they were overcome.

Data from the mid term evaluation of SAPARD recently carried out in each beneficiary country could also be used. That work has assessed performance, both in terms of the indicators mentioned but also in other areas including the institution building effects. However for all countries, especially those accounting for the bulk of appropriations, the evaluation was made at a time when there was relatively little data to work on, and thus is of limited value in the current context.

Another basis for assessment could be the degree to which in the post accession period countries with SAPARD experience correctly and effectively apply the relevant parts of the *acquis* in particular under rural development measures. To that suggestion could be added a further element, namely the extent to which the various SAPARD Agencies *make commitments to final beneficiaries capable not just of absorbing all funds under that instrument, but over-commit funds*. Such action would be the only way for a beneficiary country to build the pipeline of commitments important to ensure capacity to use Community aid for investments in the immediate post accession period, and reflect provisions of the Act of Accession. This idea may seem surprising to some people but in essence it is analogous to the pipelines mentioned previously that were so helpful in giving Austria, Finland and Sweden good starts as new Member States with their rural development aid entitlements.

Whatever the basis, *who is best placed to make the assessment?* In reply to that question it would seem most appropriate to ask for the views of beneficiary countries. Do they consider the instrument to have made a worthwhile contribution? It must surely be the views of these countries on the eve of accession that matter more than those of any other party. In any event they matter far more than those of a recently retired Commission official who had the privilege to end his career working on what he considers to have been a successful instrument to which many people made massive, valuable contributions.

Financial Execution of SAPARD Programmes (EUR)

Country	Conferral Decision	Commitments				Payment on account	Payments made from the start of the programme										Reimburs. 4Q 2003	Total Reimbursements	Total Payments	situation: updated:	4th. quarter 2003 01-mars-04
		Following AFA 2000 (7)	Following AFA 2001 (7)	Following AFA 2002 (7)	Following AFA 2003 (7)		Reimburs. 3Q-4Q 2001	Reimburs. 1Q 2002	Reimburs. 2Q 2002	Reimburs. 3Q 2002	Reimburs. 4Q 2002	Reimburs. 1Q 2003	Reimburs. 2Q 2003	Reimburs. 3Q 2003	Reimburs. 4Q 2003						
Bulgaria	17.05.01	53.076.122	54.093.686	55.582.227	56.133.539	25.977.899,00	(4)	713.054,96	710.938,95	1.789.343,67	1.712.636,23	5.966.560,24	5.065.977,07	3.015.290,47	7.046.818,57	11.857.041,89	(12)	37.897.572,05	63.875.471,05		
Czech Rep	18.04.02	22.440.617	22.896.727	23.526.793	23.760.154	10.995.902,00	(4)	1.620.075,14	5.909.065,42	8.704.272,05	7.758.513,73	1.620.075,14	5.909.065,42	8.704.272,05	7.758.513,73	15.395.750,07	(9)	39.387.676,41	50.383.578,41		
Estonia	19.06.01	12.344.729	12.595.639	12.942.243	13.070.675	6.048.917,00	(4)	294.702,00	468.569,00	344.129,00	2.443.679,00	4.536.792,00	1.749.573,00	1.822.840,00	5.543.919,00	9.568.668,00	(10)	26.772.860,00	32.821.777,00		
Hungary	27.11.02	38.705.309	39.492.002	40.578.737	40.981.231	9.482.800,00						0,00	0,00	22.136,25	274.774,99	(6)	4.245.355,26	13.728.155,26			
Lithuania	05.12.01	30.339.535	30.956.192	31.808.039	32.123.538	14.866.372,00	(4)		412.100,17	2.788.079,51	2.788.079,51	4.171.097,87	3.046.763,56	4.648.686,75	5.621.927,72	12.336.415,16	(14)	33.024.070,74	47.890.442,74		
Latvia	12.12.01	22.221.936	22.673.602	23.297.531	23.528.675	10.888.748,00	(4)		344.518,32	2.453.052,36	2.453.052,36	1.688.718,25	2.506.390,13	2.640.279,96	8.767.881,16	10.420.285,77	(8)	28.821.125,95	39.709.873,95		
Poland	03.07.02	171.570.075	175.057.271	179.874.468	181.658.675	84.069.336,00	(4)				18.584,34	1.595.972,89	449.316,46	1.553.650,64	25.480.076,28	105.060.647,00	(11)	132.562.274,72	216.631.610,72		
Romania	03.08.02	153.214.194	156.328.303	160.630.119	162.223.385	37.537.477,00						0,00	0,00	0,00	568.503,00	(6)	4.515.125,35	42.052.602,35			
Slovenia	24.11.01	6.445.460	6.576.465	6.757.436	6.824.462	3.158.275,40	(4)		94.196,50	1.169.433,78	94.196,50	1.595.972,89	490.068,30	714.283,07	1.169.433,78	1.715.996,84	(13)	5.779.951,38	8.938.226,78		
Slovakia	18.04.02	18.602.023	18.980.113	19.502.405	19.695.846	4.557.496,00						518.296,00	665.357,00	1.074.016,00	2.551.595,00	4.423.834,00	(13)	9.243.098,00	13.800.594,00		
Total		528.900.000	539.650.000	554.500.000	560.000.000	207.583.222,40	(2)	1.007.766,96	1.179.507,95	2.890.091,16	9.491.542,60	20.136.096,73	19.882.510,94	24.195.457,19	64.783.443,23	178.682.683,10	(3)	322.249.109,86	529.832.332,26		

