COMMISSION DECISION
OF 2000


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 in its meetings in Luxembourg and in Helsinki the European Council reiterated the importance of the participation of applicant countries in Community agencies as part of the enhanced Pre-Accession Strategy,

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 establishing the 2000-2001 preparatory measures for future participation of all candidate countries from Central and Eastern Europe in the Community agencies: i) European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, ii) European Environment Agency, iii) European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products, iv) Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market, v) European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and vi) Translation Centre for Bodies of the European Union, is hereby adopted. It shall be implemented on the basis of a Framework Agreement to be signed between the Commission and each agency concerned.

Article 2

The amount of Community assistance shall be 5,174,362 EUR to be financed through article B7-030 of the 2000 Budget.

Done in Brussels,

For the Commission,
Participation of candidate countries from Central and Eastern Europe (CEECs) in Community programmes and agencies in 2000 and 2001

1. IDENTIFICATION.

Beneficiaries: 8 candidate countries (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia) and 6 Community Agencies.

Programme: Special programme composed of the following parts:

1) Participation of candidate countries from Central and Eastern Europe in the following 8 Community programmes:
   - SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises), Equal Opportunities for men and women, SAVE II (promotion of energy efficiency), Media II (audiovisual), Combating Cancer, Drug Dependence, Health Promotion and Prevention of Aids.

2) Preparatory measures for future participation of all candidate countries from Central and Eastern Europe in the following 6 Community agencies:
   - i) European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, ii) European Environment Agency,

Year: 2000

Cost: 8,110,593 EURO

Expiry date: 30 June 2001, for contracting
            31 December 2001, for disbursement

Implementing authority: European Commission

Sector: AA (Multidisciplinary)

Group: C (National Programmes) plus L for the multi-country programme

Budget line: B7-030

Task Manager: Mr. Vicente Nieto for overall co-ordination.
2. SUMMARY

The ten candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEECs) have continued participating increasingly in 1999 in the various Community programmes currently opened to them on the basis of the relevant Association Council decisions defining the terms and conditions for such a participation.

To participate in these programmes, the CEECs will have to pay each year a financial contribution, which is established in the Association Council decisions. This contribution will be added to the programmes' budget. Most CEECs expressed their wish to use part of their national Phare allocations as a complement to their national budget to finance their contribution as entry ticket to most of these programmes.

This is the second Financing Proposal submitted to the Phare Management Committee for CEEC participation in 2000 in Community programmes. The first one, approved on 30 March 2000, dealt with the participation of the 10 CEECs in the 4 most costly programmes (the 5th Framework Programme on research and three programmes in the fields of education, training and youth). This one covers the remaining 8 programmes for which this kind of participation will take place this year.

In addition to this usual intervention of Phare, it is now proposed for the first time to allocate special funds in order to prepare the forthcoming participation of the ten CEECs in some Community agencies.

3. BACKGROUND

The European Council of Helsinki (December 1999) confirmed the enlargement process launched at its meeting of December 1997 in Luxembourg. The enhanced Pre-Accession Strategy defined in 1997 was reiterated, including the participation of the 13 candidate countries in Community programmes and agencies as an important part of such strategy.

Concerning Community programmes

As regards the ten candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEECs), participation in Community programmes is established in their respective Europe Agreements. According to these specific provisions,

- these countries may participate in Community programmes in a wide range of areas enumerated in a non-exhaustive manner;
- it will be up to each Association Council to decide on the terms and conditions of participation;
- CEECs will themselves bear the cost of their participation. The Community may, however, decide to provide complementary financial support from the national Phare appropriations.

In this connection, the Luxembourg European Council indicated that candidate countries should steadily increase their own financial contribution, but agreed that Phare, if necessary, would continue to part-finance these countries’ financial contributions up to around 10% of
the Phare appropriation, “not including participation in the research and development framework programme”.

The ten CEECs have increasingly been participating in the various Community programmes currently opened to them on the basis of more than 100 Association Council Decisions defining the terms and conditions for such a participation.

A total amount of 82,465,556 EUR was approved by the Phare Management Committee on 30 March 2000 for supporting the participation of CEECs in four Community programmes (Leonardo da Vinci II, Socrates II, Youth and the 5th Framework Programme on research) in 2000.

In the case of the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Equal Opportunities for men and women, SAVE II, Combating Cancer, Drug Dependence, Health Promotion and Prevention of Aids programmes, most of the CEECs have been participating in 1999. CEEC participation will continue, on the basis of the relevant Association Council Decisions (see Annex I), until the end of 2000, which is the scheduled expiry date of all these programmes (SAVE II has been extended until 2002).

Following negotiations with Bulgaria on its participation in the Media II programme, a draft Association Council decision has recently been proposed by the Commission to the EU Council where it is being discussed.

(A comprehensive information table on the state of play is provided in Annex II)

**Concerning Community agencies**

The ten Europe Agreements with the candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe do not establish participation in Community agencies (see list of Agencies in Annex III).

