COMMISSION DECISION  

OF 2000

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 3.7 MEUR to be financed through budget line B7-030 in 2000.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
FINANCING PROPOSAL

GLOBAL AUTHORISATION UNDER THE PHARE PROGRAMME FOR A
SMALL PROJECTS PROGRAMME

1. IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiary states: The ten Phare candidate countries
Programme: Small Projects Programme
Year: 2000
Cost: 3.7 MEUR
Expiry date: 31.12.2001, contracting
Sector: AA
Group: M
Budget line: B7-030
Task Manager: Antonio Izquierdo
             Joan Scott (EAC DG, for traineeship scheme)

2. SUMMARY

This programme shall be used to provide grants in the Phare candidate countries for activities in favour of the Phare candidate countries. These grants should support the implementation of the Phare programme and accession in general and contribute to awareness raising on EU integration and associated issues, closer European integration and higher visibility of the EU. The grants shall fall outside the scope of national or multi-country programmes.

3. BACKGROUND

Given the Commission’s activities aimed at closer involvement of the citizen within the European Union itself, 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 should allow the Commission to support activities in the Phare candidate countries which complement the Phare programme by helping different actors be better prepared 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 the Phare candidate countries on European integration and associated issues, (b) contribute directly to closer European integration of the beneficiary countries, and (c) increase the visibility of the European Union in these countries.

5. **DESCRIPTION**

The programme shall fund different types of actions directly linked to the objectives of the Phare programme and the Accession Partnerships. 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**

Activities to benefit from this facility should comprise a wide variety of actions (e.g. seminars and conferences, public information and dissemination campaigns, documentation materials) initiated by third parties (e.g. international organisations, think tanks, professional bodies, chambers of commerce, universities, local authorities, NGOs and other non-profit associations) within the objectives of the Phare programme and the priority areas set forth in the Accession Partnerships; the activities to be funded should be complementary or subsequent to main Phare projects.

The small project facility will be managed in accordance with the rules set out in the Vademecum on grant management, adopted by the Commission on 7.7.1998 and last revised on 1.7.1999 (enclosed in Annex). The following conditionalities shall apply to the small projects facility: 1) Financial: the Phare contribution for every event shall not exceed 50,000 EUR. For the requests submitted on a multi-country basis and consisting of conferences or seminars, it shall also be necessary that the grant amount does not exceed 80% of the participation costs in the activity of the individuals from the Phare candidate countries; the relevant expenses covered shall be travel, accommodation, conference and interpretation costs. 2) Substantial: the activities submitted for funding should aim at: a) raising awareness in the Phare candidate countries on European integration and associated issues, b) contribute directly to closer European integration of the Phare candidate countries, c) increase the visibility of the European Union in the Phare candidate countries, d) be complementary or subsequent to main Phare projects.
6. COST

The total budget of the programme will be 3.7 MEUR.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

The programme will be implemented by the Commission.

The traineeship scheme will be managed by DG EAC in the Commission headquarters in Brussels through a subdelegation received from DG Enlargement.

The small project facility HQ will be managed centrally by the Commission headquarters of DG Enlargement.

The small project facility delegations will be managed locally by each respective delegation of the country concerned through a subdelegation received from DG enlargement.

This means that for the small project facility selection of projects, contracting and payments will be the responsibility of Commission headquarters for multi-country projects, and of Commission Delegations for projects submitted on a national basis. In both cases, Commission services will ensure proper observance of the rules set out in the Vademecum on grant management (see Annex).

8. BUDGET BREAKDOWN

8.1 Allocation for each action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Budget in EUR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Traineeship Scheme</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Small Projects Facility: HQ</td>
<td>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Small Projects Facility: Delegations</td>
<td>2,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,700,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2 Small Projects Facility: Delegations – Allocation per country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Allocation in EURO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.01 Bulgaria</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.02 Czech Republic</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.03 Estonia</td>
<td>150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.04 Hungary</td>
<td>250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.05 Latvia</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.06 Lithuania</td>
<td>200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.07 Poland</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.08 Romania</td>
<td>550,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.09 Slovakia 200.000
3.10 Slovenia 150.000
TOTAL 2.600.000

9. DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (3.7 MEUR ACCUMULATED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10. AUDIT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The accounts and operations of all activities carried out under the programme may be checked at regular intervals by an outside auditor contracted by the Commission without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Commission. To facilitate this, the Commission will keep financial and accounting documents concerning all activities financed under this programme. The Commission will ensure that it is able to supply to the budgetary authorities and the Court of Auditors on request all relevant information relating financial information on operations funded under the programme.

The Commission will monitor the implementation of the programme on the basis of reports from all relevant Delegations and will carry out an ex-post evaluation after completion of the programme.

11. VISIBILITY

In implementing this Programme, the Commission and its Delegations shall provide for the maximum visibility of all activities financed in the Phare candidate countries. The costs of information and publicity relating to individual projects shall be met from the budget of those projects. The organisers of information events such as conferences and seminars 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. Publications 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.