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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 07 May 2010
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 7 May 2010

on the adoption of a work programme in the Environment policy area for 2010 for the pilot projects and preparatory actions covered by budget lines 07 03 17, 07 03 18, 07 03 19, 07 03 22 and 17 03 18, 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 2002¹ on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, and in particular Article 49(6), letters (a) and (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) (a) and (b) of the Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (hereinafter referred to as "Financial Regulation"), by way of derogation from paragraph 1, appropriations for pilot schemes of an experimental nature designed to test the feasibility of an action and its usefulness, and 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 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

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.

sufficiently detailed framework, the work programme shall be considered to be the financing decision for the grants and procurement contracts involved.

- (4) The budgetary authority has earmarked specific funding in the budget of the EU for 2010, namely on budget line 07 03 17 for a preparatory action on climate in the Carpathian basin, budget line 07 03 18 for a pilot project on the recovery of obsolete vessels not used in the fishing trade, budget line 07 03 19 for a pilot project on the economic loss due to high non-revenue-water amounts in cities, budget line 07 03 22 for a pilot project on complex research on the methods of controlling the spread of ragweed and pollen allergies and budget line 17 03 18 on a European refund system for aluminium beverage cans.
- (5) This decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of the Financial Regulation and Article 90 of the detailed rules for implementation of the Financial Regulation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The work programme set out in the Annex to this decision is hereby adopted as annual work programme serving as the financing decision for grants and procurement procedures for the financial year 2010 in the Environment policy area, on the following budget articles and for the following amounts of appropriations:

- Budget article 07 03 17 - Preparatory action — Climate of the Carpathian basin - maximum amount of EUR 2 000 000;
- Budget article 07 03 18 - Pilot project - Recovery of obsolete vessels not used in the fishing trade - maximum amount of EUR 305 000;
- Budget article 07 03 19 - Pilot project on the economic loss due to high non-revenue-water amounts in cities - maximum amount of EUR 1 000 000;
- Budget article 07 03 22 - Pilot project - Complex research on the methods of controlling the spread of ragweed and pollen allergies - maximum amount of EUR 1 500 000;
- Budget article 17 03 18 - Pilot project - A European refund system for aluminium beverage cans - maximum amount of EUR 300 000.

Article 2

The Director-General for Environment is responsible for ensuring the publication and implementation of the work programme on grants and contracts set out in the Annex, for the budget articles 07 03 17, 07 03 18, 07 03 19, 07 03 22 and 17 03 18.

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.

Article 4

This Decision is addressed to the competent authorising officer by delegation.

Done at Brussels, 07 May 2010

For the Commission
Janez Potočnik
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

- 1. PREPARATORY ACTION — CLIMATE OF THE CARPATHIAN BASIN (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 03 17)**

- 2. PILOT PROJECT - RECOVERY OF OBSOLETE VESSELS NOT USED IN THE FISHING TRADE (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 03 18)**

- 3. PILOT PROJECT ON THE ECONOMIC LOSS DUE TO HIGH NON-REVENUE-WATER AMOUNTS IN CITIES (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 03 19)**

- 4. PILOT PROJECT - COMPLEX RESEARCH ON THE METHODS OF CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF RAGWEED AND POLLEN ALLERGIES (BUDGET ARTICLE 07 03 22)**

- 5. PILOT PROJECT - A EUROPEAN REFUND SYSTEM FOR ALUMINIUM BEVERAGE CANS (BUDGET ARTICLE 17 03 18)**

1. PREPARATORY ACTION — CLIMATE OF THE CARPATHIAN BASIN

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1. Budget line: 07 03 17

1.1.2. Budget amount: 2 000 000 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), as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p.9).

1.1.4. General objectives of the pilot project:

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.

1.1.5. Specific priorities for 2010

The preparatory action in 2010 will focus on a two-fold analysis on the vulnerability of the region to climate change impacts and on potential adaptation measures.

In line with the Commission White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change, the results of this analysis are expected to benefit national and regional authorities of the Carpathian/SEE region and to lead to concrete policy proposals of adaptation strategies at international, national or regional level.

In 2009 2,5 millions were already allocated in the budget for this preparatory action. The work current underway is focused on the collection and elaboration of relevant data in view of getting a real-time monitoring of drought in the Carpathian region and developing an information exchange protocol/platform.

The results of the envisaged analysis will be strongly interrelated with the underway work and will also provide a contribution to the forthcoming EU Information System on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation (EU Clearinghouse).

1.2. Type of financial intervention: call for tenders

One or more service contract(s) will be concluded after an open call for tenders. The maximum budget will be EUR 2 000 000.

The contract(s) will aim at

- Assessing the vulnerability to climate change of the ecosystems, economic sectors and regions of the Carpathian Basin,

- Identifying possible adaptation measures and estimating their potential impact,
- Contributing to the Knowledge Base on Climate Vulnerability and Adaptation (EU Clearinghouse).

