establishing a technical and administrative assistance facility (ATA) for the implementation of pre-accession financial assistance for Turkey in 2006

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2500/2001 of 17 December 2001 concerning pre-accession financial assistance for Turkey\(^1\), and in particular Article 8 (1) second subparagraph thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation No 2500/2001 lays down the rules and conditions for the granting of pre-accession financial assistance to Turkey. This Regulation is implemented by the Commission.

(2) In order to facilitate the implementation of Regulation No 2500/2001, it is appropriate to provide for a technical and administrative assistance facility (ATA) to support, for the mutual benefit of the Commission and the beneficiary countries, the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the pre-accession financial assistance programmes in Turkey,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Sole Article**

The technical and administrative assistance facility described in the Annex to the present decision is adopted. The maximum amount of Community assistance shall be **EUR 1 100 000**, to be financed through line 22 01 04 02 of the 2006 General Budget of the European Union.

Done at Brussels, […]

*For the Commission*

[…]

*Member of the Commission*

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1. IDENTIFICATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beneficiary</th>
<th>Turkey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme title</td>
<td>Technical and Administrative Assistance Facility (ATA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIS number</td>
<td>2006/018-161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>€ 1.1 MEUR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing authority</td>
<td>The European Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector code</td>
<td>53010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget line</td>
<td>22 01 04 02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Task Manager</td>
<td>Programming: John O’Rourke Implementation: Holger Schroeder</td>
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</table>
2. SUMMARY

The funds authorised under this proposal will be used to provide technical support and to cover relevant administrative expenditure for the mutual benefit of the Commission and Turkey, in support of the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the EC’s financial assistance programme in Turkey. This may include support to the European Commission’s Delegation in Ankara which is acting as contracting authority for a number of on-going programmes in Turkey.

3. BACKGROUND

The 2006 budget includes a budgetary commitment for the Turkey programme, allowing up to 9 MEUR, under the budget line 22010402, to be used on administrative management as a non-differentiated appropriation. Inter alia, "this appropriation is intended to cover:

- expenditure on studies, meetings of experts, information and publications directly linked to the achievement of the objective of the programme or measures coming under this article, plus any other expenditure on technical and administrative assistance (including control of expenditures and implementation of contracts) not involving public authority tasks outsourced by the Commission under ad hoc service contracts"

It is proposed to use 1.1 MEUR for activities developed under this ATA financing proposal.

The main instruments to be financed are:

- Short term technical assistance directly linked to programme preparation and implementation;
- Studies;
- Trainings;
- Control of expenditures and implementation of contracts;

This proposal could also provide resources for local publication costs, investigations other than control of expenditures and implementation of contracts to help protect EC financial interests, or other ad hoc tasks for the benefit of the EC Delegation or the mutual benefit of the EC and the beneficiary state (Turkey).

4. OBJECTIVE

The wider objective of the funds is to ensure the efficiency and the effectiveness of the EC programmes in Turkey.

The immediate objective is to ensure that:
The Commission is able to carry out its responsibilities both as a contracting authority under the deconcentrated system, and separately under the Decentralised Implementation System in a timely manner (avoiding bottlenecks);

5. DESCRIPTION AND COST

The ATA will finance a number of different types of actions. The main type of actions and the related indicative budget breakdown is found in the table below.

Table: Envisaged activities under ATA 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Indicative budget (in € mio)</th>
<th>Type of expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short term technical assistance</td>
<td>0.650</td>
<td>ATA extra-muros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studies</td>
<td>0.200</td>
<td>ATA extra-muros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trainings</td>
<td>0.150</td>
<td>ATA extra-muros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Control of expenditures and implementation of contracts</td>
<td>0.100</td>
<td>ATA extra-muros</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.100</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

SHORT TERM TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (STTA)

The main use of these funds will be for quality control of programming and project documentation, (support to the preparation and/or review of terms of reference and technical specifications), tender/call for proposals evaluations (where there is a general practice of including either an observer for decentralised procedures or for deconcentrated procedures at least one independent expert in each evaluation committee or external assessors for call for proposals) and support to the monitoring role of the delegation (the EC Delegation in Ankara) in the context of sound financial management and efficient implementation of the programme.

These experts will be available to the EC Delegation in Ankara.

STUDIES

The funds foreseen under this heading are intended to finance a number of studies. These will provide the Commission with analysis necessary for the preparation of actions in the frame of its pre-accession policy.
TRAININGS

These funds will cover the training needs of the delegation staff in different areas, such as civil society dialogue, procurement, DIS, FIDIC etc. For this purpose and according to the needs, external trainers will be contracted. In addition, the funds will cover training of EC Delegation’s counterparts on different subjects.

CONTROL OF EXPENDITURES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTRACTS

These funds will be used to undertake ex-post or ex-ante controls of ECD’s own contracts, as well as specific controls of individual projects and contracts contained within EC financed programmes. Activities will consist of:

- Compliance controls, both for on-going programmes and programmes that have closed, to determine the regularity and legality of expenditure, verification of assets, certification of final accounts and compliance with the external budget rules;
- Controls to investigate allegations of mismanagement of funds.
- System controls of financial and operations procedures to assess the extent to which EU funds are safeguarded and to identify any further measures to ensure adequate control of these funds.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

The programme will be implemented by the European Commission Delegation in Turkey in accordance with art. 53.1 a) of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities² (centralised implementation).

Procurement for STTA and evaluation will be in accordance with Title V of part one the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹ and its implementing rules³, with the European Commission Delegation acting as Contracting Authority on its own account.

7. DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (€ million ACCUMULATED)

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<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.500</td>
<td>0.900</td>
<td>1.100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

² OJ n° L248 of 25th June 2002
³ OJ n° L357 of 23rd December 2002
8. **MONITORING, ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION**

The Commission services:

- Shall monitor the implementation of the programme on the basis of regular reports produced by its services
- May contract independent consultants to monitor the progress of the programme and carry out an ex-post evaluation of it.

9. **AUDIT, ANTI-FRAUD MEASURES**

All financing memoranda as well as the resulting contracts are subject to supervision and financial control by the Commission (including the European Anti-fraud Office) and the Court of Auditors.

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 of 11th November 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 Commission services shall ensure that an ex-post evaluation is carried out after completion of the Programme.

10. **VISIBILITY AND PUBLICITY**

In implementing this programme the Commission and its Delegations shall provide for the maximum visibility of all activities financed.