Nevertheless, following the European Council's conclusions in Luxembourg and Helsinki, the Commission proposed to the Council in its Communication of 20 December 1999 on "Participation of candidate countries in the Community programmes, agencies and committees" that bilateral agreements should be concluded with the CEECs defining the terms of their full participation (but without voting rights) in the activities of those agencies whose features make desirable such participation as soon as possible. Depending on the respective constraints and nature of the agencies and in view of preparing this kind of participation, it should initially take the form of participation in some ad hoc meetings, groups of experts and other specific work of mutual interest being carried out by the agencies concerned.

Since preparatory actions of this kind, anticipating future full participation, require additional work for the agencies themselves, leading to supplementary administrative costs, the Commission recommends that Phare funds be allocated to these agencies for this specific purpose and on a temporary basis. At present, six Community agencies are well advanced in preparing the above-mentioned initial forms of CEEC participation.
The following agencies have requested Phare support for this specific purpose:

- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Thessaloniki)
- European Environment Agency (Copenhagen)
- European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (London)
- Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (Alicante)
- Agency for Safety and Health at Work (Bilbao)
- Translation Centre for Bodies of the European Union (Luxembourg)

This Phare specific funding should be directly granted to these six agencies from multi-country Phare appropriations.

4. **Policy Assessment**

Participation of candidate countries from Central and Eastern Europe in Community programmes and agencies has been confirmed by the European Council as one of the key-features of the enhanced Pre-Accession Strategy. Their participation will not only contribute towards the implementation of the provisions relating to economic, social and cultural co-operation in the Europe Agreements; it will also enable these countries to familiarise themselves with the Union policies and working methods.

*Concerning Community programmes*

All applicant countries have shown a very strong interest in participating in these programmes as much as possible on the same footing as Member States. Confirmations of actual interest thereto are taken at Government level, as is the case for the budgetary appropriations, which they have to earmark for this purpose.

Annex IV provides an overview of both total CEEC financial contribution to all programmes (including those mentioned above on research and educational sectors) required in 2000 and the Phare part of this contribution, as laid down in the relevant Association Council Decisions (except those regarding the 5th Framework Programme).

Participation in these programmes will allow citizens and national administrations of CEECs and Member States to develop co-operation and exchange networks and should speed up these countries' preparation for accession to the European Union. Full participation will benefit both the CEECs and the EU. It will support economic development in the CEECs. This will also contribute to progressively achieving the goal of training personnel for the public administrations involved in the Community programmes concerned and thus correspond to “Institution Building”, a major priority for Phare in the context of the Pre-Accession Strategy.

*Concerning Community agencies*

Preparation for full participation in some Community agencies is a fundamental step towards familiarising the candidate countries with the Community acquis in the broad sense of the term. As in the case of Community programmes, it could serve the interests of both the Union and the candidate countries for the latter to participate in all the Community
agencies as soon as possible on a basis which takes account of their respective constraints and circumstances.

5. **COST AND FINANCING PLAN**

**Concerning Community programmes**

As proposed by the Commission in the above-mentioned Communication of December 1999, new financial modalities will be applied to simplify the management of the participation of the candidate countries in programmes. Each year the funds will be transferred directly to the country concerned to help the country pay its contribution within the deadline requested by the programme.

Most of the CEECs expressed their willingness to use part of their Phare funds for supplementing their own contributions to the Community programmes covered by this Financing Proposal. The breakdown between financial efforts of their own and support from their national Phare programmes, within the 10% limit, has been defined in relevant Association Council decisions, which cover the lifetime of the Community programmes in which each of these countries participates. This breakdown differs, sometimes substantially, country by country. Some countries have opted for paying each year more or less equal parts from their State budget and from Phare. Others draw heavily on their Phare allocation in the first year of participation, with a steadily increasing effort of their own during the following years. In all cases administrative costs will be covered by these countries from their own State budgets.

The financial contribution required for each country to cover the costs of its participation in each of these programmes has been calculated by the Commission on the basis of objective parameters, such as GDP and population, and other specific parameters with high relevance for the programme concerned.

As mentioned above, CEECs have been participating in 1999, and will continue to do so until the end of 2000, in the following programmes which belong to the former "generation": Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Equal Opportunities for men and women, SAVE II, Combating Cancer, Drug Dependence, Health Promotion and Prevention of Aids. This CEEC participation takes place on the basis of Association Council Decisions which provide that financial contributions from CEECs, and possible Phare complementary funds, will cover subsidies or any other financial support from the programmes to participants from the CEEC concerned ("juste retour" principle).

This implies that funds (both from national State budget and from Phare) remaining from the 1999 commitments and not contracted have been transferred to the 2000 budgetary exercise and then deducted from the stipulated 2000 contributions of the countries concerned. The 1999 Phare leftovers are shown in Annex V.

The new provisions of the Association Council Decisions concerning participation in the new "generation" of programmes stipulate that financial contributions from a candidate country, if unused for participants from this country, will not be reimbursed to the country concerned nor deducted from its contributions for the following year. Consequently eventual leftovers might be used to cover the costs for subsidies or other financial support from the programmes to individual or institutional participants from any other country. Similarly, the
level of participation of each CEEC will depend on the results of the selection of projects, but will not be limited to the precise amount of its financial contribution as it was in the past. The possible Phare complementary support follows the same rules.

