

DÉCISION DE LA COMMISSION

du [...]

relative au financement de la partie II du programme d'action 2007 pour la région orientale de la PEV au titre de la ligne 19.08.0103 du budget général des Communautés européennes

LA COMMISSION DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES,

vu le traité instituant la Communauté européenne,

vu le règlement (CE) n° 1638/2006 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 24 octobre 2006 arrêtant des dispositions générales instituant un instrument européen de voisinage et de partenariat¹, et notamment son article 12,

considérant ce qui suit:

- (1) Le règlement fixe les critères de mise en œuvre d'un programme d'assistance aux États partenaires de la PEV et à la Russie.
- (2) Conformément à l'article 6, paragraphe 1, point a) i) dudit règlement, l'assistance communautaire est mise en œuvre par des programmes nationaux ou multinationaux qui concernent l'assistance à un pays partenaire ou la coopération régionale et sous-régionale entre deux ou plusieurs pays partenaires.
- (3) La Commission a adopté le document de stratégie 2007-2013 du programme régional de la PEV en faveur des pays de l'IEVP² ainsi que le programme indicatif pluriannuel correspondant pour la période 2007-2010³.
- (4) Le 4 Octobre 2007, la Commission a adopté le programme d'action pour la région orientale de la PEV (partie I).
- (5) La présente décision constitue une décision de financement au sens de l'article 75 du règlement (CE, Euratom) n° 1605/2002⁴ du Conseil, de l'article 90 du règlement (CE, Euratom) n° 2342/2002⁵ de la Commission et de l'article 15 des règles internes⁶.
- (6) Il convient de définir le terme «modification substantielle» au sens de l'article 90, paragraphe 4, du règlement (CE, Euratom) n° 2342/2002, aux fins de l'application de la présente décision.
- (7) Les mesures prévues par la présente décision sont conformes à l'avis du comité IEPV, institué en vertu de l'article 26 du règlement (CE) n° 1638/2006,

1 JO L 310 du 09.11.2006, p. 1.

2 C(2007) 672.

3 C(2007) 672.

4 JO L 248 du 16.09.2002, p. 1. Règlement modifié en dernier lieu par le règlement (CE, Euratom) n° 1995/2006 (JO L 390 du 30.12.2006, p. 3).

5 JO L 357 du 31.12.2002, p.1. Règlement modifié en dernier lieu par le règlement (CE, Euratom) n° 478/2007 (JO L 111 du 28.04.2007, p.13).

6 C/2007/513 – C/2007/514 – C/2007/433.

DÉCIDE:

Article premier

La partie II du programme d'action 2007 pour la région orientale de la PEV et les dépenses y afférentes, imputées à la ligne budgétaire 19.08.0103, sont approuvées, au titre de l'exercice financier 2007 et selon l'annexe de la présente décision, jusqu'à concurrence de 6 millions d'euros.

Article 2

Dans les limites du budget indicatif maximal alloué pour l'ensemble des actions spécifiques, les modifications cumulées n'excédant pas 20 % de la contribution maximale de la Communauté ne sont pas considérées comme substantielles, pour autant qu'elles n'aient pas d'incidence significative sur la nature et les objectifs du programme d'action 2007 pour la région orientale de la PEV.

L'ordonnateur est autorisé à adopter ces modifications conformément aux principes de bonne gestion financière.

Fait à Bruxelles, le [...]

Par la Commission

[...]

Membre de la Commission

ACTION FICHE FOR 2007 ENPI-EAST ANNUAL ACTION PROGRAMME

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	EC Programme Supporting integrated border management systems in the South Caucasus (SCIBM)		
Total cost	6 M€		
Aid method / Management mode	Direct centralised management		
DAC-code	15210	Sector	

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Sector context

For the three Southern Caucasus countries¹ located on the traditional 'Silk Road' transit route, border management has always been a key issue, with the goal of having a secure system where criminal flows are efficiently prevented whereas legitimate transit flows are facilitated. With the region now bordering the EU, this is also a concern for the Union. However, the break up of the Soviet Union and the resulting overall disruption of the previous border management system has led to the challenge to establish new border management policies and capacities across the region. Recent political tensions and weak relations between some of the concerned countries have added a certain instability to the region and only served to close the borders even more.

In terms of border management capacity, the countries lack comprehensive strategies making in particular inter-agency cooperation rare and border management activities often inefficient and ineffective. In addition, staff and equipment are not up to EU standards. At regional level, the approach is fragmented and non-cooperative with each country acting independently and not sharing information with each other. As a result, criminal flows are not efficiently prevented whereas legitimate transit flows are difficult and time-consuming. Political tensions have led to little trust and weak relations between the countries.

Although various activities are being undertaken at the national level, the regional scope of the problem is not being dealt with. This regional project would not only help develop EU standard border management systems nationally, but also on a regional scale, leading to improved trade and security at the borders, while at the same time contribute to building trust and help tone down tensions in the region.

It fits well into the objectives of the European Neighbourhood Policy of which improved border management is a keystone and clearly noted in the EC ENPI Eastern Regional Strategy. It is a priority in all three national ENP Action Plans with relevant regional cooperation as well as improving national institutional capacities as objectives.

¹ Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

A "Breakthrough" in Border Management in the South Caucasus

The European Commission adopts a €6 million 3-year programme introducing EU border management standards in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. The programme is a large step for the region for many reasons, but mainly because all three countries endorsed it and are willing to work together on any issues related to national security, which is a significant milestone bearing in mind the ongoing frozen conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The programme is part of the first ENPI (European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument) Annual Regional Action Programme for assistance to Eastern European partner states and Russia. The global amount set aside from the 2007 budget for ENPI assistance to the seventeen eligible partner states to the East and South of the EU is over €1.3 billion.

The programme will intervene in a very crucial policy area. Insecure and underdeveloped borders not only permit trafficking of human beings and the smuggling of drugs, contraband and weapons, but they also hinder trade and travel of legitimate persons. This is especially true on the traditional 'Silk Road' which crosses the South Caucasus and links Iran and the Middle East with Russia and Eastern Europe. Tackling border issues requires not only expertise from the EU, but also cooperation among the countries themselves, two elements that the Programme facilitates.

Activities are slated to begin in 2008 and will introduce EU border management standards, interagency cooperation between border agencies within the countries, as well as cooperation between neighbouring countries. Practically, it will focus on adapting national strategies and tackling on-the-ground activities such as upgrading border crossing points.

The programme will be financed as part of the ENPI Annual Regional Action Programme 2007 East. Since 1st January 2007, the TACIS and MEDA regulations have been replaced by the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). Therefore, from this year all Action Programmes (which are the documents that set out in detail the assistance priorities for each year and how much the European Commission will spend on each priority) for Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean are drafted under this new regulation, which makes EU external assistance simpler, more coherent and more flexible.

The national allocations from the ENPI are the main source of Community assistance for the partner states along the Eastern border of the EU and the Mediterranean. The aim of the assistance is to promote enhanced cooperation and progressive economic integration between the European Union and the partner countries and, in particular, the implementation of partnership and cooperation agreements, association agreements or other existing and future agreements. Furthermore, the assistance shall also encourage partner countries' efforts aimed at promoting good governance and equitable social and economic development.