COMMISSION DECISION
OF 1999

Establishing a global authorisation for a Small Projects 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 (EC) No 1266/99 of 21 June 1999, 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 4 MEUR to be financed through budget line B7-500.

Done at Brussels,
For the Commission
FINANCING PROPOSAL

GLOBAL AUTHORISATION UNDER THE PHARE PROGRAMME FOR A SMALL PROJECTS PROGRAMME

1. IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiary states: The Phare countries
Programme: Small Projects Programme
Year: 1999
Cost: 4 MEUR
Expiry date: 31.12.2000, contracting
31.12.2001, disbursement
Sector: AA
Group: M
Budget line: B7-500
Task Manager: Andrew Rasbash
(programming)
Task Manager: Karen Hodgson, Joan Scott (EAC DG, for traineeship scheme)
(implementation)

2. SUMMARY

The funds authorised under this proposal will be used to supply grant support for projects in favour of the Phare candidate countries, which fall outside the direct scope of national or multi-beneficiary Phare programmes, but support the implementation of the Phare programme in general and aim in particular to contribute to closer European integration of the beneficiary countries, and greater awareness within these countries of EU activities, accession and enlargement.

3. BACKGROUND

Given the Commission’s activities aimed at closer involvement of the citizen within the European Union itself (eg. Citizens First), it is appropriate for the Commission to support activities with a broadly similar aim in the countries that have applied for EU membership. Whereas the national Phare programmes concentrate on large projects, this programme aims to support projects of modest cost, which have a potentially significant impact in terms of goodwill and awareness.

The programme will, within the framework of pre-accession, allow the Commission to support activities, which complement the Phare programme by helping different actors to prepare for accession. These activities will be small-scale by nature, but will nevertheless be justified in that their knock-on effect will be far greater than the resources committed.
4. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the programme is to (a) raise awareness in these countries on European integration and associated issues, (b) contribute directly to closer European integration of the beneficiary country, and (c) increase the visibility of the European Union in the partner countries.

5. DESCRIPTION

The programme will finance a number of different types of actions directly linked to the objectives of the Phare programme, and in particular in line with the pre-accession strategy. The final beneficiaries will be institutions, agencies, social, economic, political, or cultural actors in the partner countries.

The programme will finance the following:

1. A traineeship scheme for officials of Phare partner countries

In the context of institution building and assistance for integration and approximation of legislation, the programme will finance the costs of placing officials from the candidate countries on traineeships within the European Commission for periods of up to 6 months. This scheme may be extended to other Institutions of the European Union. The individuals who will participate in this scheme will be selected by the partner countries.

The scheme will operate with two intakes per year of up to 50 officials each. The relevant budget will be sub-delegated to the Commission’s Education and Culture DG.

2. A small projects facility

Projects to benefit from this facility comprise a wide variety of activities initiated by third parties (e.g. international organisations, professional organisations, chambers of commerce, local authorities, universities, NGOs and other non-profit organisations, consumer associations, etc.) within the wider framework of the objectives of the Phare programme. Projects should complement the Phare programme and be closely related to priority areas selected in the Accession Partnerships, and be complementary or subsequent to main Phare projects.

Requests submitted on a multi-country basis are to be managed centrally by the Commission in Brussels. Such requests should comply with existing criteria and procedures relevant to previous multi-disciplinary programmes and the 1997 and 1998 Small Projects Programmes (see Annex). Projects aimed at meeting local needs in the partner countries will be managed by the Delegations of the Commission on a de-centralized basis. The Phare contribution to such projects should not exceed 50,000 EUR, and it should be clearly demonstrated that their purpose is to raise awareness on European integration and related issues, contribute directly to closer European integration of the beneficiary country, and increase the visibility of the European Union in the partner country.
6. COST

The total budget of the programme will be 4 MEUR.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

The programme will be implemented by the Commission. The traineeship scheme will be managed centrally by the Commission through its Headquarters in Brussels. Implementation of the small projects facility will be based on existing internal procedures relevant to previous multi-disciplinary programmes, and be managed by the Commission. For projects submitted on a national basis, the Commission Delegations will ensure selection of projects, contracting and payments.

8. BUDGET BREAKDOWN

8.1 Allocation for each action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Budget in EUR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traineeship Scheme</td>
<td>600,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Projects Facility: HQ</td>
<td>800,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small Projects Facility: Delegations</td>
<td>2,600,000</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>4,000,000</td>
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8.2 Small Projects Facility: Delegations – Allocation per country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Allocation in EURO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>250,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>550,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>150,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>2,600,000</td>
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9. DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (4 € MILLION ACCUMULATED)

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<td>2.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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10. AUDIT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Commission Services shall:

a. monitor the implementation of the programme on the basis of regular reports from all relevant Delegations.

b. follow the progress of the programme and its components and carry out an ex-post evaluation after completion of the programme.

The Commission shall ensure that it is able to supply to the budgetary authorities on request all relevant information relating to the implementation of the programme.