This scheme was applied to the CEECs, for the first time, as regards their participation in the 5th RTD Framework Programme, which started in 1999. It was proposed by the Commission to be extended to all new programmes in its Communication of December 1999. It has been approved again by the Phare Management Committee on 30 March 2000 concerning participation in the same Framework Programme plus three educational programmes (Socrates, Leonardo, Youth).

However, although Bulgaria will participate in the Media II programme in 2000 for the first time, the negotiated draft Association Council Decision follows the scheme applicable to programmes of the former generation, in order to ensure consistency with the conditions proposed by the Commission to Hungary in 1998 (even if this country has not accepted them so far).

Under this new scheme and in order to avoid any budgetary imbalance to the detriment of Member States or candidate countries, and ensure that the impact of these countries’ participation is as neutral as possible on the programmes’ budget available for Member States, the contributions that the candidate countries are required to pay for participation in the programmes have been calculated to achieve an optimum correlation with their absorption capacity.

Concerning Community agencies

In view of the required preparation of future participation in some Community agencies, multi-country Phare appropriations are now requested for 2000, in order to cover additional administrative costs borne by these agencies in implementing preparatory measures with the CEECs. In the future, further Phare contribution to this kind of participation will be allocated on the basis of co-financing by these countries.

Such preparatory measures are detailed in Annex VI.
In the light of the above, Phare funds required in 2000 for:

a) The ten CEECs (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) as regards participation in the following 8 Community programmes:

*SMEs, Equal Opportunities for men and women, SAVE II, Media II, Combating Cancer, Drug Dependence, Health Promotion and Prevention of Aids*

are those set out in the table below (see further details in Annex VII).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total programmes in Euro</th>
<th>Financing Memorandum Code</th>
<th>Total programmes in Euro</th>
<th>Financing Memorandum Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>706,121</td>
<td>BG0011</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Rep.</td>
<td>344,361</td>
<td>CZ0015</td>
<td>Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>29,189</td>
<td>ES0010</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>312,429</td>
<td>HU0013</td>
<td>Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>Slovenia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total: 2,936,231 EURO**

The Phare funds will only be transferred after the entry into force of the corresponding Association Council Decisions still pending (see Annex I).

At any rate, all funds will be transferred, according to Phare rules, from Budget article B7-030 to the countries concerned on the basis of separate Financing Memoranda covering CEEC involvement in programmes. The Phare funds will constitute, together with the country’s own contribution from its State budget, the country’s national contribution, out of which it will make payments in response to the calls for funds of the Commission’s Directorates-General responsible for the respective programmes. The Phare funds should thus be transferred so as to allow CEECs to meet the deadlines for paying their national contribution.

The total contribution will be entered in the EU Budget as earmarked revenue giving rise to supplementary appropriations opened under the relevant articles of the programmes concerned.

b) Preparatory measures related to future participation of the ten CEECs in the following six Community agencies:

*European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP), European Environment Agency (EEA), European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA), Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market*
OHMI, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (ASHW) and Translation Centre for Bodies of the European Union, are those set out in the table below (see further details in Annex VI).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CEDEFOP</th>
<th>EEA</th>
<th>EMEA</th>
<th>OHMI</th>
<th>ASHW</th>
<th>Translation Centre</th>
<th>Total (in Euro)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>380,000</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td>2,657,958</td>
<td>149,404</td>
<td>780,000</td>
<td>107,000</td>
<td>5,174,362</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summarising, the total Phare funds required in 2000 under this Financing Proposal is 8,110,593 EURO (participation in programmes: 2,936,231; participation in agencies: 5,174,362).

(A comprehensive table on the Phare funds required in 2000 for the 12 programmes covered both by this Financing Proposal and that approved on 30 March is provided in Annex VIII)

6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

The Phare funds will be transferred directly to:

a) the CEECs participating in Community programmes on the basis of separate Financing Memoranda to be signed between the Commission and each country. Due to the specificity to these activities, funds will be transferred in a single tranche to the National Fund of each of the countries. These funds will be taken from their national Phare allocations. The National Fund will be responsible for transferring the funds back to the Commission together with the national contribution, following the call for funds of the Commission's Directorates General responsible for the programmes concerned. Article 4 of the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the National Fund will thus not apply in this particular case. It should be noted, however, that the Phare contribution for each programme may only be transferred after the entry into force of the corresponding Association Council Decisions. Where there is a delay in the entry into force of the Association Council Decision the payment to the National Fund may be divided into two or more tranches.

b) the 6 Community agencies concerned on the basis of a Framework Agreement and the subsequent annual contribution agreements to be signed between the Commission and each agency concerned. These funds will be taken from multi-country Phare appropriations and paid, in a single tranche, through a centralised manner by the Commission (and not by the countries concerned).
7. **AUDIT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The monitoring procedures applied in the programmes will also cover operations financed for candidate country beneficiaries.

All contracts, agreements and legal commitments between the Commission and recipients of payments provide for in situ checks by the Commission and the Court of Auditors. The accounts and operations of the programme 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 European Union's Court of Auditors.

