FINANCING MEMORANDUM

The European Commission, hereinafter referred to as "THE COMMISSION", acting for and on behalf of the European Community, hereinafter referred to as "THE COMMUNITY" on the one part, and

The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria, hereinafter referred to as "THE RECIPIENT" on the other part,

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

The measure referred to in Article 1 below shall be executed and financed out of the budget resources of THE COMMUNITY in accordance with the provisions set out in this Memorandum. The technical, legal, and administrative framework within which the measure referred to in Article 1 below shall be implemented is set out in the General Conditions annexed to the Framework Agreement between THE COMMISSION and THE RECIPIENT, and supplemented by the terms of this Memorandum and the Special Provisions annexed hereto.

ARTICLE 1 - NATURE AND SUBJECT

As part of its aid programme, THE COMMUNITY shall contribute, by way of grant, towards the financing of the following MEASURE:

Programme number: BG 0008
Title: 2000 Cross-Border Cooperation Programme between Bulgaria and Greece
Duration: Until 31 December 2002

ARTICLE 2 - COMMITMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

The financial contribution of THE COMMUNITY is fixed at a maximum of € 20 million hereinafter referred to as "THE EC GRANT".

ARTICLE 3 - DURATION AND EXPIRY

For the present MEASURE, THE EC GRANT is hereby available for contracting until 31 December 2002 subject to the provisions of this Memorandum. All contracts must be signed by this date. Any balance of funds of the EC GRANT which have not been contracted by this date shall be cancelled. The deadline for disbursement of THE EC GRANT is 31 December 2003. All disbursements must be completed by the deadline for disbursement. THE COMMISSION may however, in exceptional circumstances, agree to an appropriate extension of the contracting period or of the disbursement period, should this be requested in due time and properly justified by THE RECIPIENT. This Memorandum shall expire at the expiry of the disbursement period of the EC GRANT. All the funds which have not been disbursed shall be returned to the Commission.

ARTICLE 4 - ADDRESSES

Correspondence relating to the execution of THE MEASURE, stating THE MEASURE'S number and title, shall be addressed to the following:
for the COMMUNITY:

Delegation of the European Commission to Bulgaria
Interpred
World Trade Center
36, Blvd. Dragan Tsankov
1040 Sofia
Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-97 33 240
Fax: (+359) 2-97 33 872

for THE RECIPIENT:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Department of European Integration
2 Al. Jendov Str.
1113 Sofia
Bulgaria

Tel.: (+359) 2-73 74 12
Fax: (+359) 2-70 75 89

ARTICLE 5 - NUMBER OF ORIGINALS

This Memorandum is drawn up in duplicate in the English language.

ARTICLE 6 - ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Memorandum shall enter into force on the date on which it has been signed by both parties. No expenditure incurred before this date is eligible for the EC GRANT.

The Annexes shall be deemed an integral part of this Memorandum.

Done at Sofia
Date 14.12.2000

for THE RECIPIENT

Mrs. N. Mikhailova
Minister of Foreign Affairs
National Phare Coordinator

for THE COMMUNITY

Mr. J. Wunenburger
Head of European Commission
Delegation to the Republic of Bulgaria

Annex 1 Framework Agreement
Annex 2 Special Provisions
Annex 3 Visibility and Publicity
1. OBJECTIVES, DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONALITY

1.1. The **wider objectives** of the programme are:

- To promote good neighbourliness and stability between the CEEC countries and the Member States by funding projects which will yield tangible benefits to the regions and communities on both sides of the border;
- To promote co-operation with the CEEC regions bordering the European Union, helping these regions to overcome the specific development problems which may arise, *inter alia*, from their position within the national economies, in the interest of the local communities and in a manner compatible with the environment protection;
- To develop the economy of the border regions by enhancing the trade and the economic co-operation with special environmental consideration.

1.2. The **specific objectives and results** are reflected in the following priority areas:

- To improve the existing infrastructure in the field of transport, aimed at complementing the development of EU Trans European Networks in accordance with the orientations adopted by the European Commission through project proposals concerning the improvement of Pan European Corridor IX by providing the border region with a cross border link with approx. 17.8 km. and in particular by providing access road to a new border crossing station.
- To provide environmental protection by completing the cross border link between Bulgaria/Greece with the construction of a cut and cover tunnel in order to comply with special environmental requirements for the nature protection due to the presence of populations of Brown Bears.