Notes:

- (1) The total of € 529.832.332,26 is made up of payments of 30.491.677,00 made in 2001, 123.759.277,07 in 2002, 263.378.760,71 in 2003 and 112.202.617,48 in 2004.
- (2) The total of € 207.583.222,40 is made up of payments on account of 30.470.107,00 made in 2001, 109.211.938,40 in 2002, 67.901.177,00 in 2003 and 0,00 in 2004.
- (3) The total of € 322.249.109,86 is made up of reimbursements of 21.570,00 made in 2001, 14.547.338,67 in 2002, 195.477.583,71 in 2003 and 112.202.617,48 in 2004.

(4) Payments on account have been made in full (49% of AFA 2000) for Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia in 2002 and for Lithuania, Poland, Latvia and Bulgaria in 2003.

(5) Amount authorised for payment.

(6) Amount requested for payment.

(7) In italics: commitment AFA made.

(8) Of which € 2.306.333,54 proposed and € 8.113.952,23 requested for payment

(9) Of which € 5.256.887,90 paid, € 2.810.477,48 proposed and € 7.328.384,69 requested for payment

(10) Of which € 3.403.029, -- paid and € 3.366.360 + 2.799.268 requested for payment

(11) Of which € 52.068.015,44 paid, € 12.201.104,52 proposed and € 40.791.627,04 requested for payment

(12) Of which € 6.607.559,52 paid and € 5.249.482,37 proposed for payment

(13) Amount proposed for payment.

(14) Of which € 7.653.750,33 and € 4.681.664,83 proposed for payment

Italics = complete quarter 4/2003.