Recipients of support under specific actions are under the obligation to provide a report and financial statement which are analysed from the point of view of content and eligibility of expenditure in accordance with the objective of Community funding and bearing in mind the contractual obligations and the principles of sound and efficient management.

The evaluation foreseen in the decisions establishing the programmes will also cover operations financed for candidate country beneficiaries.
Annex I

ASSOCIATION COUNCIL DECISIONS

(sorted by sector)

Small and medium-sized enterprises

Decision N° 4/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Bulgaria, of the other part of 23 November 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Bulgaria in the Community programme in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (99/111/EC) OJ L35/23 of 09.02.99

Decision N° 3/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic of the other part of 25 November 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Czech Republic in the Community programme in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (99/15/EC) OJ L6/11 of 12.01.99

Decision N° 5/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Estonia, of the other part of 4 November 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Estonia in the Community programme in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (98/645/EC) OJ L307/27 of 17.11.98

Decision N° 2/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Hungary, of the other part of 23 November 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Hungary in the Community programme in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (98/722/EC) OJ L343/36 of 18.12.98


Decision N° 2/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part of 5 November 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Poland in the Community programme in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (98/670/EC) OJ L315/35 of 25.11.98
Decision N° 2/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Romania, of the other part of 14 December 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Romania in the Community programme in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (99/107/EC) OJ L35/4 of 09.02.99

Decision N° 3/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part of 4 November 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Slovak Republic in the Community programme in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (99/115/EC) OJ L35/39 of 09.02.99

Decision N°4/99 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Slovenia of the other part of 30 September 1999 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Slovenia in the Community programme in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises (99/709/EC) OJ L 281/79 of 04.11.1999.

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the Community position within the Association Council on the participation of Latvia in the Community programme in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Energy efficiency

Decision N° 6/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Bulgaria, of the other part of 11 December 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Bulgaria in the Community programme for energy efficiency, SAVE II (99/113/EC) OJ L35/29 of 9.2.99

Decision N° 4/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part of 27 November 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Czech Republic in the Community programme for energy efficiency, SAVE II (99/16/EC) OJ L6/14 of 12.1.99

Decision N° 2/99 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Hungary, of the other part of 12 July 1999 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Hungary in the Community programme for energy efficiency, SAVE II (99/626/EC) OJ L247/27 of 18.09.1999.

Decision N° 2/99 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Lithuania, of the other part of 21 May 1999 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Lithuania in the Community programme for energy efficiency, SAVE II (99/409/EC, ECSC, Euratom) OJ L156/27 of 23.06.1999.
Decision N° 4/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the **Republic of Poland**, of the other part of 3 November 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Poland in the Community programme for energy efficiency, SAVE II (99/12/EC) OJ L6/4 of 12.1.99

Decision N° 1/99 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and **Romania**, of the other part of 26 February 1999 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Romania in the Community programme for energy efficiency, SAVE II (99/248/EC, ECSC, Euratom) OJ L96/19 of 10.4.99

Decision N° 2/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the **Slovak Republic**, of the other part of 9 October 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Slovak Republic in the Community programme for energy efficiency, SAVE II (98/593/EC) OJ L284/47 of 22.10.98

**Proposal** for a Council Decision concerning the Community position within the Association Council on the participation of **Latvia** in the multiannual Community programme for energy efficiency, SAVE II.

**Proposal** for a Council Decision concerning the Community position within the Association Council on the participation of **Slovenia** in the multiannual Community programme for energy efficiency, SAVE II.

**Audio-visual**

**Proposal** for a Council Decision concerning the Community position within the Association Council on the participation of **Bulgaria** in a Community programme within the framework of Community audio-visual policy [COM(00) 292].

**Health and Social Policy**


Decision n° 2/99 of the Association Council, between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the **Czech Republic**, of the other part of 25 October 1999 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Czech Republic in the...


Decision n° 1/98 of the Association Council between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Hungary, of the other part, of 12 October 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Hungary in Community programmes in the fields of Health and Social Policy. (98/616/EC) OJ L295/40 of 4.11.98

Decision n°3/99 of the Association Council, between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Lithuania, of the other part of 21 May 1999 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Republic of Lithuania in the Community programmes in the fields of health and social policy (99/410/EC, ECSC, Euratom) OJ L156/30 of 23.06.1999.

Decision n°6/98 of the Association Council, between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Romania, of the other part of 30 December 1998 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of Romania in the Community programmes in the fields of health and social policy. (1999/110/EC) OJ L35/18 of 9.2.1999.

Decision n° 5/99 of the Association Council, between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Slovenia, of the other part of 3 November 1999 adopting the terms and conditions for the participation of the Republic of Slovenia in the Community programmes in the fields of Health and Social Policy (99/777/EC) OJ L304/27 of 27.11.1999.