1.3. Programme Description

After several meetings at technical level, an agreement was reached at the 2nd JCC meeting in Athens (7th December 1999) about the construction of the Access Road (Podkova-Makaza) and of the Cut & Cover Tunnel at Gotse Deltsev – Drama Border Crossing proposed projects. Complementarity with projects under implementation on the Greek side was highlighted - especially with INTERREG II and future INTERREG III Measures. These two projects fit into priorities n° 1 and 2 of the draft Joint Programming Document.

1.3.1. Major Transport Infrastructure Projects: BG0008.01 - Construction of the Access Road (Podkova-Makaza) to the new Border Crossing between Greece and Bulgaria (Makaza - Nimfea)

Starting from 1994, thanks to the establishment of the Cross-Border programme between Greece and Bulgaria, substantial funds were made available to improve and strengthen the co-operation of the two border regions. In order to have a longer term strategic approach, the governments of Bulgaria and Greece signed on 22 December 1995 a bilateral agreement, by which they agree to open three new border crossing links: Gotse Deltsev - Drama, Kurdjali - Komotini and Rudozem – Xanthi. This bilateral agreement has been the basis for the previous development of the Bulgaria-Greece border region.

During the previous years, Phare CBC programmes and INTERREG programmes have contributed to the implementation of this bilateral agreement, by financing the construction of the first border crossing road (Gotse Deltsev – Drama):

- Under CBC BG/GR 1998 – 9 MEUR for the Bulgarian access road to Ilinden (on the border between Gotse Deltsev and Drama)
• Under CBC BG/GR 1998 – 3 MEUR for the Bulgarian check point at Ilinden
• Under INTERREG II – Greek access road to Ilinden

The agreed draft Joint Programming Document of April 2000 states that the implementation of this bilateral agreement remains a priority for the development of the border region as a whole, and identifies the development of trans-national infrastructures as the first priority for Bulgaria – Greece co-operation. The necessity of developing border crossing infrastructures is also explained in the Bulgarian National Development plan. It is therefore proposed to continue the implementation of the 1995 bilateral agreement by financing the construction of the second border crossing road between Kardjali and Komotini. The PHARE 2000 Cross Border Co-operation Programme will support the construction of an access road of 17.67 Km Between Podkova and Makaza (on the border between Bulgaria and Greece). The construction of the mirror road on Greek side has started with the construction of the Komotini- Nimfea link (23 Km.) with an overall cost of 36 MEUR and it is financed by INTERREG Programme.

This project is in compliance with the Accession Partnership and the National Programme for the Adoption of the Acquis in the transport sector, notably extension of Trans-European Corridor No IX. Since this project happens to be an incidental and indispensable part of the above mentioned regional development plan, with respect to the Council Regulation 1266/1999 on Co-ordination of pre-accession assistance the project is proposed for Phare CBC funding rather than ISPA funding. This choice is also justified by the strong local cross-border impact of the project (it will considerably shorten the distance between several Bulgarian and Greek towns) by the importance of the local traffic (see annexes of project fiche) and by the related activities previously financed through CBC programmes It should be noted that this choice was also mentioned in the draft National ISPA Transport Strategy for Bulgaria (Oct 1999).

The project includes two main components:
• Civil works for construction of the road section Podkova - Makaza from km 367+170 to km 384+840 with estimated costs of 24 MEUR
• Works Supervision services (including for operational expenses estimated at 15,000 EURO) with estimated costs of 2 MEUR

The PHARE contribution will finance up to 17 MEUR, the rest will be financed by the Bulgarian State Budget. For the Bulgarian contribution an additional contract will be signed with the same awarding company by PHARE procedures.

The section Podkova - Makaza Border Crossing will consist of a single carriageway, approximately 17.8 km long. The cross section of the new road construction generally comprises a 7 m wide carriageway with 2x1.75 m wide shoulders stabilised with crushed stone. The design speed adopted for the road is generally 80 km/h. The road construction also includes surface water drainage works, road markings, new traffic signs, guard rails, kerbs and landscaping. A number of big structures and culverts will be constructed. For the cities of Kardjali and Haskovo the distance to Komotini will be decreased by 228 km and 112 km respectively.

