



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels,
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Draft

COMMISSION DECISION

of [...]

**on the annual work programme for the actions to be financed in 2009 in the framework
of a Preparatory Action on an EU rapid response capability**

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on the annual work programme for the actions to be financed in 2009 in the framework of a Preparatory Action on an EU rapid response capability

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹, and in particular Article 49 (6) (b) thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down the rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities²,

Whereas:

- (1) Under Article 49 (6) (b) of the Financial Regulation, appropriations for preparatory actions in the fields of application of the EC Treaty designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions may be implemented without a basic act provided the actions which they are intended to finance fall within the powers of the Communities or the European Union.
- (2) Under Article 110 of the Financial Regulation, grants are subject to an annual programme.
- (3) Under Article 75 of the Financial Regulation and Article 90 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation (hereinafter referred to as "Implementing Rules"), the annual work programme for grants and contracts is the financing decision, provided that this constitutes a sufficiently detailed framework.
- (4) Under Article 166 of the Implementing Rules, the annual work programme for grants is to be adopted by the Commission. It is to specify the basic act, the objectives, and the schedule of calls for proposals with the indicative amounts and the results expected.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.09.2002, p. 1.

² OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1-71

- (5) The Commission has outlined its approach for reinforcing the Union's Disaster Response Capacity in Communication COM (2008)130 final adopted by the Commission on 5 March 2008. This includes using the Preparatory Action on a rapid response capability to test arrangements for making civil protection modules and complementary European resources available at all times for European civil protection interventions.
- (6) The budgetary authority earmarked specific funding in the budget of the EU for 2006, namely on budget line 07 03 06 03 for Pilot projects on cross border cooperation in fight against natural disasters. The Commission adopted on 17 July 2006 the Decision C (2006) 3239 about the annual work programme on grants and contracts in the framework of a pilot project for cross border cooperation in the fight against natural disaster and launched subsequently a call for proposals as a result of which 6 projects were selected.
- (7) The budgetary authority earmarked specific funding in the budget of the EU for 2008, namely € 3 500 000 on budget line 07 04 04 for Pilot projects to step up cooperation between Member States on combating forest fires and € 4 000 000 on budget line 07 04 05 for a Preparatory Action on an EU Rapid Response Capability. The Commission adopted on 8 May 2008 the Decision C (2008) 1740 establishing an annual work programme³ for the actions to be financed in the framework of a pilot project and a preparatory action in the area of civil protection and launched subsequently two calls for proposals as a result of which 6 projects were selected.
- (8) The budgetary authority has earmarked specific funding in the budget of the EU for 2009, namely on budget line 07 04 05 for a Preparatory Action on an EU rapid response capability.
- (9) It is therefore necessary to adopt a work programme for the actions to be financed under this budget line.
- (10) Under Article 21 (3) of the Implementing Rules, all programmes or activities, including pilot projects and preparatory actions, shall be the subject of an interim and/or ex post evaluation of the human and financial resources allocated and the results obtained.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The work programme set out in the Annex is hereby adopted as the annual work programme serving as financing decision for grants and procurement procedures for the actions to be financed in the framework of a Preparatory Action on an EU rapid response capability.

³ C(2008) 1740 of 8 May 2008 amended by C(2008) 5245 of 25 September 2008.

Article 2

Within the maximum indicative budget set out in the Annex, cumulated changes on the sub-items not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the Community are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the work programme.

The authorising officer by delegation may adopt such changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Article 3

The maximum contribution of the Community is set at EUR 7 500 000 to be financed from budget line 07 04 05 of the General Budget of the European Union for 2009.

Article 4

The Director-General for Environment shall publish the annual work programme for actions listed in the Annex and ensure its implementation.

Article 5

The appropriations covered by the work programme may be used to pay default interest in accordance with Article 83 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002, arising from legal commitments concluded on budget lines 07 04 05, 07 04 04.

Done at Brussels, [...]

For the Commission

[...]

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Appropriations may be used to cover the payment of interest on late payment due to contractors and beneficiaries in accordance with article 106 of the Implementing rules to the Financial regulation, arising from legal commitments concluded on budget lines 07 04 05 and 07 04 04.

Legal Basis:

Preparatory action in accordance with Art. 49.6(b) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (Financial Regulation).

