COMMISSION DECISION

C/2005/5794 of [22/12/2005]

Establishing a Programme of Assistance from the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) for the Turkish Cypriot community in 2005

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 555/2000\(^1\) of 13 March 2000 on the implementation of operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Malta and in particular article 7, paragraph 5, first subparagraph thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EC) No 555/2000 lays down the rules and conditions for the granting of economic aid to Cyprus.

(2) It is appropriate to allocate in 2005 unused resources of €830,000 under budget line 22.0205 for a programme aiming to continue assistance to bring the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the European Union. These activities will be delivered by the European Commission via the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX).

(3) The measures provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee referred to in Article 8 of Council Regulation (EC) No 555/2000.

(4) The term “areas” used in the annex of this Decision refers to the areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The programme described in the annex to the present decision is hereby adopted.

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Article 2
The maximum amount of Community assistance shall be of € 830,000 to be financed through budget line 22.0205 in 2005. Assistance shall be implemented by the European Commission via the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX).
Done at Brussels, […]

For the Commission
[…]
Member of the Commission
ANNEX

FINANCING PROPOSAL:

PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION EXCHANGE INSTRUMENT (TAIEX) FOR THE TURKISH CYPRiot COMMUNITY IN 2005

1. Identification

Beneficiary
Turkish Cypriot community

Programme
Programme of Assistance from the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) for the Turkish Cypriot community in 2005

CRIS number
2005/017-785

Year
2005

Cost
€830,000

Implementing Authorities
European Commission

Expiry Date
Contracting: 30 November 2006
Execution of contracts: 30 November 2007

Sector (DAC) Codes
Project 53010

Budget Line
22.0205

Programming
Task Manager: A.Viezzer

Implementation
Task Manager: M. Jung-Olsen

2. Summary

This proposal builds on activities already initiated and carried out by the Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) since June 2004 funded under a previous programme to support the Turkish Cypriot community (i.e. the “2003 Special Aid Package programme for the northern part of Cyprus”) where momentum has now been gained. The main purpose of this project is indeed the continuation of the current activities. It will be safeguarded that nothing in this programme is intended to imply recognition of any public authority in the areas, other than the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

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To date assistance has been focused in 5 ways:

- Assessment missions to the areas to provide an understanding of the local situation and needs in order to enable targeted programming of future assistance;

- Participation in multi-beneficiary events in Brussels to give information to key representatives of the Turkish Cypriot community on different aspects of the *acquis*;

- Support for the implementation of Council Regulation 866/2004 and Commission Regulation 1480/2004. Support has focused on the provision of expertise to the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Commerce on the issuing of accompanying documents and the appointment of phytosanitary inspectors to fulfil inspection and certification requirements on products to be traded across the ‘Green line’;

- Organisation of expert visits to provide guidance on specific aspects of the *acquis*;

- Participation in the Regional Training Programme (RTP) of the TAIEX instrument for some key individuals working at the municipal level on the implementation and enforcement of legislation. Training in a Member State forms a key part of this programme and some elements of it are targeted at a bi-communal level.

It is the intention therefore, pending the adoption of the Council Regulation establishing an instrument of financial support for encouraging the development of the Turkish Cypriot community proposed by the Commission on the 7 July 2004, to continue with the above activities and to utilise to this effect unused resource available under budget line 22.0205 within the framework of Council Regulation (EC) No 555/2000 of 13 March 2000 on the implementation of operations in the framework of the pre-accession strategy for the Republic of Cyprus and the Republic of Malta.

3. **Strategy**

This financial proposal contributes to bring the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the European Union by the provision of information on the EU (and in particular EU *Acquis*) to various actors of the socio-economic life.

