

**COMMISSION DECISION
C(2007)6565 of 20/12/2007**

**adopting the Cross-border programme between the Republic of Croatia and the
Republic of Serbia 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 Serbia³. The Commission has adopted on 20/06/2007 the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document 2007-2009 for Croatia and on 18/06/2007 the Multi-annual Indicative Planning Document 2007-2009 for Serbia which present the main priorities for pre-accession assistance to those countries⁴.
- (4) The responsible authorities of Croatia and Serbia submitted to the Commission on 30 of May 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 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

1 OJ L 210, 31.7.2006, p. 82.

2 Council Decision 2006/145/EC of 20 February 2006, OJ L 55, 25.02.2006, p. 30-43.

3 Council Decision 2006/56/EC of 30 January 2006, OJ L 35, 7.2.2006, p.32.

4 For Croatia: C (2007)2566-1 and for Serbia: C (2007)2497.

5 OJ L 170, 29.6. 2007, p. 1.

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 Serbia aims at providing assistance to stimulate cross-border cooperation in order to diversify and improve the regional economy in a socially and environmentally sustainable way, whilst at the same time, improving good neighbourly relations across the border. An additional objective of the programme is to build the capacity of local, regional and national institutions to manage EU programmes and to prepare them to manage future cross-border programmes under the European Territorial Co-operation objective of the EU Structural Funds. The programme defines two priorities for achieving these objectives: through the promotion of sustainable socio-economic development in the programming area and through technical assistance to the programme administration and implementation and programme information, publicity and evaluation. Cross-border capacity building will be an important horizontal theme underpinning the whole programme. The selected sectors for the joint actions cover business cooperation, trade, labour market mobility, tourism, environment protection and public awareness, and people to people actions.
- (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 - Serbia" 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- Serbia", 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 Serbia shall be implemented by centralised management.

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

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)

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).

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 0.8 million for Croatia and EUR 1.0 million for Serbia 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