Budget line:

07 04 05: Preparatory action on an EU rapid response capability

Budget Amount: 7 500 000 €

1. ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2009 THROUGH A CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

Objectives of the action	Improve the overall capacity of the EU to respond immediately, through the deployment of civil protection operations, to critical needs arising from major disasters inside and outside the EU. Improve the availability of assistance by ensuring that key civil protection resources are either available or on standby during relevant periods.
Expected results of the actions	Testing of a range of arrangements which make resources available for European civil protection operations launched in the framework of the Community Civil Protection Mechanism. Actions may cover any kind of major disaster including forest fires and may consist in: a) The development of multi-national civil protection modules; b) Maintaining on standby and deploying resources to contribute to a rapid and precise assessment of the impacts of disasters and the needs for assistance; c) Maintaining on standby and deploying disaster response resources focusing in particular on niche capabilities to provide disaster response assistance to affected countries; d) Testing the use of European complementary equipment that is not or is only to a limited degree available in the Member States; e) Creating European networks of specialised scientific and other experts tasked with providing expert knowledge to civil protection intervention teams intervening on the site of

	disasters.
Indicative amount	6 400 000€
Type of call and number	Call(s) for proposals
Maximum co-funding rate:	80%
Type of Act according to Art. 160 e) of the detailed rules for implementation of the Financial Regulation	Written grant agreement
Essential selection and award criteria	<p><i>Selection criteria (applicant)</i></p> <p><u>Operational capacity</u></p> <p>a) Private or public entities capable of contributing to the response to major disasters in the context of interventions of the Civil Protection Mechanism.</p> <p>b) Evidence of adequate operational capacity and professional qualifications and experience to carry out the project according to the proposed objectives and deliverables</p> <p><u>Financial capacity</u></p> <p>Financial soundness of project participants: self-financing and/or co-financing capacity.</p> <p><i>Award criteria (proposal):</i></p> <p>a) Clarity and consistency of rationale, objectives and planning</p> <p>b) Methodology for implementation</p> <p>c) Degree of availability ensured by the relevant authorities and involvement of the relevant stakeholders</p> <p>d) Cost-effectiveness</p> <p>e) European added-value</p>
Indicative schedule	<p>Publication of call: May 2009</p> <p>Closure: August 2009</p> <p>Award decision: October 2009</p>

2. ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 2009 THROUGH PROCUREMENT:

2.1. Deployment of Technical Assistance and Support Teams (TAST)

Aims	Improve the capacity of the Commission to rapidly deploy assessment and coordination teams to the site of disasters and their teams by ensuring that they benefit of the necessary support on site.
Expected results	Testing of arrangements which make Technical Assistance and Support Teams (TAST) available for European civil protection operations launched in the framework of the Community Civil Protection Mechanism.
Indicative amount:	€ 700 000
Type of call	Open call(s) for tender
Type of activity, subject and indicative number of contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deployment of a TAST• 1- 3 service contract(s)
Indicative schedule	Publication of the call : May 2009 Closure : August 2009 Award decision : October 2009

2.2. Evaluation

Aims	Assess the projects launched through pilot projects and preparatory actions in the field of civil protection.
Expected results	Provision to the Commission of data and information enabling the assessment by the Commission of the civil protection acquis and the pilot projects and preparatory actions in the field of civil protection.
Indicative amount:	€ 200 000
Type of call	Call(s) for tender or use of existing framework contracts
Type of activity, subject and indicative number of contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluation studies• 1- 3 service contracts
Indicative schedule	Publication of the call : May 2009 Closure : August 2009 Award decision : October 2009

2.3. Wild fires fire fighting resources sharing models

Aims	Identify and assess potential improvements of the sharing within the EU of wild fire fighting resources, taking into account experience from arrangements for the sharing of such resources that have been tested in other parts of the world.
Expected results	Inventory and comparison of civil protection intervention resource sharing arrangements experimented worldwide, identification of the lessons learned in these experiments that might be usefully taken into account at European level, models transposing these lessons learned in the EU, and the assessment of the costs and benefits of applying such models within the EU.
Indicative amount:	€ 200 000
Type of call	Call(s) for tender or use of existing framework contracts.
Type of activity, subject and indicative number of contracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comparative and assessment studies.• 1- 3 Service contract
Indicative schedule	Publication of the call : May 2009 Closure : August 2009 Award decision : October 2009