1.3.2. Environmental Protection Projects : BG0008.02 - Construction of Cut & Cover Tunnel at Gotse Deltsev - Drama Border Crossing for Bears protection

The PHARE Cross Border Co-operation Programme will support the construction of a 150 m section of a 550 m long cut and cover tunnel to new Cross Border Crossing between Greece and Bulgaria (Gotse-Deltsev - Drama). The construction of this tunnel is necessary in order to limit the impact of the approach road under construction (and co-financed by Phare CBC 1998) on a population of Brown Bears. Subject to the adoption of the Greek INTERREG III programme, the Greek part of the tunnel (400 m) should be co-financed by INTERREG III.
The construction of a new approach road to the new border crossing point was originally promulgated under the Bulgarian 98 programme for road improvement and rehabilitation schemes in the Southern Border Region Roads Project. The original scope of works for this project as tendered during November 1998 comprised the construction of a new road from the town of Goce Delcev to the border crossing on the Bulgaria/Greece border. The road, some 13km in length, comprised new construction including road intersections, structures, and the construction of utilities. The design speed adopted for the road was generally 80km/h reducing to 50km/h through populated areas and reduced curves. In addition the project covered drainage works, road markings, traffic signs, landscaping, etc.

Subsequent to tendering special environmental considerations were introduced as the result of additional studies by environmental specialists appointed by the EC, and this has resulted in the need to amend the original scope of work from a surface structure to underground. The underground structure will sit partly in Bulgaria and partly in Greece, between the border crossing checkpoints of Ilinden in Bulgaria and Exohi in Greece. Consequently, the original length of the new road construction will be reduced by approx 1km to allow for the construction of both the tunnel and the Ilinden Border Crossing Check Point.

The project includes three main components:
- Preparation of the project including Detailed Design and construction of the access to the tunnel road with an estimated budget of 1 MEUR which consists of the Bulgarian contribution to the project
- Civil works for construction of the Bulgarian part of the cut and cover tunnel, including supply of all equipment, necessary for the operation of the tunnel, with estimated costs of 2.5 MEUR
- Works Supervision services for the Bulgarian part of the tunnel (including operational costs for the needs of the project: 10,000 EURO) with estimated costs of 0.5 MEUR.

Concerning the construction of the tunnel, it was agreed that each country will launch its own tender procedure for each part of the tunnel. For a better co-ordination, the whole procedure will be monitored by a common expert committee that has been already established for the needs of the project.

2. BUDGET

The following table specifies the EU contribution as well as national co-finance to the programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Priority / Project Title</th>
<th>PHARE 2000</th>
<th>National Co-financing in M€</th>
<th>Total in M€</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>BG0008.01</td>
<td>Transport infrastructure</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Construction of the Access Road (Podkova-Makaza) to the new Border Crossing between Greece and Bulgaria (Makaza - Nimfe)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>BG0008.02</td>
<td>Environmental protection</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Construction of Cut &amp; Cover Tunnel at Gotse Deltev - Drama Border Crossing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

3.1. The CBC Implementing Agency is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, which retains overall responsibility for the implementation of the whole programme. This includes:
approval of terms reference, of tender documents, of evaluation criteria, of evaluation of offers, signature of contracts, authorisation and payments of invoices.

The Relevant project beneficiary institution is the Foreign Investment and Concession Department of General Road Administration (GRA), within the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. This department is responsible towards the CBC Implementing Agency for the operational management of the projects: preparation of terms reference, of tender documents, of evaluation criteria, of evaluation of offers, of contracts, of invoices for payment. For works contracts under FIDIC rules, an official of the project beneficiary institution acts as the Employer and invoices have to be certified by the independent Engineer contracted and financed by the Programme.

Project beneficiary institution reports monthly to the CBC Implementing Agency (with direct copies to the EC Delegation) with monthly disbursement and commitment schedules and with sufficient detail to allow assessment of progress made and remaining work to be accomplished.

The Project Beneficiary Institutions liaises directly with the EC Delegation for all issues related to the operational management of the projects.

The existing project team within the Department that is staffed with 3 qualified full-time experts will be strengthened with 1 additional expert in order to cover the extra needs of the programme. Appropriate technical assistance to the project team is to be ensured, financed by the Programme.