For the preparation of the terms of reference, a close collaboration will be ensured with DG ENV/CLIM, REGIO, JRC as well as the European Environment Agency (EEA), the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians.

The call for tenders is expected to be launched in May 2010. The service contract(s) will be signed by December 2010.

2. PILOT PROJECT - RECOVERY OF OBSOLETE VESSELS NOT USED IN THE FISHING TRADE

2.1. Introduction

2.1.1. Budget line: 07 03 18

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), as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p.9).

2.1.4. General objectives of the pilot project:

This pilot project is intended to step up action to protect the environment and manage environmental risks in coastal areas. The aim is to foster best practice in the sustainable management of coastal areas by making known non-traditional measures in the sector and exploring the scope for new measures, raising awareness of the needs of coastal areas and ensuring better stakeholder behaviour.

2.1.5. Specific priorities for 2010

The focus in 2010 will be on conducting a scoping study to establish an inventory of the number and composition of ships and to identify the current treatment methods (recycling, burning, sinking...) and their impact on the environment.

Particular attention will be given to the abandonment of vessels and the current solutions found to treat these vessels. Existing best practices concerning materials recycling and recovery and the proper management of the hazardous waste will be identified and documented.

Given the extremely wide range of ships to be covered by the budget remark, following contacts with the Parliament, it is proposed to focus on ships that are related to Europe only: small ships operating in the EU, navy vessels and other governmental vessels and large seagoing vessels linked with the EU (calling at EU ports, flying the flag of one EU country or whose beneficial owner is European). Large seagoing vessels operating outside the EU will not be considered.

2.2. Type of financial intervention:

For the implementation of this pilot project, two contracts are envisaged:

- (1) The first one will be related to the purchase of relevant information about large commercial seagoing vessels. Given commercial databases to provide information on large commercial seagoing vessels exist, a contract for an estimated value of about 5.000 EUR will be concluded following a negotiated procedure. The contract is expected to be signed by the end of July 2010 and to be completed by the end of September.
- (2) The second contract will concern a scoping study aimed at
 - (a) addressing the other categories of vessels operating in the EU, like small ships, navy vessels and other governmental vessels.
 - (b) making an inventory of current treatment methods and assessing their impact on environment.
 - (c) identifying and documenting existing best practices.

The indicative contract amount will be around €300.000. Tender documents will be prepared and published by June 2010. The received offers will be evaluated around October and the signature of the contract is expected to take place in January 2011.

A global commitment will be done after the adoption of the financing decision.

3. PILOT PROJECT ON THE ECONOMIC LOSS DUE TO HIGH NON-REVENUE-WATER AMOUNTS IN CITIES

3.1. Introduction

3.1.1. Budget line: 07 03 19

3.1.2. Budget amount: 1 000 000 EUR

3.1.3. 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), as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p.9).

3.1.4. *General objectives of the pilot project:*

As per the budgetary remark voted by the Budgetary Authority, the general objective of this pilot project is to assess non-revenue-water and related economic losses and to identify possible best practices and solutions for large cities throughout the EU.

3.1.5. *Specific priorities for 2010*

In 2010 the pilot project will be implemented along three main intervention lines:

- the estimation of losses in the water distribution networks in various representative cities in the EU;
- the assessment of the economic and environmental impact of water losses;
- the analysis of the best practices for minimising water-losses and their potential for replication in other areas/cities/river basins.

3.2. Type of financial intervention: call for tenders

A service contract for a maximum value of 1 000 000 EUR will be concluded for analysing the water losses, their economic and environmental impact and for elaborating a set of recommendations regarding the possibilities for leakage reduction in the water distribution networks in the EU.

It will focus on selected countries/cities/river basins where there are significant problems with water scarcity and/or droughts, where losses are known to be high, and the potential for reduction of the losses is expected to be thereby high, as well as in cities where water losses have been minimised, in order to study best practices.

For the definition of its scope, previous researches and studies on the estimation of losses in the water distribution networks as well as assessments of the economic and environmental impact of water losses and best practices for minimising water-losses (such as the book "Losses in Water Distributions Systems: A Practitioners Guide to Assessment, Monitor and Control") will be taken into account.

The contract will be awarded following an open call for tenders. The publication of the call will be done after the adoption of the financing decision and the signature of the contract is expected by December 2010. The duration of the contract will be 18 months and the work is expected to be completed by 2012.

4. PILOT PROJECT - COMPLEX RESEARCH ON THE METHODS OF CONTROLLING THE SPREAD OF RAGWEED AND POLLEN ALLERGIES

4.1. Introduction

4.1.1. *Budget line: 07 03 22*

4.1.2. *Budget amount: 1 500 000 EUR*

4.1.3. *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), as last amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p.9).

4.1.4. *General objectives of the pilot project:*

As per the budgetary remark voted by the Budgetary Authority, the project is intended

- to analyse the various types of ragweed control and to define the most effective;
- to study the impact of pollen contamination, to estimate its costs and to define allergy prevention and treatment methods;
- to develop prevention mechanism for controlling the spread of ragweed.