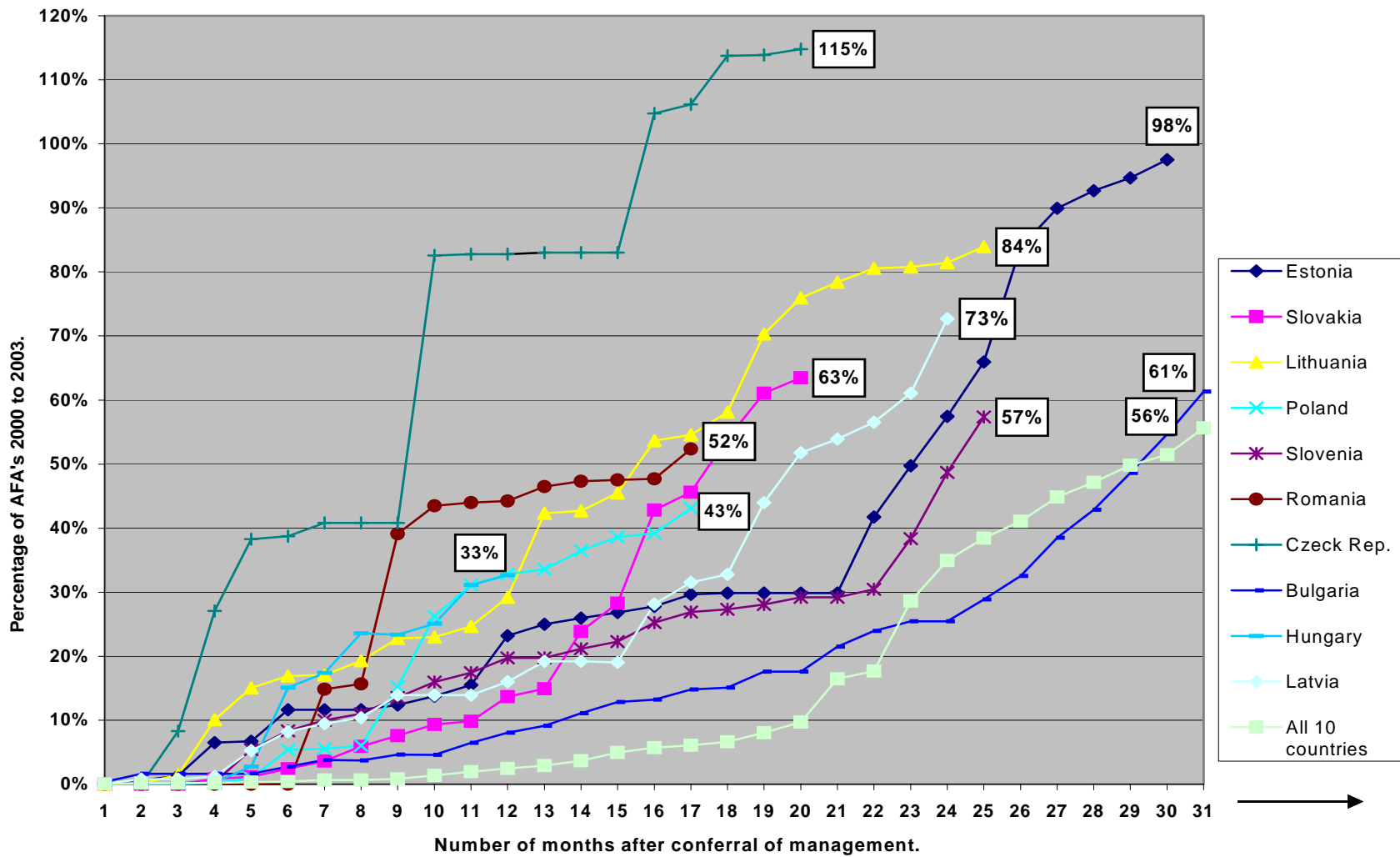
Progression of commitments over time to beneficiaries by the SAPARD agencies (As communicated by the countries concerned).

situation: End December 2003.
updated: 10-mars-04

Cumulative amounts of approved commitments of SAPARD contribution made by the Candidate Countries under the SAPARD Instrument since the start.
(All figures in EUR)