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Community Agencies

(1) European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training  
Thessaloniki  

(2) European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions  
Dublin  

(3) European Environment Agency  
Copenhagen  

(4) European Training Foundation  
Turin  

(5) European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction  
Lisbon  

(6) European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products  
London  

(7) Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market  
Alicante  

(8) European Agency for Safety and Health at Work  
Bilbao  

(9) Community Plant Variety Office  
Angers  

(10) Translation Centre for Bodies of the European Union  
Luxembourg  

(11) European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia  
Vienna  

(12) European Agency for Reconstruction  
Thessaloniki  
Preparatory measures in view of future CEEC participation in the following Community agencies

I. European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)

In recent years the CEDEFOP Management Board has been playing increasing attention to the concerns of candidate countries. It discussed the issue as early as 1995. In the following years co-operation with these countries was chiefly through the European Training Foundation (ETF). In 1997 CEDEFOP and the ETF signed a Memorandum of Understanding and have co-operated actively.

CEDEFOP has prepared an overview of costs and estimates of financial needs in order to intensify the familiarisation of the candidate countries with CEDEFOP activities over the period 2000-2002. The costs detailed below (in EURO) correspond to projects for co-operation in 2000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost (EUR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staffing and missions</td>
<td>160 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenditure</td>
<td>60 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational expenditure*</td>
<td>160 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>380 000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. European Environment Agency (EEA)

In response to the application for EEA membership submitted by the 13 candidate countries and on the basis of the EU Council’s mandate, negotiations between the Commission and these countries were officially opened on 27 March 2000. In this respect the EEA is the first EU body opened for the new candidate countries in terms of membership, recognising the importance of environment within the pre-accession strategy. In parallel with the negotiation process the countries and EEA are having in this period the task of preparing the enlargement on institutional terms, extension of activities, procedural aspects etc.

Within this context, considerable efforts are expected in 2000 – 2001 from the side of EEA in order to ensure the transitory steps between the present co-operation and the new membership status. In order to fulfil all requirements set up in the EEA founding regulation and ensure a fast and complete integration of the candidate countries in the EEA Work Programme, the Agency has to develop the following coherent set of activities implying various contributions from both the topic specialist as well as management levels in the EEA.

The present project proposal is aiming to respond to the provisions of the Commission Communication to the Council of December 1999 and details the expected support the EEA will need during this transition process, as far as the 10 Phare candidate countries are concerned. The time horizon envisaged for the present project proposal is mid 2000-mid 2001.

At the same time the proposed activities are building on the present co-operation established between the EEA and the ten Phare candidate countries with Phare Multi-Country programme support.

a) Support for future implementation of the Work Programme

Under this task the EEA project managers for each topic (jointly with the Phare expert team in the EEA as counterpart) will have to allocate time to cover this work and ensure the harmonisation of the activities with those developed by the related European Topic Centres, through planning, meetings, monitoring progress etc.. Consequently the following subtasks are envisaged:

- management and co-ordination of Phare Topic Links in the field of: air quality, air emissions, inland waters, land cover and nature conservation (for 2000).
- management and co-ordination of the extended European Topic Centres (in both geographical terms and activities) by covering also the Phare candidate countries (for 2001).
- management and co-ordination of environmental reporting activities, in an extended geographical coverage (all candidate countries will be fully reflected in the major EEA reports for 2000/2001, namely the Biodiversity Report, Environmental signals Report, Kiev Report).
- management and co-ordination of the EIONET telematic network extension and applications development to the CEECs.
✔ management and co-ordination of the extended EIONET by facilitating the participation of the candidate countries experts in all relevant EEA events (regular meetings, expert meetings, working groups etc.) following the EEA Work Programme.

✔ supporting the extension of the ETC structure, by including relevant organizations from the candidate countries, among the consortia partners.

✔ preparation of a three year Action Programme for the integration of the new members in all EEA Work Programme activities/activities to be initiated/developed and the responsible structure/person in charge in EEA and at the national level; logistic/administrative and procedural arrangements to be addressed by EEA to facilitate the full participation of the candidate countries).

b) Data collection, assessment and reporting activities to be carried out by EEA over the transition period

The Phare funding supporting the candidate countries in responding to the major EEA needs (reporting and topic centres work) will end in October 2000. In order to ensure a normal continuation of these activities and co-ordinate them with the ongoing support in areas such as: EIONET development, information dissemination and participation to major EEA events) a special support has to be provided. Additional human resources are needed to continue and prepare the hand over of these activities to the new members which will gradually join EEA in 2001 in parallel with the normal performance of the EEA tasks. The task will include concrete activities in terms of:

✔ Expand the European Topic Centre work in data collection activities as basis for the main EEA reports;

✔ assessment and development of indicators;

✔ writing chapters/reports covering also the applicant countries;

✔ maintaining the regular contacts and information flow with the national network (per each topic area);

c) Support for the EEA enlargement process

This task will be mainly performed by the EEA Programme Managers and the top management level of the EEA. In concrete terms it relates to the following subtasks:

✔ management and co-ordination of the overall co-operation per major activity area according with EEA WP (assessment and reporting, monitoring and thematic reporting and information technology and dissemination);

✔ management and co-ordination of the extended institutional network of the EEA (extended EIONET);

✔ co-ordination with the Phare Expert Team in EEA in charge of the Phare project co-ordination (in terms of work harmonisation per each main EEA activity area);

✔ support and assistance to the EC and the candidate countries by providing relevant data and information along the negotiation process;
✓ support the additional EEA work concerning all preparatory activities related to the recruitment of new staff and national experts (to be started six month in advance till the membership status is in place for the new countries).

d) **Support for environmental information dissemination**

Under this support component a wide dissemination policy is foreseen, covering EEA publications, reports and software distributed free of charge to all candidate countries and addressing various target groups.

e) **Logistic support activities for the extended network**

This task will cover all support services provided by EEA in order to maintain the extended network, ensure the meeting logistics and other related services implied by the daily work connected with the candidate countries.