3.2. The programme will be managed according to the Phare Decentralised Implementation System (DIS) procedures. The National Aid Co-ordinator (NAC) will have overall responsibility for programming, monitoring and implementation of Phare programmes.

The National Fund (NF) in the Ministry of Finance, headed by the National Authorising Officer (NAO) will supervise the financial management of the Programme, and will be responsible for reporting to the European Commission. Appropriate financial control shall be carried out by the competent National Control Authority with respect to the implementation the programme.

The Commission will transfer funds to the NF according to the respective Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Commission and the Bulgarian Government. Funds will be transferred following requests from the NAO. A payment of up to 20% of the funds to be managed locally will be transferred to the NF following signature of a Financing Memorandum and the Financing Agreements (FAs) between the NF and the Implementing Agencies. The provisions foreseen in articles 2 and 13 of the MoU on the NF must also be met. Furthermore, the NAO must submit to the Commission the designation of the PAO and a description of the system put in place, highlighting the flow of information between the NF and the Implementing Agency and the manner in which the payment function will be carried out.

Four Replenishments will be made of up to 20% of the funds to be managed locally or the full balance of the budget whichever is the lesser amount. The first replenishment will be triggered when 10% of the budget has been disbursed by the Implementing Agency. The second replenishment may be requested when 30% of the total budget in force has been disbursed. The trigger point for the third replenishment is 50%, and for the final fourth instalment when 70% is disbursed. Save for express prior authorisation from the Commission HQ, no replenishment request may be made if the aggregate of the funds deposited in the NF and the Implementing Agencies exceeds 10% of the total budget in force of the commitment. Exceptionally the NAO may request an advance payment of more than 20% in accordance with the procedures laid down in the aforesaid Memorandum of Understanding.

The National Fund will transfer funds to Implementing Agency, in accordance with Financing Agreement (FA) signed between the NF and the Implementing Agency. The FA will be endorsed in advance by the European Commission. In cases where the NF is itself the paying agent for the
Implementing Agency there will be no transfer of funds from the NF to the Implementing Agency. The Implementing Agency must be headed by a Programme Authorising Officer (PAO) appointed by the NAO after consultation with the NAC. The PAO will be responsible for all the operations carried out by the relevant Implementing Agency.

A separate bank account denominated in € (Euro) will be opened and managed by the NF in a separate accounting system in the Central Bank or in a bank agreed in advance with the Commission. In principle, all bank accounts will be interest bearing. Interest will be reported to the European Commission. If the Commission so decides, on the basis of a proposal from the NAO, interest may be reinvested in the Programme. The same procedures will apply to any funds transferred to the Implementing Agency.

The NAO and the PAO will ensure that all contracts are prepared in accordance with the procedures set out in the DIS Manual.

**All contracts must be concluded by 31 December 2002.**
**All disbursements must be made by 31 December 2003.**

**Any funds not used by the expiry date of the programme will be recovered by the Commission.**

For those contracts with funds retained for a warranty period extending beyond the end of the disbursement period of the programme, the overall total of funds related to those contracts, as calculated by the PAO and established by the Commission, will be paid to the Implementing Agency before the official closure of the programme. The Implementing Agency assumes full responsibility of depositing the funds until final payment is due and for ensuring that said funds will only be used to make payments related to the retention clauses. The Implementing Agency further assumes full responsibility towards the contractors for fulfilling the obligations related to the retention clauses. Interests accrued on the funds deposited will be paid to the Commission after final payment to the contractors. Funds not paid out to the contractors after final payments have been settled shall be reimbursed to the Commission. An overview of the use of funds deposited on warranty accounts - and notably of the payments made out of them and of interests accrued will be provided annually by the NAO to the Commission.

### 4. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

A Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) will be established. It will include the NAO, the NAC and the Commission. The JMC will meet at least once a year at to review all Phare funded programmes in order to assess their progress towards meeting the objectives set out in Financing Memoranda and the Accession Partnership. The JMC may recommend a change of priorities and/or re-allocation of Phare funds.

The JMC will be assisted by Monitoring Sub-Committees (MSC) which will include the NAC, the PAO of the CBC Programme and the Commission Services. The above-mentioned Joint Co-operation Committee will act as Monitoring Sub-Committee (MSC) for the CBC Programme. The JCC will review in detail the progress of the programme, including its components and contracts, on the basis of regular Monitoring and Assessment reports produced with the assistance of external consultant (in accordance with the provisions of the DIS Manual), and will put forward recommendations on aspects of management and design, ensuring these are effected. The JCC will report to the JMC, to which it will submit overall detailed reports on all Phare funded CBC programmes.