Candidate Countries	Estonia		Slovakia		Lithuania		Poland		Slovenia		Romania		Czech Rep.		Bulgaria		Hungary		Latvia		Total		
SAPARD contribution in € and in % of AFA's 2000 to 2003.	€	%	€	%	€	%	€	%	€	%	€	%	€	%	€	%	€	%	€	%	€	%	
Situation per end month																							
January 2001																							
February 2001																							
March 2001																							
April 2001																							
May 2001																							
June 2001															834.978	0%					834.978	0%	
July 2001	0	0%												3.586.510	2%						3.586.510	0%	
August 2001	291.559	1%												3.586.510	2%						3.878.069	0%	
September 2001	685.133	1%												3.586.510	2%						4.271.643	0%	
October 2001	3.310.460	6%												3.580.322	2%						6.890.782	0%	
November 2001	3.412.834	7%												6.023.662	3%						9.436.496	0%	
December 2001	5.922.129	12%				0	0%		0	0%				8.248.833	4%						14.170.962	1%	
January 2002	5.922.129	12%				172.055	0%		0	0%				8.094.954	4%				31.109	0%	14.220.247	1%	
February 2002	5.922.129	12%				1.811.919	1%		0	0%				10.074.484	5%				730.211	1%	18.538.743	1%	
March 2002	6.309.053	12%				12.624.863	10%		79.662	0%				10.028.034	5%				730.211	1%	29.771.822	1%	
April 2002	7.010.494	14%				18.828.773	15%		1.436.433	5%				14.109.903	6%				1.107.913	1%	42.493.516	2%	
May 2002	7.902.013	16%	0	0%		21.171.159	17%		2.221.175	8%		0	0%	17.605.139	8%				4.821.309	5%	53.720.795	2%	
June 2002	11.812.564	23%	0	0%		21.314.961	17%		2.662.420	10%		0	0%	19.962.765	9%				7.526.645	8%	63.279.355	3%	
July 2002	12.726.935	25%	0	0%		24.134.169	19%		2.928.895	11%			7.678.468	8%	24.215.788	11%				8.667.331	9%	80.351.587	4%
August 2002	13.224.305	26%	638.134	1%	28.536.897	23%	12.046	0%	3.605.453	14%	0	0%	25.071.857	27%	28.028.385	13%				9.502.829	10%	108.619.906	5%
September 2002	13.676.019	27%	884.188	1%	28.818.212	23%	192.732	0%	4.244.662	16%	0	0%	35.473.179	38%	28.877.521	13%				12.754.102	14%	124.920.615	6%
October 2002	14.152.893	28%	1.862.712	2%	30.866.922	25%	565.643	0%	4.633.747	17%	0	0%	35.894.537	39%	32.363.158	15%				12.743.784	14%	133.083.395	6%
November 2002	15.120.294	30%	2.792.935	4%	36.566.096	29%	1.063.133	0%	5.254.737	20%	0	0%	37.818.772	41%	33.021.942	15%				12.743.784	14%	144.381.692	7%
December 2002	15.220.154	30%	4.538.954	6%	52.999.155	42%	6.800.175	1%	5.254.737	20%	0	0%	37.807.067	41%	38.492.964	18%	0	0%		14.681.846	16%	175.795.052	8%
January 2003	15.220.154	30%	5.825.000	8%	53.456.979	43%	38.144.001	5%	5.625.613	21%	0	0%	37.807.067	41%	38.471.406	18%	0	0%		17.629.240	19%	212.179.460	10%
February 2003	15.220.154	30%	7.166.000	9%	56.978.046	45%	39.374.158	6%	5.926.432	22%	93.790.219	15%	76.461.349	83%	46.991.702	21%	0	0%		17.629.240	19%	359.537.300	16%
March 2003	15.220.154	30%	7.537.000	10%	67.192.276	54%	42.687.749	6%	6.716.553	25%	99.049.718	16%	76.653.478	83%	52.406.666	24%	465.133	0%		17.478.090	19%	385.406.817	18%
April 2003	21.260.974	42%	10.505.000	14%	68.317.633	55%	107.431.347	15%	7.162.727	27%	247.370.385	39%	76.653.478	83%	55.719.810	25%	4.389.876	3%		25.820.575	28%	624.631.804	29%
May 2003	25.336.673	50%	11.449.000	15%	72.741.833	58%	185.757.245	26%	7.264.175	27%	275.030.211	43%	76.892.164	83%	55.670.510	25%	24.062.446	15%		28.916.090	32%	763.120.347	35%
June 2003	29.273.419	57%	18.327.000	24%	88.037.283	70%	220.224.705	31%	7.467.434	28%	278.265.344	44%	76.892.164	83%	63.142.475	29%	27.752.728	17%		30.057.953	33%	839.440.505	38%
July 2003	33.585.652	66%	21.714.000	28%	95.110.065	76%	232.554.076	33%	7.769.457	29%	279.626.995	44%	76.892.164	83%	71.162.794	33%	37.649.278	24%		40.358.351	44%	896.422.833	41%
August 2003	42.729.660	84%	32.867.250	43%	98.142.703	78%	237.777.381	34%	7.769.457	29%	293.840.877	46%	97.011.250	105%	84.219.410	38%	37.328.051	23%		47.472.165	52%	979.158.204	45%
September 2003	45.821.427	90%	35.031.000	46%	100.885.589	81%	258.265.736	36%	8.103.323	30%	299.271.255	47%	98.349.969	106%	93.821.549	43%	40.045.689	25%		49.439.207	54%	1.029.034.744	47%
October 2003	47.223.130	93%	41.446.000	54%	101.128.682	81%	273.333.901	39%	10.209.747	38%	300.621.467	48%	105.349.904	114%	106.409.992	49%	49.713.027	31%		51.843.176	57%	1.087.279.027	50%
November 2003	48.238.555	95%	46.889.000	61%	101.961.602	81%	277.682.381	39%	12.955.825	49%	301.596.596	48%	105.465.955	114%	119.612.951	55%	52.194.557	33%		56.002.982	61%	1.122.600.404	51%
December 2003	49.684.785	98%	48.724.100	63%	105.125.966	84%	305.244.225	43%	15.260.989	57%	331.049.523	52%	106.336.972	115%	134.184.238	61%				66.651.747	73%	1.214.457.102	56%

