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COMMISSION DECISION

C(2007)6139 of 12/12/2007

adopting the Cross-border programme between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Montenegro under the IPA-Cross-border Co-operation component, for the year 2007

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 candidates 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, by group of countries or by component. 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 documents referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.
- (3) The Council has established an Accession Partnership for Croatia², and a European Partnership for Montenegro³. The Commission has adopted on 20/06/2007 the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document 2007 - 2009 for Croatia and on 01/06/2007 the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document 2007 - 2009 for Montenegro which present the main priorities for pre-accession assistance to those countries⁴.
- (4) The responsible authorities of Croatia and Montenegro submitted to the Commission on 1 June 2007 a proposal for a multi-annual cross-border programme between the two countries. This draft programme contains all the elements referred to in Article 94 of Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007 of 12 June 2007 implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1085/2006 establishing an instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA)⁵ (hereinafter referred to as the "IPA Implementing Regulation") and is consistent with the goals and priorities of the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Documents of the countries concerned. The draft programme contains, in particular, a description of priorities and the measures chosen for assistance and an indicative financing plan based on the multi-annual indicative financial framework comprising a

¹ OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 82.

² Council Decision 2006/145/EC of 20 February 2006, on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the Accession Partnership with Croatia (OJ L 55, 25.02.2006, p. 30-43).

³ Council Decision 2007/049/EC of 22 January 2007, on the principles, priorities and conditions contained in the European Partnership with Montenegro OJ L 20, 27.01.2007, p. 16.

⁴ For Croatia: C(2007)2566; for Montenegro: C(2007)2269.

⁵ OJ L 170, 29.6.2007, p. 1

table for each participating country specifying for each year covered by the multi-annual indicative financial framework and for each priority axis, the indicative amount of the Community contribution and its rate, as well as the amount financed by the national counterparts. The draft programme should therefore be adopted by the Commission, in accordance with Article 91 (6) of the IPA Implementing Regulation.

- (5) The multi-annual cross-border programme between Croatia and Montenegro aims at providing assistance for improving the quality of life in the cross border area between the two countries. The programme defines two priorities for achieving this objective: through the creation of favourable environmental and socio-economic conditions in the programming area by improving the co-operation in the jointly selected sectors and good neighbourly relations in the eligible area; and through technical assistance to the programme administration and implementation. The selected sectors for the joint actions cover environment, nature and cultural heritage protection, joint tourism and cultural space as well as small cross-border community development projects.
- (6) For the year 2007, 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 1605/2002⁶ and constitutes thus a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 (2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁷.
- (7) The measures provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the IPA Committee.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The "Cross-border programme Croatia - Montenegro", as set out in Annex 2 to this Decision is hereby adopted.

The Financing proposal for the year 2007 of the "Cross-border programme Croatia – Montenegro", as set out in Annex 1 to this Decision is hereby adopted.

The part of this programme concerning Croatia shall be implemented by decentralised management. The part of this programme concerning Montenegro shall be implemented by centralised management.

⁶ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1 Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 478/2007 (OJ L 111, 28.04.2007, p. 1).

⁷ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p.1).

The programme corresponding to budget year 2007 shall be implemented by means of Financing Agreements to be concluded between the Commission and the Government of each of the participating Countries. Each such Financing Agreement shall cover the Community contribution for the beneficiary country and the year concerned.

Article 2

The maximum amount of Community contribution shall be EUR 0.4 million for Croatia and EUR 0.5 million for Montenegro to be financed through Item 22.02.04.01 of the general budget of the European Communities for the year 2007.

Done at Brussels, [...]

For the Commission

[...]

Member of the Commission