



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 17/05/2011
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 17/05/2011

on the adoption of a work programme in the Environment policy area for 2011 for the pilot project and preparatory action covered by budget lines 07 02 04 and 07 03 28, serving as financing decision

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

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 (hereinafter referred to as "Financial Regulation"), and in particular points (a) and (b) of Article 49(6), and Articles 75 and 110 thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 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 Communities², and in particular Article 90 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 75, of the Financial Regulation and Article 90(1) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, the commitment of the expenditure from the budget of the European Union shall be preceded by a financing decision setting out the essential elements of the action involving expenditure and adopted by the institution or the authorities to which powers have been delegated by the institution.
- (2) In accordance with Article 110 of the Financial Regulation, an annual work programme must be adopted for grants.
- (3) The budgetary authority has earmarked specific funding in the General Budget of the European Union for 2011, namely on budget line 07 02 04 for a preparatory action on environmental monitoring of the Black Sea Basin and a common European framework programme for development of the Black Sea region and budget line 07 03 28 for a pilot project on plastic recycling cycle and marine environmental impact.
- (4) The 2011 Work programme being a sufficiently detailed framework in the meaning of Article 90(2) and (3) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002, this Decision constitutes a financing decision for the expenditure provided for in the Work programme.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.09.2002, p. 1.

² OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

- (5) This Decision should allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 83 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and Article 106(5) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.
- (6) For the application of this Decision, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 90(4) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The work programme in the Environment policy area for 2011 for the pilot project and preparatory action covered by budget lines 07 02 04 and 07 03 28 (hereinafter "Work programme) set out in the Annex is adopted. It constitutes the financing decision in the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation.

Article 2

The maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the Work programme is set at EUR 2 000 000 and shall be financed from the following lines of the General Budget of the European Union for 2011:

- budget line 07 02 04 - Preparatory action - Environmental monitoring of the Black Sea Basin and a common European framework programme for development of the Black Sea region: EUR 1 000 000;
- budget line 07 03 28 - Pilot project - Plastic recycling cycle and marine environmental impact: EUR 1 000 000;

Article 3

Cumulated changes to the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objective of the Work programme.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such changes in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and the principle of proportionality.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Janez Potočnik
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Work programme in the Environment policy area for 2011 for the pilot project and preparatory action covered by budget lines 07 02 04 and 07 03 28.

1. **PREPARATORY ACTION - ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF THE BLACK SEA BASIN AND A COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLACK SEA REGION (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 02 04)**

2. **PILOT PROJECT - PLASTIC RECYCLING CYCLE AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 03 28)**

1. PREPARATORY ACTION - ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF THE BLACK SEA BASIN AND A COMMON EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE BLACK SEA REGION

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Budget line: 07 02 04

1.1.2 Budget amount: 1 000 000 EUR

1.1.3 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).

1.1.4 General objectives

This action is intended to promote measures for combating pollution and biodiversity decline in the Black Sea region and for addressing negative effects of environmental degradation.

Its overall objectives are as follows:

- to train people and prepare staff for the actual implementation of monitoring-related activities,
- to study pollution and biodiversity of the marine and coastline environment,
- to develop new technologies for environmental protection,
- to design and put in place an integrated marine and coastline monitoring system in the region,
- to determine and manage efficiently marine protected areas,
- to contribute to water management in the region including through innovative and cost effective ways to increase fresh water supply, in cooperation with other areas facing water scarcity, such as the Mediterranean.

This preparatory Action in its second year in 2011 and follows a Pilot project (07 02 03) implemented in 2008-2009. Regular contacts are kept with EP on the implementation of the actions, including complementarities with actions financed under existing legal bases (neighbourhood policy) and ongoing actions financed in previous years by the Pilot project and Preparatory Action.

1.1.5 Specific priorities for 2011

In the past 3 years (2008-2010), implementation of the pilot project / preparatory action has focused on capacity building of regional processes under the Bucharest convention, particularly in prevention of and emergency response to oil pollution

from shipping and supports related work by the Black Sea Commission. These ongoing actions, as well as the ones already foreseen for implementation in 2011, provide in the Commission's view sufficient funding to the Convention Secretariat and there is at this stage neither need nor absorption capacity for additional funding under the 2011 budget.

On the other hand there is need to support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the Black Sea, taking into consideration that Bulgaria and Romania ought to submit, an initial assessment of their marine environment and a comprehensive set of environmental targets and associated indicators by July 2012 and establish a monitoring programme by 2014 so as to guide progress towards achieving good environmental status by the year 2020 at the latest. According to the most recent edition of the Black Sea 'Diagnostic Report', the Black Sea Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme (BSIMAP) and the Black Sea Information System (BSIS) address the main trans-boundary environmental problems in the Black Sea region and constitute the pillars of environmental information/data supply and monitoring and allow reporting and integration of environmental data at the regional level.

The Black Sea 'Diagnostic Report' also reveals that, in addition to other Black Sea countries, marine monitoring networks and programmes in Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey could integrate more data from their national monitoring programmes to the official Black Sea monitoring system.

In addition an EU project aiming at improved availability and quality of data on the chemical and biological status of the Black Sea is under preparation (by DG DEVCO); the DEVCO activity will support the Black Sea countries covered by the EU Neighbourhood Policy (Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova) and Russia.

