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## COMMISSION DECISION

C(2008)XXXX of DD/MM/2008

### **Adopting an Annual National Programme for Serbia under the IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for the year 2008**

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)<sup>1</sup>, 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 Serbia<sup>2</sup>. The Commission has adopted on 4 September 2008 a multi-annual indicative planning document 2008/2010 for Serbia<sup>3</sup>, which presents indicative allocations for the main priorities for pre-accession assistance to Serbia.
- (4) Therefore, and having regard to the project proposals submitted by Serbia, the Annual Programme for Serbia under the IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for 2008 aims at providing assistance to implement the necessary reforms needed to fulfil EU requirements, make progress in the Stabilisation and Association Process and to lay the foundations for fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria. The assistance aims in particular to public administration reform, to strengthen the rule of law and good governance, to enhance the national economic competitiveness and productivity, to participate in Community programmes and to prepare Serbia to implement the EU assistance on a decentralised basis in the medium-term.
- (5) 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

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 210, 31.07.2008, p.82.

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

<sup>3</sup> C (2008) 4693 of 4 September 2008.

implementation of Council Regulation No 1605/2002<sup>4</sup> (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 Communities<sup>5</sup> (hereafter: “Financial Regulation”).

- (6) It is appropriate to implement this programme by centralised management.
- (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 Annual Programme for Serbia under the IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for 2008, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

This programme shall be implemented by centralised management. It shall be implemented by means of a Financing Agreement to be concluded between the Commission and 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 € 168 641 314 to be financed through Article 22.02.02 of the general budget of the European Communities for 2008.

Done at Brussels, [...]

*For the Commission*

[...]

*Member of the Commission*

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<sup>4</sup> OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.