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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels,
C(2009)7898

COMMISSION DECISION

of 20 October 2009

on the adoption of a financing decision for the preparatory action "Climate of the Carpathian basin" covered by budget line 07 03 17 for the budget year 2009

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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 2002¹ on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, and in particular Article 49(6), letter (b) thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002² laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities,

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 75, paragraph 2 of the Financial Regulation, the commitment of the expenditure shall be preceded by a financing decision adopted by the institution or the authorities to which powers have been delegated by the institution.
- (3) Under Article 90, paragraph 2 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002³ laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (hereinafter referred to as "detailed rules for implementation of the Financial Regulation"), where the implementation appropriations is provided for by an annual work programme constituting a sufficiently detailed framework, the work programme shall be considered to be the financing decision for the grants and procurement contracts involved.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.09.2002, p. 48.

² OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

³ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

- (4) The budgetary authority has earmarked specific funding in the budget of the EU for 2009, namely on budget line 07 03 17 for a preparatory action on the climate of the Carpathian basin.
- (5) This decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation and Article 90 of detailed rules for implementation of the Financial Regulation,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The work programme set out in the Annex to this decision is hereby adopted as annual work programme serving as financing decision for the financial year 2009 for expenditure under budget article 07 03 17 – Preparatory Action "Climate of the Carpathian basin", for a maximum amount of EUR 2 500 000.

Article 2

Within the maximum indicative budget of all the specific actions set out in the Annex, cumulated changes 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 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.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

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Member of the Commission

ANNEX

PREPARATORY ACTION: CLIMATE OF THE CARPATHIAN BASIN (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 03 17)

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1. Budget line: 07 03 17

1.2. Basic Act.

Preparatory action within the meaning of Article 49(6) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1), as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p.9).

1.3. General objectives of the Preparatory Action:

As per the budgetary remark voted by the Budgetary Authority, this appropriation is intended to support the analysis of climate variability and change in the Carpathian basin through unified and comparable methods or data in order to provide a contribution to applied climatology.

1.4. Specific priorities for 2009

The preparatory action will contribute to improve the availability of meteorological and climate data in the Carpathian region and will enable the exploitation of these data for climatic and hydro-meteorological applications.

In particular, the project will :

- Improve the availability and accessibility of quality controlled, homogeneous and spatially representative time series of climatological and real-time meteorological data for the Carpathian Region.
- Demonstrate the use and exploitation of consolidated meteorological data for hydro-meteorological applications such as a climatological atlas and as a basis for drought monitoring and assessment in the Carpathian Region within the frame of the European Drought Observatory.

JRC/IES (Joint Research Centre/ Institute for Environment and Sustainability) is currently developing a European Drought Observatory (EDO), which will link-up national, regional and European activities for the assessment, monitoring and forecasting of drought events throughout Europe. The proposed Carpathian project should closely collaborate with this activity in order to provide a strong input from the Carpathian region and at the same time to ensure the use and the provision of an added-value for the region.

In the framework of the European Flood Alert System (EFAS) developed at JRC/IES, a database for real-time and historical meteorological and hydrological data

for major European river basins is currently developed. The planned project would be complementary in type of data and regional scope to these efforts and would allow further exploitation of data.

1.5. Breakdown of resources between strands / actions to be implemented (see sections 2& 3 hereunder).

In order to ensure the necessary complementarity of the project with other initiatives, as well as the sustainability of the results of the project, the implementation of the actions needs to associate closely the Environment Directorate General of the European Commission and the scientific and technical expertise of the Joint Research Centre, in particular the Institute for Environment and Sustainability (JRC/IES).

Thanks to its various projects (DESERT / EU-FLOOD-GIS, EFFIS, EFAS, MARS, EDO), the JRC can take advantage of its large experience in the collection of meteorological and hydrological data done at EU level and has at its disposal meta-data catalogues.

It has also access to high-resolution regional climate information, pan-European hydro-morphological datasets, and has a recognised expertise in hydrological modelling, and statistical analysis to predict changes in hydrological variables.

In addition, the JRC has specific competences in deriving bio-physical products from remote sensing data that play an important role for validating and complementing ground based measurements.

The project will therefore be implemented via :

- On one part, an Administrative Arrangement for the provision of services by the Joint Research Centre / Institute for Environment and Sustainability (JRC/IES), for an amount of EUR 539,750;
- The procurement of services to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre under a cross-subdelegation agreement with DG ENV, for a total amount of EUR 1,960,250.

During the implementation, close collaboration will be ensured with the ongoing DG RTD-funded research projects in the field and, in particular, with "CLAVIER" and "CECILIA". Since both projects end in 2009, the present project should aim to build on findings and networks of CLAVIER and CECILIA rather than collaborations. The envisaged links will be agreed between DG RTD and DG ENV

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT (AA) WITH THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE.

2.1. Objectives / tasks

The objectives and tasks of the JRC will be to :

- integrate and implement the results and data delivered through the 3 foreseen contracts into the European Drought Observatory at JRC. In that framework, JRC

will also be asked to provide the necessary scientific and technical support for the preparation and the implementation of three contracts (cf. section 3)

- develop and test indicators for the real-time monitoring of drought in the Carpathian region ;
- develop as an information exchange protocol/platform.

The services will be provided under an Administrative Arrangement to be concluded on a negotiated basis in accordance with the provisions of article 161 paragraph 1 of the Financial Regulation.

2.2. Indicative budget and timetable

The intended budget will be EUR 539,750. The Administrative Arrangement should be signed in last quarter of 2009. The work will be completed over a period of 42 months to 48 months.

3. ACTIONS TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE JRC UNDER A CROSS-SUBDELEGATION AGREEMENT : PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

The sub-delegation relates to the implementation of actions of common interest between DG ENV and the Joint Research Centre for the implementation of the preparatory action.

Three calls for tender are foreseen :

Subject of the procurement	Type of contract (FRA,SER, ETU)	Procedure (OC, RC, NP, REN)	Estimated amount	Indicative date of publication (month / Year)
Climate data harmonisation, quality control and rescue	ETU / SER	OC	1,300,000	02/2010
Data access infrastructure including metadata catalogues	ETU / SER	OC	360,250	02/2010
Digital Climate Atlas of the Carpathian Region	ETU / SER	OC	300,000	09/2010
TOTAL EUR			1,960,250	

Signature of the relevant contracts: at the latest end of 2010

Running of contracts: end of 2012

Integration into EDO: Mid/end 2013