COMMISSION DECISION
OF 2002

Establishing a Phare multi-beneficiary "Small Projects Programme" in 2002,

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 Europe¹, as last amended Regulation (EC) No 2500/2001², and in particular Article 8 thereof,

Whereas:

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

(2) 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,

HAS DECIDED 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 6.5 MEUR to be financed through Budget line B7-030 in 2002.

Done in Brussels,

For the Commission

¹ OJ no. L375 of 23/12/1989
² OJ no. L342 of 27.12.2001
FINANCING PROPOSAL

MULTI-BENEFICIARY PHARE
SMALL PROJECTS PROGRAMME

1. IDENTIFICATION

Beneficiary states: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Slovenia

Programme: Small Projects Programme
CRIS-Number: 2002/000-641
CRIS-Sector: 43010
Year: 2002
Cost: 6.5 MEUR
Implementing Authority: European Commission
Expiry date: 31.12.2003, contracting
31.12.2004, disbursement
Sector: AA
Group: M
Budget line: B7-030
Task Manager: Bénédicte Bronchart (DG ELARG), (DG EAC, for traineeship scheme)

2. SUMMARY

This programme shall be used to provide grants for the benefit of the ten Phare candidate countries. These grants shall support small scale activities related to the enlargement process with the objective to create more visibility of the EU and facilitate integration between citizens of the current and future Member States. The activities supported under this programme will be complementary to the activities supported under the Enlargement Communication Strategy.

3. STRATEGY

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 for the Phare 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 for the Phare candidate countries which complement the enlargement process by helping different actors be better prepared for, and informed about, 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. OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

The objectives of the programme are:

a) to raise awareness in the Phare candidate countries on European integration and the Enlargement process;

b) to contribute directly to closer European integration of the Phare candidate countries;

c) to increase the visibility of the European Union in the Phare candidate countries.

The programme will fund different types of actions, which are directly linked to the objectives of Enlargement and, more specifically, its 31 chapters and the Accession Partnerships. The final beneficiaries will be non-profit organisations including sub-national governmental bodies, universities, think tanks, NGOs and other public and private institutions of a social, economic or cultural character in the EU and the Phare candidate countries.

The programme will finance the following:

1. A traineeship scheme for officials of Phare candidate 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 Phare candidate countries on traineeships within the European Commission for periods of up to 3 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 candidate countries.

The scheme will operate with three intakes per year of up to 30 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 Enlargement and the priority areas set forth in the Accession Partnerships.

The small projects facility will be managed in accordance with the rules set out in the Vademecum on grant management, adopted by the Commission on 07.07.1998 and last revised on 01.07.1999 (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 (more than two Phare candidate countries), it shall also be necessary that the Commission’s grant amount does not exceed 80% of the participation costs in the activity of the individuals from the Phare candidate countries. The
relevant expenses which may be covered are travel, accommodation, conference and interpretation costs, publication and dissemination costs.

2) type of activities: the activities submitted for funding should aim at:
   a) raising awareness in the Phare candidate countries on European integration and the Enlargement process,
   b) contributing directly to closer European integration of the Phare candidate countries,
   c) increasing the visibility of the European Union in the Phare candidate countries.

5. BUDGET

The total budget of the programme will be 6.5 MEUR.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

The programme will be implemented by the Commission.

The Traineeship scheme will be managed by DG Education and Culture in the Commission headquarters in Brussels.

The Small Projects Facility Headquarters will be managed centrally by the Commission headquarters of DG Enlargement.

The Small Projects Facility Delegations will be managed locally the EC Delegations in the beneficiary countries.

This means that for the Small Projects Facility, selection of projects, contracting and disbursement 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).

7. BUDGET BREAKDOWN

7.1 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>500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Small Projects Facility: HQ</td>
<td>2,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Small Projects Facility: Delegations</td>
<td>3,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>6,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.2 Small Projects Facility: Delegations – Indicative allocation per country

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Allocation in EURO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.01 Bulgaria</td>
<td>325.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.02 Czech Republic</td>
<td>325.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.03 Estonia</td>
<td>250.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.04 Hungary</td>
<td>325.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.05 Latvia</td>
<td>225.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.06 Lithuania</td>
<td>250.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.07 Poland</td>
<td>1.000.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.08 Romania</td>
<td>550.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.09 Slovakia</td>
<td>400.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10 Slovenia</td>
<td>250.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>3.900.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. ANTI-FRAUD-MEASURES, AUDIT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The accounts and operations of all activities carried out under the programme are subject to supervision and financial control by the Commission (including the European Anti-fraud Office) and the Court of Auditors. This includes measures such as ex-ante verification of tendering and contracting carried out and on-the-spot checks.

In order to ensure efficient protection of the financial interests of the Community, the Commission can conduct check-ups and inspections on site in accordance with the procedures foreseen in Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No. 2185/96 dated from November 11, 1996, concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

The procedures foreseen in Art. 15 para 3 of Commission Regulation No. 2222/2000 dated from June 7, 2000, on the communication in case of irregularities and the putting in place of a system to administrate the information in this field shall apply.

The Commission will monitor the implementation of the programme on the basis of reports from the parties managing the programme.

The Commission services shall ensure that an ex-post evaluation is carried out after completion of the Programme.”
9. 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.