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COMMISSION DECISION

of 2009

adopting a National Programme for Serbia under the IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2009

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 of 17 July 2006 establishing an Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)¹, and in particular Article 14(2)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to candidate and potential candidate countries.
- (2) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006, the assistance should be provided through multi-annual or annual programmes, which can be established by country and by component, or, as appropriate, by group of countries or by theme. These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the general policy framework referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 and the relevant multi-annual indicative planning document referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.
- (3) The Council established on 18 February 2008 a European Partnership with Serbia². The Commission has adopted on 9 June 2009 a multi-annual indicative planning document 2009-2011 for Serbia³, which presents indicative allocations for the main priorities for pre-accession assistance to Serbia.
- (4) On 31 July 2009 the Commission adopted a EUR 100 million Budget Support Programme for Serbia under the IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for 2009⁴ aiming at supporting Serbia's short term stabilisation, alleviating both budgetary and external financing needs. Financing budget support will help soften the social impact of the necessary readjustment on public expenditures. In addition, budget support will help Serbia pursue structural reforms which during the current crisis would otherwise be postponed to a later date.
- (5) Therefore, and having regard to the project proposals submitted by Serbia, the National Programme for Serbia under the IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for 2009 complements then the general budget support programme by taking into account Serbian current needs at social and political level without forgetting the European Integration path. In light of the international financial crisis, particular attention is being paid to alleviate the effects of the poorer economic outlook for Serbia in the coming years. For this reason IPA will focus on a major infrastructure project of national and regional importance that contributes to economic

¹ OJ L 210, 31.07.2008, p.82.

² Council Decision 2008/213/EC of 18 February 2008 (OJ L 80, 19.3.2008, p.46).

³ C (2009) 4359 of 9 June 2009.

⁴ C(2009)6144

growth. IPA interventions are also guided by national strategic documents. This 2009 national programme focus on the following priority axes:

- a) Political requirements: including capacity building of the Directorate for Confiscated Property and Improving the system of Criminal Asset Confiscation; developing sustainable solutions for refugees and displaced persons and civil society development;
 - b) Economic requirements: focus at areas that will help to generate employment including measures to support implementation of the cancer national screening programme; improvement of the preschool education in Serbia (IMPRES project) and transport infrastructure through upgrading corridor X and corridor VII;
 - c) Ability to assume obligations of membership which includes support to consumer protection, fight against swine and rabies diseases and technical assistance to hazardous waste treatment facility;
 - d) The last priority axis consists in project preparation, technical assistance, and other support measures.
- (6) This decision meets the requirements of Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation No 1605/2002⁵ (hereafter: “Implementing Rules”) and constitutes thus a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁶ (hereafter: “Financial Regulation”).
- (7) It is appropriate to implement the Project n. 1 “Capacity building of the Directorate for Confiscated Property and Improving the system of Criminal Asset Confiscation” in joint management with the Council of Europe – project jointly elaborated–, in accordance with article 53(d) of the Financial Regulation.
- (8) The measures provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the IPA Committee,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The National Programme for Serbia under the IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for 2009, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

This programme shall be implemented partly by centralised management and partly by joint management with the Council of Europe. It shall be implemented by means of a Financing Agreement to be concluded between the Commission and the Government of Serbia in conformity with the Framework Agreement concluded between the same parties on 29 November 2007.

Article 2

The maximum amount of Community contribution shall be EUR 70 551 643 to be financed through Article 22.020200 of the general budget of the European Communities for 2009.

⁵ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

⁶ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Member of the Commission