**Main outputs**

As a result of the project the following outputs are expected:

✓ contribution to the gradual extension of the EEA Work Programme to the candidate countries;
✓ participation of the candidate countries' organisations in EEA and EIONET structures;
✓ inclosure in the major EEA reports of the candidate countries' environmental problems;
✓ support in terms of better compliance with the founding Regulation obligations (“provision of timely, targeted reliable and relevant information” etc.) from the new countries;
✓ technical support to the EC in the negotiating process through the outputs delivered by European Topic Centres;
✓ a concrete Action Plan for integration of the new members in the EEA Work Programme.

**Cost to support CEEC preparation and integration into EEA**

The cost of the project is estimated to **1,100,000 EURO** over a period of 12 months. Per cost categories the project will be structured as follows:

✓ **400 000 EURO** (500 man-days per year involving up to one-third of EEA staff) covering the gradual implementation of the entire Work Programme, integration of the work in one consistent structure for the European Topic Centres, extensive reflection of the candidate countries in the major EEA reports, future geographical extension of the work towards all EEA candidate countries as well as the technical support to the EC along the negotiation process, etc. (tasks a, c, and e).

✓ **600 000 EUR** – covering concrete activities in relation with the work to be performed by EEA and ETCs in extending the current work to the new members for the main EEA products. Additional human resources will be attracted to perform the work, including relevant experts and organisations from the candidate countries (task b);

✓ **100 000 EURO**, covering the publication, access and dissemination costs for EEA materials, reports and software provided free of charge and on a regular basis to the CEECs (both the number of publications and the target groups to be addressed will
considerably increase in line with the EU policy on the public access to information) – referring in particular to task d).
**III. European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA)**

In July 1999, the EMEA was awarded by the CEN a contract to run a programme of technical assistance to the CEECs in the pharmaceutical sector, the Pan-European Regulatory Forum (PERF). The project is currently financed from Phare funds and falls within the Regional Programme on Quality Assurance (PRAQ III).

The PERF II programme will run from November 2000 to December 2003. The current proposal deals only with the first phase of PERF II which runs from November 2000 to December 2001. It is assumed that funding for the programme is made available from PHARE in October 2000 in the form of a payment to the EMEA for inclusion in its budget.

The overall objective of the programme is to help candidate countries fulfil the requirements of the White Paper for Technical Regulations in respect of the pharmaceutical sector in order to be able to play a full part in the EU on accession. Following the completion of most of the original PERF contract, the PERF Steering Committee decided that PERF II should concentrate on four areas, namely:

- Implementation of the *acquis communautaire* (workshops on products on the market, borderline issues and phasing-in of products and procedures; review of legislation – input in the context of preparing the future accession);
- Good Manufacturing Practice (harmonisation of procedures; joint inspections);
- Pharmacovigilance (use of EudraWatch; crisis management);
- Inter Agency Training (joint activities aimed at the exchange of scientific information and staff; attendance at EU regulatory Working Party meetings with specific sessions for participating PHARE country delegates dealing with the background to issues of interest; case studies).

1. **Implementation of the *acquis communautaire***

Within the objectives of the PERF initiative, four concrete outcomes are proposed for the period 2000 to 2003:

- Guidelines useful for the enlarged membership of the EU on accession and as members;
- Refined definitions to resolve specific borderline issues;
- Defined procedures for “phasing in”; and
- The existence of suitably qualified and trained staff (in particular, with legal expertise) within the acceding countries to ensure appropriate incorporation of EU Directives

A continuation of the workshop meetings attended by delegates from all CADREAC (Collaboration Agreement between Drug Regulatory Authorities in European Union and Associated Countries) is proposed. The programme foresees five meetings over the 14 months, two of which will be held in Brussels in connection with Notice to Applicants or Emacolex meetings, and three in CEECs.
2. **Good Manufacturing Practice**

The concrete objectives proposed for the period 2000 to 2003 within this Priority Action Area are:

- Guidelines useful for the enlarged membership of the EU on accession and as members;
- Industry informed and in compliance;
- Operational Rapid Alert systems conforming to the EU Guideline in place; and
- Harmonised reporting requirements with peer review procedures in place

Initially, a focus on training, resources, gaining practical experience of the EU approaches and increased collaboration between inspectorates is proposed, the ultimate aim being to ensure that all inspectors throughout the enlarged EU will be operating with SOPs and systems to EU standards. The core of the programme for this first stage will be a series of joint inspections (5 of CADREAC industry, 3 of EU sites) plus 2 seminars on specific topics and one meeting including attendance by CADREAC delegates at the Ad hoc Inspectors meeting at the EMEA.

