



Brussels, 8.8.2008  
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**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 8.8.2008**

**on the Annual Action Programme 2008 in favour of the Republic of Belarus for the support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental co-operation to be financed under Article 19 08 01 03 of the general budget of the European Communities**

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### **on the Annual Action Programme 2008 in favour of the Republic of Belarus for the support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental co-operation to be financed under Article 19 08 01 03 of the general budget of the European Communities**

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 12 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Country Strategy Paper for Belarus<sup>2</sup> and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2007-2010<sup>3</sup>, point 6.1, which indicates the priorities of "Social and Economic Development" and Democratic Development and Good governance".
- (2) The objectives pursued by the (Annual) Action Programme are to enhance environment protection through the revision of Belarus' environment policy framework in such a way as to bring the country closer to international or, where applicable, EU policies and approaches, and to empower the Belarusian citizens and their associations to play an active role in achieving environmental policy objectives.
- (3) This decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>4</sup>, Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002<sup>5</sup>.
- (4) It is appropriate to define the term "substantial change" in the meaning of Article 90 (4) Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 for the application of this decision.
- (5) The measures provided for in this decision are in accordance with the opinion of the ENPI Committee set up under Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> C(2007) 672

<sup>3</sup> C(2007) 672

<sup>4</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1605/2002 (OJ L 248, 16.09.2002) as last amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006) and by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p.9.)

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1, Regulation last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 478/2007 C OJ L 111, 28.04.2007, p.13.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

The actions “Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental co-operation in the Republic of Belarus”, which constitute the Annual Action Programme in favour of Belarus, the text of which is set out in the Annex, are approved.

*Article 2*

The maximum contribution of the Community is set at EUR 5 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 03 of the general budget of the European Communities for 2008.

*Article 3*

Within the maximum indicative budget of all the specific actions, cumulated changes not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the Community are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the Annual Action Programme.

The authorising officer may adopt such changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels, 8.8.2008

*For the Commission*  
*Benita FERRERO-WALDNER*  
*Member of the Commission*