Commission Decision

of 1998

Establishing a global authorisation for a Special Assistance Programme for certain countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The Commission of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89 of 18 December 1989 on economic aid to certain countries of Central and Eastern Europe, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 753/96 of 22 April 1996, and in particular Article 9 thereof,

Whereas Regulation No 3906/89, lays down the rules and conditions for the granting of economic aid to certain countries of Central and Eastern Europe,

Whereas the measures provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on Aid for Economic Restructuring in certain countries of central and Eastern Europe,

HEREBY DECIDES AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Programme described in the Annex to the present decision is hereby adopted.

Article 2

The maximum amount of Community assistance shall be 6.1 MECU to be financed through budget line B7-500.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
FINANCING PROPOSAL

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

1. IDENTIFICATION:

Beneficiary states: The Phare partner countries
Programme: Special Assistance Programme
Year: 1998
Cost: 6.1 MECU
Implementing authority: European Commission
Expiry date: 31 December 1999 contracting
31 December 2000 disbursement
Sector: AA
Group: M
Budget line: B7-500
Task Manager: Ruud van Enk

2. SUMMARY:

The credits authorised under this proposal will be used to finance studies, meetings with experts, the organisation of conferences and congresses not appropriate for financing under other Phare programmes, but nevertheless directly linked to the objectives of the pre-accession strategy of which they form an integral part. Excluded from these activities is expenditure linked to information activities and publications, which is covered by a separate Financing Proposal.

3. OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this global authorisation is to allow for the execution of tasks related to the achievement of the objectives of the Phare programme and, in particular, the pre-accession strategy, which do not fall under the scope of any specific national, cross-border or multi-country programme.

4. DESCRIPTION:

The measure is intended to cover expenditure of the following activities organised by the Commission, in accordance with the budgetary comment in the 1998 budget:

- meetings of experts
- organisation of conferences and congresses
- studies.
A maximum amount of 12.2 MECU has been earmarked for expenditure under the budgetary comment. This amount is split in two; 6.1 MECU for information and publications, and 6.1 MECU for meetings of experts, conferences and congresses, and studies.

Expenditure on information and publications, which is also covered by the budgetary comment, is subject of a separate Financing Proposal, on which the Phare Management Committee expressed its Opinion in March 1998.

The budget of the Special Assistance Programme is to be divided as follows (in MECU):

| Cost of expert meetings, including cost of overnight stay, representation and travel expenses | 4 |
| Cost of organisation of congresses and conferences deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of the pre-accession strategy | 0.6 |
| Expenditure on studies required to meet the objectives of the Phare programme in the context of the pre-accession strategy | 1.5 |
| **Total** | **6.1** |

5. **COST:**

The total cost of the Special Assistance Programme is 6.1 MECU.

6. **IMPLEMENTATION:**

The programme will be implemented by the Commission on behalf of the national authorities. Normal procedures in force for other EU aid programmes will be applied.

7. **DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE: (in MECU, accumulated)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. **AUDIT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**

The Commission services shall:

a. monitor the implementation of the Programme on the basis of regular reports, and;

b. sign contracts with independent consultants to follow progress of the programme and its components, and carry out an ex-post evaluation after completion of the programme.

In order to facilitate these activities, a detailed set of indicators of achievement will be defined according to the objectives and targets of the programme.