### 5. AUDIT AND EVALUATION
The accounts and operations of the National Fund, and all relevant Implementing Agencies may be checked at the Commission’s discretion by an outside auditor contracted by the Commission without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Commission and the Court of Auditors as referred to in the General Conditions relating to the Financing Memorandum attached to the Framework Agreement.

The Commission services shall ensure that an ex-post evaluation is carried out after completion of the Programme.

6. VISIBILITY / PUBLICITY

The Programme Authorising Officer (PAO) will be responsible for ensuring that the necessary measures are taken to ensure appropriate publicity for all activities financed from the Programme. This will be done in close liaison with the Commission Delegation. Further details are at the annex III “Visibility/Publicity”.

7. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

In the event that agreed commitments are not met for reasons, which are within the control of the respective Government of Bulgaria, the Commission may review the Programme with a view, at the Commission’s discretion, to cancelling all or part of it and/or to re-allocate unused funds for other purposes consistent with the objectives of the Phare Programme.

Almost all the appropriate structures for implementation and management have already been set up during the previous CBC programme, proving that parties involved are able to co-operate to fulfil the proposed objectives. A letter of commitment will accompany every project approved by JCC, stating the fact that local co-financing will be made available by the beneficiaries.

Each construction project will include adequate independent supervision of projects. Works will be tendered to pre-qualified contractors with relevant financial capacity, and technical and FIDIC experience.
ANNEX 3

Visibility/Publicity Annex

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY FOR THE PHARE PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Objective and scope

Information and publicity measures concerning assistance from the European Community Phare Programme are intended to increase public awareness and transparency of EU action and to create a consistent image of the measures concerned in all applicant countries. Information and publicity shall concern measures receiving a contribution from the Phare Programme.

2. General principles

The appropriate Programme Authorising Officer in charge of the implementation of Financing Memoranda, and other forms of assistance shall be responsible for publicity on the spot. Publicity shall be carried out in co-operation with the EC Delegations, which shall be informed of measures taken for this purpose.

The competent national and regional authorities shall take all the appropriate administrative steps to ensure the effective application of these arrangements and to collaborate with the EC Delegations on the spot.

The information and publicity measures described below are based on the provisions of the regulations and decisions applicable to the Structural Funds. They are:


Information and publicity measures must comply with the provisions of the above mentioned regulation and decision. A manual on compliance is available to national, regional and local authorities from the EC Delegation in the country concerned.

3. Information and publicity concerning Phare programmes

Information and publicity shall be the subject of a coherent set of measures defined by the competent national, regional and local authorities in collaboration with the EC Delegations for the duration of the Financing Memorandum and shall concern both programmes and other forms of assistance.

The costs of information and publicity relating to individual projects shall be met from the budget for those projects.

When Phare programmes are implemented, the measures set out at (a) and (b) below shall apply:
(a) The competent authorities of the applicant countries shall publish the content of programmes and other forms of assistance in the most appropriate form. They shall ensure that such documents are appropriately disseminated and shall hold them available for interested parties. They shall ensure the consistent presentation throughout the territory of the applicant country of information and publicity material produced.

(b) Information and publicity measures on the spot shall include the following:

(i) In the case of infrastructure investments with a cost exceeding EUR 1 million:

- billboards erected on the sites, to be installed in accordance with the provisions of the regulation and decision mentioned in paragraph 2 above, and the technical specifications of the manual to be provided by the EC Delegation in the country concerned.

- permanent commemorative plaques for infrastructures accessible to the general public, to be installed in accordance with the provisions of the regulation and decision mentioned in paragraph 2 above, and the technical specifications of the manual to be provided by the EC Delegation in the country concerned.

(ii) In the case of productive investments, measures to develop local potential and all other measures receiving financial assistance from Phare:

- measures to make potential beneficiaries and the general public aware of Phare assistance, in accordance with the provisions cited at paragraph 3(b)(i) above.