Given the extremely wide scope of the budget remark, some contacts with the Parliament were developed in order to define a possible focus not already covered by other policy areas (i.e. health and research).

4.1.5. *Specific priorities for 2010*

Following discussions with the Parliament, the pilot project in 2010 will focus on

- analysing the spread of common ragweed in the EU and assessing the possibility to have an early warning system for ragweed control,
- quantifying the harmful effects of common ragweed in the EU;
- assessing the feasibility of different methods for ragweed eradication in various production systems and ecosystems.

4.2. Type of financial interventions:

For the implementation of this pilot project, three different actions are envisaged:

- two open calls for tenders for study contracts, each one of an estimated value of 500 000 EUR, and
- a call for proposals for an indicative amount of 500 000 EUR.

4.3. The calls for tenders

The two open calls for tenders will led to the conclusion of two contracts:

- to study the spread of common ragweed in Europe and to analyse the possibility to include it in the Invasive Species Early Warning System;
- to quantify the current and probable future harmful effects of common ragweed on public health, biodiversity and production systems in some of the European countries most affected by common ragweed⁴.

The calls for tenders will be published indicatively in April 2010 and the signature of the contracts is expected by December 2010.

4.4. The call for proposals

4.4.1. Expected results of actions to be supported

The aim of the call for proposals is to identify and finance some voluntary experiments necessary to assess the methods of eradication of common ragweed and to produce and disseminate a set of recommendations on the results of the control measures, their agronomical and organisational patterns, their success factors and their impact on non-target species.

4.4.2. Target beneficiaries

Applicants and their partners must be public or private bodies, actors and institutions.

Applicants and their partners must be registered in an EU Member State.

4.4.3. Eligibility criteria

In addition to the compliance with the technical/administrative requirements that will be detailed in the call for proposals, each proposal must:

- involve experiments carried out in a sample of member states with varying degrees of infestation including at least two of the most contaminated areas in Europe (France, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria);
- include at least one research institution or organisation;
- envisage a trans-national collaboration with the active participation of at least one organisation coming from another Member State.

4.4.4. Selection criteria

The selection criteria shall make possible to assess the applicant's ability to complete the proposed action:

⁴ According to the budgetary remark, France, Germany, Denmark, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Bulgaria are the most contaminated areas in Europe.

- Operational capacity of the applicant and partners: professional competencies, qualifications and requirements needed to implement the project;
- Financial capacity: stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout the period during which the proposal is being carried out and to participate in its funding.

4.4.5. *Main award criteria*

The main award criteria are:

- technical coherence: proposal should be clear, detailed, coherent, realistic and feasible in terms of actions and timetable;
- financial coherence and quality of the proposed budget: consistency with the technical proposal, cost-efficiency and value for money;
- contribution to the general objectives of the pilot project: scope of the project, involvement of different stakeholders, specific issues it intends to solve, expected results, methodology and proposed compliance mechanisms;
- EU added value in terms of stimulation of best-practice, innovation, demonstration, potential for sustainability and potential for continuation after the end of the pilot project.

4.4.6. *Indicative timetable and maximum rate of co-financing*

Finance rate :	Max 80 % co-financing of the eligible costs
Timing of call for proposals :	
- publication date	April/May 2010
- closing date	Second quarter of 2010
- finalisation of the grant agreement	Third quarter of 2010

5. **PILOT PROJECT - A EUROPEAN REFUND SYSTEM FOR ALUMINIUM BEVERAGE CANS**

5.1. **Introduction**

5.1.1. *Budget line: 17 03 18*

5.1.2. *Budget amount: 1 500 000 EUR*

5.1.3. *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), as last

amended by Council Regulation (EC) No 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p.9).

5.1.4. General objectives of the pilot project:

As per budgetary remark, the objective of this pilot project is to investigate the possibility to harmonise the refund scheme for cans.

5.1.5. Specific priorities for 2010

In 2010 the pilot project will focus on assessing the impact of introducing a pan-European harmonised refund scheme for aluminium cans.

A thorough Impact Assessment will be carried out to cover environmental, economic, social and administrative burden-related issues.

The impact assessment will include the identification of possible solutions for the recycling issues of imported cans and the appropriate level of governance where such solutions should be adopted in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

5.2. Type of financial intervention: call for tenders

One contract of an estimated value of EUR 300 000 is envisaged to finance a comprehensive impact assessment study.

The contractor will be called:

- to assess the environmental economic, social and administrative burden-related impacts of introducing common rules for the refund of cans.
- to define the appropriate level of governance where actions should be taken.
- to identify solutions likely to deliver the most benefits and least cost to society as a whole. The assessment will include a cost benefit analysis of each option.

A global commitment will be done after the adoption of the financing decision. An open call for tenders will be organised and launched in the second quarter of 2010. The signature of the contract is expected to take place in January 2011.