3. **Pharmacovigilance**

By 2003, it is expected that:

- Operational, reliable pharmacovigilance systems will be in place in all countries;
- Operational and tested crisis management systems will be in place in all countries
- A reliable pan-European communication system will be in place
- A guideline on risk/benefit analysis for pharmacovigilance will have been drafted

The initial programme concentrates on maintaining the contacts established between regulators during the PERF, ensuring that all parties are aware of topical pharmacovigilance issues and that a consistent pan-European approach to their resolution is being adopted, and implementation of pharmacovigilance systems on a Pan-European basis that function in accordance with EU guidelines. All meetings are linked to meetings of the CPMP Pharmacovigilance Working Party.

4. **Inter-agency training**

The desired outcome for this part of PERF II is that competent authorities operate and apply EU guidelines consistently and to the same standard in a verifiable way. In addition, emphasis will be placed on secure electronic communication.

This first phase will maintain contacts established during the original PERF through attendance by CADREAC delegates at workshops dealing with case studies, attendance by CADREAC delegates at an assessor training session and a programme of secondments of CADREAC assessors to EU competent authorities. 20 secondments are foreseen (5 countries sending delegates on secondment in connection with several topic areas).

5. **Conference**
A conference to report on progress during the first year of the extension of the PERF initiative is proposed. In line with the approach adopted for the Conference in Budapest in February 2000, it is expected that paying participants will cover a proportion of the costs. In budget terms, an allowance for the cost of attendance of CADREAC regulators as well as a need to support the conference financially has been foreseen. Alternatively, the organisation of two to three regional “mini-conferences” designed to promote a greater understanding of technical matters may be foreseen.

### Table: Proposed Budget Summary for Phase 1 of the Three Year Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PAA</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>EU €</th>
<th>CADREAC €</th>
<th>Total €</th>
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<tr>
<td>Acquis</td>
<td>5 Workshops</td>
<td>82,810</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>212,810</td>
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<tr>
<td>GMP</td>
<td>2 Seminars, 8 joint inspections</td>
<td>61,464</td>
<td>100,800</td>
<td>162,264</td>
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<td>Pharmacovigilance</td>
<td>Attendance at Ad hoc Inspectors meeting</td>
<td>50,262</td>
<td>156,000</td>
<td>206,262</td>
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<td>Veterinary topics</td>
<td>1 task force, 9 workshops</td>
<td>69,852</td>
<td>237,900</td>
<td>307,752</td>
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<td>Inter-agency</td>
<td>Dossier assessment</td>
<td>61,476</td>
<td>504,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Quality systems</td>
<td>140,135</td>
<td>104,000</td>
<td>244,135</td>
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<td>Inter-agency totals</td>
<td></td>
<td>201,611</td>
<td>608,000</td>
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<td>Management</td>
<td>3 Steering Committee meetings</td>
<td>8,364</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>34,364</td>
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<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>Conference</td>
<td>93,952</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>213,952</td>
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<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>IT (Eudra) support</td>
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<td>Support staff</td>
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<td>360,943</td>
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<td>PERF II</td>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>929,258</td>
<td>1,728,700</td>
<td>2,657,958</td>
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### 6. Steering Committee

Three meetings of the Steering Committee have been foreseen. Where possible, these meetings will be linked to scheduled meetings of the EMEA Management Board or the EU Heads of Agencies group, and a one day forum will be attached to discuss current issues related to the operation of competent authorities.

### 8. Proposed Budget Summary for Phase 1 of the Three Year Programme

For the period November 2000 to December 2001, the following programme and expenditure have been estimated.

### IV. Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHMI)

Dans le cadre de la coopération technique entre l’OHMI et les pays candidats, l’OHMI propose d’organiser en collaboration avec la Commission, un Forum sur la protection des marques en Europe ("EUROFORUM – Marques").
Ce forum serait organisé conjointement avec la Commission et les pays candidats. Le financement serait pris en charge par l’OHMI et la Commission. Une contribution en nature serait apportée par le pays hôte.


Le public visé seraient les petites, moyennes et grandes entreprises des pays candidats et des Etats Membres ; les Chambres de commerce, les agents, les avocats et les universitaires. Ce public aurait l’opportunité de participer à toutes les activités proposées pendant le forum.

Les participants et le public pourront discuter, échanger leurs expériences et apprendre sur des thèmes aussi variés que :

- la protection des marques en Europe ;
- la Marque communautaire ;
- la procédure d’enregistrement d’une marque dans les offices nationaux et l’OHMI ;
- les critères d’acceptation et de refus d’une marque : les motifs absolus de refus ;
- coexistence et affrontement entre deux marques identiques ou similaires : les motifs relatifs de refus ;
- la classification des produits et services, ou le lien qui existe entre une marque et le produit et service pour lequel elle est protégée ;
- les relations entre les offices de la propriété industrielle et les agents ;
- le problème de la validité d’une marque ;
- l’harmonisation des législations en matière de marques ;
- l’harmonisation de la jurisprudence en matière de marques ;
- les nouvelles formes de marques ;
- l’enseignement du droit de la marque en Europe et les Etats candidats ;
- les accords internationaux et les normes européennes : situation actuelle ;
- le rôle de l’office de propriété industrielle en tant qu’interlocuteur privilégié du titulaire de la marque : une administration à vocation commerciale.