By expanding and consolidating marine environmental monitoring of the Black Sea aiming at integrated, regular and sustained monitoring at the same stations in time and space, this Preparatory Action would contribute to the improvement of the environmental status of the Black Sea and the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive by developing and strengthening the regional dimension in the Black Sea. This could be done, inter alia, through promotion of a coherent network of reference sites and stations at the appropriate levels, including international reference sites with full monitoring program.

It is envisaged that implementation will be carried out by way of a call for proposals covering two types of projects:

- environmental monitoring measures for the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive in the Black Sea ;
- demonstration and dissemination of environmental and innovative water supply technologies for the benefit of any country in the Black Sea region or the Mediterranean.

1.2 Grants / Calls for proposals

1.2.1. *Expected results:*

Improved monitoring of environmental parameters in the Black Sea waters

Dissemination of cost-effective technologies with low environmental impact for enhancing fresh water supply in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean

1.2.2 *Target beneficiaries*

Public or private bodies, actors and institutions, non-governmental organisations, universities and/or research institutes active in the whole Black Sea region registered in an EU Member State or Turkey.

1.2.3 *Number of projects expected to be financed:*

5 to 10 projects.

1.2.4 *Main eligibility, selection and award criteria:*

Eligibility criteria for the applicants	Legal status, country of establishment, geographical scope of proposed activities
Selection Criteria	Operational and financial capacity
Award criteria	Technical quality, added value to implementation of Marine Strategy Framework Directive and demonstrated improvement for fresh water supply in coastal areas in the Black Sea and the Mediterranean

1.2.5 *Indicative timetable and maximum rate of co-financing:*

Finance rate :	Max 90 % co-financing of the eligible costs
Timing of call for proposals :	
- publication date	second quarter of 2011
- closing date	fourth quarter of 2011
- finalisation of the grant agreement ³	first quarter of 2012

³ It is envisaged that the appropriations will be the subject of a 'global commitment' in accordance with article 77 of the Financial Regulation after the adoption of the financing decision.

2. PILOT PROJECT - PLASTIC RECYCLING CYCLE AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 03 28)

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 *Budget line: 07 03 28*

2.1.2 *Budget amount: 1 000 000 EUR*

2.1.3 *Basic Act:*

Pilot project 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).

2.1.4 *General objectives*

This appropriation is intending to cover a pilot project assessing the effectiveness of the plastic recycling cycle at EU level and its potential loopholes, with a specific emphasis on the water and marine environmental impacts. In depth local or regional assessments, as well as studies focusing on coastal areas, could also be developed under this pilot project in order to identify concrete challenges, good practices and recommendation for action.

The assessment and study carried out under this pilot project would therefore aim at identifying technical loopholes and deficiency in the plastic recycling chain in the EU, as well as potential legislative improvement in order to reduce the amount of land-based plastic reaching out the marine environment.

2.1.5 *Specific priorities for 2011*

It is foreseen that the pilot project consists of three parts to meet the objectives.

a. Feasibility study of introducing instruments to prevent and/or clean up plastic littering.

Presently, (plastic) waste does not have an economic value for consumers. After use, it normally enters the various waste management stream, including separate collection schemes (e.g. for packaging waste or WEEE). However, a fraction of plastic waste escapes from existing waste management systems (plastic littering). This study should identify best practices in plastic littering prevention and cleaning-up and assess the feasibility of different options to increase public awareness and to trigger preventive and remedial action by public authorities.

b. Analyze at EU and at regional level where the largest loopholes are with regard to the flow of packaging material.

In certain areas in the EU, most of the packaging material ends up in land fills; in other areas, most of it ends up recycled. Especially important for the reuse/recycling is the appropriate sorting of the plastic waste. Looking at the plastic packaging cycle from a bird-eye view, where are the largest loopholes through which plastics could disappear and which could then form a threat to the marine environment? What

would be the potential of biodegradable packaging material? Focus on the countries where the amount of recycled plastic lags behind the EU average. This desk study would identify the most important gaps to point corrective measures at.

c. Case studies on the plastic cycle and its loopholes in Black Sea, Mediterranean, Baltic, North Sea in port cities, preferably also at a point where the river flows into the sea.

In these case studies, the different types of marine litter and especially plastic waste found in the sea (e.g. packaging material, plastics used in agriculture, fishing equipment) are identified and its possible sources (geographical, diffuse, point-source). An analysis of the plastic cycle involved may identify the gaps and measures could be developed to close those gaps. Involvement of local NGO's in these case studies will be an advantage.

In 2011, call for tenders will be prepared for these three parts with the aim to sign contracts for part 'a' and 'b' before the end of 2011 and part 'c' beginning of 2012. Appropriations will be covered by a global commitment.

2.1.6 Expected results

- Identification of loopholes in the local or regional plastic cycle in the 4 marine regions of the EU
- Identification of the largest loopholes in plastic packaging material in the EU incl. the potential of bio-degradable plastics
- Feasibility of potential instruments and measures to prevent littering

2.2 Procurement procedures

2.2.1. Indicative budget and timetable:

Project name	Budget	Publication date
a. Feasibility study of introducing instruments to prevent and/or clean up plastic littering.	€250.000	Through a call for tender May 2011
b. Analyze at EU and at regional level where the largest loopholes are with regard to the flow of packaging material.	€250.000	Through a call for tender May 2011
c. Case studies on the plastic cycle and its loopholes in Black Sea, Mediterranean, Baltic, North Sea in port cities, preferably also at a point where the river flows into the sea.	€ 500.000 (each € 125.000)	Through a call for tender May 2011