4. **Objective and Description**

   **Objective:** Bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the EU

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4 Commission Regulation 1480/2004 of 10 August 2004 laying down specific rules concerning goods arriving from the areas not under the effective control of the Government of Cyprus in the areas in which the Government exercises effective control

The assistance under this programme will cover the delivery of expertise to bring the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the European Union assisting them in their efforts of approximation with the European Union acquis, providing them with information on the European Union and through the establishment of people-to-people contacts.

**Description of Project: Information on the EU and on the Acquis**

The main activities are as follows:

1. **Assistance in the process of approximation with the EC acquis (preparation, implementation and enforcement of legislation) and information on the European Union to target groups of the civil society in the areas.**

The following activities will be delivered either individually or as a package through the TAIEX instrument:

- Workshops, seminars, technical training;
- Study visits;
- Short and medium-term mobilisation of experts.

2. **Evaluation/Assessment of assistance needs of the Turkish Cypriot community**

This will be undertaken by assessment or advisory visits by Member States experts to continue to provide support for the implementation of the Council Regulation 866/2004 and Commission Regulation 1480/2004

5. **Budget**

A breakdown of the special aid package 2005 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Title of the project</th>
<th>DAC Sector Code</th>
<th>Total Budget € million</th>
<th>Budget Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Information on the EU and on the Acquis</td>
<td>53010</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td>22.02.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Seminars, workshops, training activities and other events (TAIEX) including continued support to the implementation of the so called ‘Green line’ regulation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **Implementation**

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6 The project does not involve any infrastructure.
a) Financial and project management

This project will be implemented through the existing Technical Assistance Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX), involving experts from EU Member States, in compliance with Articles 54.2.c and 56 of the Financial Regulation and Articles 35, 38, 39 and 41 of the Implementing Rules to the Financial Regulation.

Implementation will be made through an addendum to the agreement between the European Commission and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit mbH (GTZ) in co-operation with TUI Business Travel Belgium (TQ3 Travel solutions) concluded on 11 May 2005 and amended on 7 October 2005.

b) Contracting and end of execution deadline

All contracts must be concluded by 30.11.2006. In no case can the contracting period exceed 3 years after the date of the global commitment. End of execution deadline is 30.11.2007.

Budgetary commitments which have not given rise to payments during three years counted from the date of the legal commitment will be de-committed.

c) Clearance of Accounts Procedure and Recovery of Funds

Not applicable

d) Financial Flows

Not applicable

e) Implementation will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Title of the project</th>
<th>Implementing Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Information on the EU and on the Acquis</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

f) Nature Conservation

If a project is likely to affect sites of nature conservation importance, an appropriate assessment according to Art. 6 of the Habitats-Directive must be documented.

g) Twinning

Not applicable

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8 In Annex EIA to the corresponding investment project fiche.
7. **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 and the Court of Auditors. Also, the Commission may carry out any necessary audits and on-the-spot checks in accordance with the Practical Guide to EC external aid contract procedures.

To facilitate this, the Commission will keep accounting, financial and operational documents concerning all activities financed under this Programme, and will make available to the competent bodies of the European Commission and the European Court of Auditors on request all relevant financial information.

The Commission will monitor the implementation of the Programme on the basis of reports from the selected contractors and independent assessments.

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

8. **Audit Anti-Fraud Measures**

All agreements and contracts resulting from the implementation of this programme are subject to supervision and financial control by the Commission (including the European Anti-Fraud office) and audits by the European Court of Auditors. In order to ensure the efficient protection of the financial interests of the Community, the Commission (including the European Anti-Fraud Office) may conduct on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with the procedures foreseen in Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No. 2185/96. The controls and audits described above are applicable to all delegated entities, contractors and subcontractors who have received Community funds.

9. **Visibility/Publicity**

The Commission will be responsible for ensuring that the necessary measures are taken to ensure that for all activities financed from the programme, the visibility/publicity will follow the EU visibility guidelines for external actions [Link](http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/visibility/index_en.htm). In implementing this Programme, the Commission shall provide for the maximum visibility of EU actions in the beneficiary country.

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