Parallèlement aux activités de rencontres organisées lors de ce forum, les participants pourront exposer leurs documentation et produits de diffusion à l’intérieur de stands prévus à cet effet.

Cet événement aurait comme objectif de faire rencontrer pour la première fois, à échelle européenne, tous les acteurs du droit des marques concernés par l’élargissement de l’Union européenne, à l’adhésion au système de la marque communautaire ainsi qu’aux acquis communautaires en matière de législation et protection des marques des Etats candidats. Ce
forum serait centré sur l’harmonisation qui existe en la matière. Cette activité de coopération donnerait la possibilité aux différents acteurs d’entrer en contact les uns avec les autres et ainsi instituer les bases d’une coopération véritable en matière de marques entre les Etats membres et les Etats candidats à l’adhésion.

Cet événement pourrait avoir lieu dans la seconde moitié de l’année 2000, de préférence en octobre. La première fois il pourrait être organisé en Pologne. Ce forum pourrait se répéter, au moins une fois par an, dans les différents pays candidats, et ce, pendant les prochaines 3 à 4 ans.

Coûts estimés pour 2000:

- Représentants des offices nationaux des PECO (indemnités et vols) 66.110
- Participants de l’OHMI [cofinancement avec l’OHMI] (indemnités et vols) 22.370
- Conférenciers des PECO, des Etats Membres, du secteur privé [co-financement avec le secteur privé] 39.674
- Locaux et matériel divers 19.000
- Transports [cofinancement avec pays hôte] 2.250

TOTAL: 149.404

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V. European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (ASHW)

The following required funds (in EURO) for 2000 include all aspects of the additional costs in order to associate the CEECs with the work of the Agency. The costs are divided between:

a) **Staff costs in the Agency due to the enlarged network**

   There will be need for extra manpower to set up and support the national Focal Points, the national networks, the Internet/Extranet system and to visit the CEECs and to run the meetings with them in the Agency:
   - One auxiliary agent at B level (administrative)  74 031
   - One auxiliary agent at B level (Internet/Extranet) 74 031
   TOTAL: 148 062

b) **Technical installations to enable the CEECs to establish and run the common Agency web-site**

   - The basic configurations to set up an Agency network on the Internet is estimated to 20 000 EURO in establishment costs per country: 200 000
   - Other costs for the CEECs will be the running cost for the Internet (about 20 000 EURO per country per year): 200 000
   TOTAL: 400 000

c) **Travel costs**

   The meetings are to support the countries in building up the information network on the Internet, the establishment of a national focal point system as well as the national information network with the relevant health and safety organisations and the social partners.
   - Meetings in the Agency
     - One "Board" meeting with 3 representatives from each CEEC: 45 000
     - Two Focal Point meetings: 30 000
     - Two Internet Group meetings: 30 000
   - Meeting in each CEEC with 2 representatives from the Agency: 30 000
   TOTAL: 135 000

d) **Contractor**

   Based on the initial support from the Agency a contractor should assist the CEECs in the practical building up of the common web-site: 100 000

**Estimated overall costs:** 780.000 EURO (approximately)

Finally the Agency would like to mention that it would be possible for the Agency to assist in the administration of specific health and safety programme for the candidate countries. The Agency is developing a database of EU health and safety experts who would be able and willing to work in the candidate countries on a specific project. As an example can be mentioned training in health and safety, where the European Training Foundation has started the first pilot project in 1999 in co-operation with our Agency and UNICE and ETUC.

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VI. Translation Centre for Bodies of the European Union

The Centre has identified a need to disseminate information to potential translators (both in-house and external), national authorities, higher educational establishments (especially those active in the field of translation) and citizens in general in the candidate countries.

To meet this need, it is proposed to create a website to include interactive facilities (Frequently Asked Questions, or FAQ, and the possibility for the user to register on mailing lists for details of recruitment competitions or calls for tenders for external translation services).

The first task to be undertaken is a feasibility study to determine all the requirements. It is, however, already clear that the following resources at least will be needed to develop this project.

- A full-time project leader to plan and co-ordinate the activities.
- The hardware and software required to support the extended system.
- A full-time webmaster to create and manage all the website data. More than one person may be needed depending on the complexity of the site, e.g. the number of languages to be supported, the frequency of modifications etc.
- If interactive facilities are included, one or more persons (depending on the volume of data received) will be needed on a full-time basis to manage this information.
- Translation support will be required to provide the language versions of the website itself and the documents it will support.

In addition to the website, it will be useful to run seminars and open days for translators who are interested in working for the Institutions.

The Translation Centre is currently investigating the possibilities for inter-institutional funding of this project.

The anticipated resources needed in 2000 (in EURO) are:

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenditure</td>
<td>78 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travelling expenses</td>
<td>28 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>107 000</strong></td>
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