- measures targeting applicants for public aids part-financed by Phare, ISPA or SAPARD in the form of an indication on the forms to be filled out by such applications, that part of the aid comes from the EU, and specifically, the Phare Programmes in accordance with the provisions outlined above.
4. Visibility of EU assistance in business circles and among potential beneficiaries and the general public

4.1 Business circles

Business circles must be involved as closely as possible with the assistance which concerns them most directly.

The authorities responsible for implementing assistance shall ensure the existence of appropriate channels for disseminating information to potential beneficiaries, particularly SMEs. These should include an indication of the administrative procedures to be followed.

4.2 Other potential beneficiaries

The authorities responsible for implementing assistance shall ensure the existence of appropriate channels for disseminating information to all persons who benefit or could benefit from measures concerning training, employment or the development of human resources. To this end, they shall secure the co-operation of vocational training bodies involved in employment, business and groups of business, training centres and non-governmental organisations.

Forms

Forms issued by national, regional or local authorities concerning the announcement of, application for and grant of assistance intended for final beneficiaries or any other person eligible for such assistance shall indicate that the EU, and specifically the Phare Programme, is providing financial support. The notification of aid sent to beneficiaries shall mention the amount or percentage of the assistance financed by the Phare Programme. If such documents bear the national or regional emblem, they shall also bear the EU logo of the same size.

4.3 The general public

The media

The competent authorities shall inform the media in the most appropriate manner about actions co-financed by the EU, and Phare in particular. Such participation shall be fairly reflected in this information.

To this end, the launch of operations (once they have been adopted by the Commission) and important phases in their implementation shall be the subject of information measures, particularly in respect of regional media (press, radio and television). Appropriate collaboration must be ensured with the EC Delegation in the applicant country.

The principles laid down in the two preceding paragraphs shall apply to advertisements such as press releases or publicity communiqués.

Information events
The organisers of information events such as conferences, seminars, fairs and exhibitions in connection with the implementation of operations part-financed by the Phare Programme shall undertake to make explicit the participation of the EU. The opportunity could be taken of displaying the European flags in meeting rooms and the EU logo upon documents depending on the circumstances. The EC Delegation in the applicant country shall assist, as necessary, in the preparation and implementation of such events.

Information material

Publications (such as brochures and pamphlets) about programmes or similar measures financed or co-financed by Phare should, on the title page, contain a clear indication of the EU participation as well as the EU logo where the national or regional emblem is used.

Where such publications include a preface, it should be signed by both the person responsible in the applicant country and, for the Commission, the Delegate of the Commission to ensure that EU participation is made clear.

Such publications shall refer to the national and regional bodies responsible for informing interested parties.

The above-mentioned principles shall also apply to audio-visual material.

5. Special arrangements concerning billboards, commemorative plaques and posters

In order to ensure the visibility of measures part-financed by the Phare Programme, applicant countries shall ensure that the following information and publicity measures are complied with:

Billboards

Billboards providing information on EU participation in the financing of the investment should be erected on the sites of all projects in which EU participation amounts to EUR 1 million or more. Even where the competent national or regional authorities do not erect a billboard announcing their own involvement in financing the EU assistance must nevertheless be announced on a special billboard. Billboards must be of a size which is appreciable to the scale of operation (taking into account the amount of co-financing from the EU) and should be prepared according to the instructions contained in the technical manual obtainable from EC Delegations, referred to above.

Billboards shall be removed not earlier than six months after completion of the work and replaced, wherever possible, by a commemorative plaque in accordance with the specifications outlined in the technical manual referred to above.

Commemorative plaques

Permanent commemorative plaques should be placed at sites accessible to the general public (congress centres, airports, stations, etc.). In addition to the EU logo, such
plaques must mention the EU part-financing together with a mention of the Phare Programme.

Where a national, regional or local authority or another final beneficiary decides to erect a billboard, place a commemorative plaque, display a poster or take any other step to provide information about projects with a cost of less than EUR 1 million, the EU participation must also be indicated.

6. Final provisions

The national, regional or local authorities concerned may, in any event, carry out additional measures if they deem this appropriate. They shall consult the EC Delegation and inform it of the initiatives they take so that the Delegation may participate appropriately in their realisation.

In order to facilitate the implementation of these provisions, the Commission, through its Delegations on the spot, shall provide technical assistance in the form of guidance on design requirements, where necessary. A manual will be prepared in the relevant national language, which will contain detailed design guidelines in electronic form and this will be available upon request.