Cumulative amounts of approved commitments of the Community part of the SAPARD contribution made on the level of the Candidate Countries (on a monthly basis, since the start and in % of AFA's 2000 to 2003).
Situation at the end of December 2003.



Progression of commitments over time to beneficiaries by the SAPARD agencies (As communicated by the countries concerned).

situation: End December 2003

updated: 10-mars-04

Cumulative number of projects approved by the Candidate Countries under the SAPARD Instrument, since the start.

Candidate Countries	Estonia	Slovakia	Lithuania	Poland	Slovenia	Romania	Czeck Rep.	Bulgaria	Hungary	Latvia	Total
Situation per end month											
January 2001											
February 2001											
March 2001											
April 2001											
May 2001											
June 2001								10			10
July 2001	0							28			28
August 2001	10							28			38
September 2001	31							28			59
October 2001	109							37			146
November 2001	117							40			157
December 2001	130		0		0			49			179
January 2002	130		2		0			48		1	181
February 2002	130		13		0			61		25	229
March 2002	151		29		1			61		25	267
April 2002	184		54		12			92		73	415
May 2002	229	0	85		20		0	132		195	661
June 2002	288	0	87		28		0	151		216	770
July 2002	348	0	116		30		111	173		256	1.034
August 2002	388	7	139	1	32	0	328	208		329	1.432
September 2002	409	11	143	16	35	0	446	220		374	1.654
October 2002	446	17	158	51	37	0	450	250		373	1.782
November 2002	504	29	179	99	39	0	463	262		373	1.948
December 2002	509	45	227	160	39	154	463	286	0	425	2.308
January 2003	509	55	230	369	42	158	463	286	0	479	2.591
February 2003	509	71	260	479	45	158	1.012	341	0	479	3.354
March 2003	509	78	287	647	52	170	1.030	382	20	477	3.652
April 2003	638	101	299	1.368	55	427	1.030	432	112	679	5.141
May 2003	766	115	318	2.321	58	471	1.031	432	393	744	6.649
June 2003	880	182	350	2.888	61	480	1.031	507	505	781	7.665
July 2003	984	211	417	3.218	69	487	1.031	594	556	1.114	8.681
August 2003	1.123	351	451	3.420	70	524	1.521	694	526	1.221	9.901
September 2003	1.215	369	471	3.672	77	533	1.526	751	541	1.277	10.432
October 2003	1.265	410	477	4.038	101	538	1.600	812	602	1.315	11.158
November 2003	1.310	462	481	4.362	173	541	1.601	869	677	1.374	11.850
December 2003	1.323	494	509	4.986	236	584	1.656	946		1.502	12.913

Cumulative number of projects approved by the Candidate Countries under the SAPARD Instrument since the start.
 Situation at the end of December 2003.

