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OPERATION PHARE

Four new programmes *

As part of its programme to support the process of economic and social reform under way in Central and Eastern Europe, the Commission has taken a number of financing decisions on programmes in priority sectors.

This latest series of programmes includes projects in Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, which became eligible for assistance after a Council decision of September expanded the remit of the PHARE operation. Another of the programmes provides a global funding available to all the beneficiary countries.

The programmes adopted, whose total value is ECU 26.5 Million, are as follows:

1. A multidisciplinary technical assistance programme for Central and Eastern European countries - ECU 5 million
2. A programme of support for the reform of Bulgarian agriculture - ECU 16 million
3. A statistical cooperation programme with Poland - ECU 1.5 million
4. The implementation of the Trans-European Mobility Programme for Higher Education (TEMPUS) in Czechoslovakia - ECU 4 million

* For PHARE programmes already announced earlier, see P33/90, P45/90, P 55/90 and P 67/90

1. Multidisciplinary technical assistance programme for Central and Eastern European countries - ECU 5 million

The 5 MECU made available under this programme will be used to provide an accelerated funding facility for relatively small scale projects (up to 1.000.000 ECU) in the fields of technical cooperation, training, trade and investment. A speedy and effective utilization of aid will thus be ensured, by permitting essential tasks related to the preparation and execution of the PHARE programme to be carried out quickly.

This will also allow a flexible and prompt response to the urgent requirements of recipient countries for limited training, trade and investment promotion operations, and improve the Commission's capacity to deal adequately and rapidly with urgent problems arising in the recipient countries.

The funds are intended to cover the costs of:

- identification, feasibility, technical, market and other studies;
- experts and consultancy;
- small scale training operations including specialist seminars;
- small scale supplies, works and services as needed to realize the objectives of the proposal

In accordance with normal Community procedure, there will be direct negotiations for small contracts and restricted consultations for larger contracts.

2. Support for the reform of Bulgarian Agriculture - ECU 16 million

BACKGROUND

Bulgaria is still a largely agricultural country, with agriculture involving 22 % of the active labour force, and accounting for 20 % of foreign exchange earnings. However, the efficiency of Bulgarian agriculture is below that of its CMEA partners and far below the EC average. In order to improve the situation, the government has already taken a number of measures to increase the efficiency of the sector and stimulate the development of private agriculture. These attempts have, however been hindered by the absence of a real market structure, a scarcity of information on supply and demand conditions, and a lack of knowledge of more efficient production techniques.

THE PROGRAMME

This programme aims to assist the Government in defining and implementing an adequate strategy for the development of Bulgarian agriculture, with particular emphasis on the development of a dynamic private sector. It also aims to contribute to the technical and financial aspects of the development of private agriculture and agro-processing, and the setting up of an adequate financial sector to promote and accompany this development.

The programme breaks down into the following components

- Technical assistance for the Ministry of Agriculture for the preparation of an Agricultural Policy
- Assistance to the Institute for Agricultural Economics; Improvement of the data on Bulgarian (private) agriculture and the reinforcement of the capacity to undertake studies.
- Assistance for the setting up of an organisation for private farmers
- Assistance for training in agricultural economics and management in agricultural higher education
- Setting up of a credit line through i.a. the Agricultural Credit Bank to finance imports of inputs of equipment for private farmers and investors in agro-industry as well as the provision of technical assistance to the Bank
- Setting up of a project implementation unit (PIU) under the responsibility of the Ministry of External Economic Relations in order to implement or supervise the implementation of the various project components and to improve the coordination of the different external assistance programmes.

The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations will be responsible for the overall implementation of the programme, and will designate responsibility for the various components of the programme to the Ministry of Agriculture, the institutes belonging to the Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and the Bank for Agricultural Credit as appropriate. The PIU will centralise all the practical aspects of handling the technical assistance contracts and supervise the implementation of the credit line.

3. Statistical Cooperation Programme with Poland - ECU 1.5 million

Poland has now started a process of economic reform which should eventually lead to the establishment of a market driven economy. Fundamental to the success of this process is the availability of appropriate statistical information systems to provide the sound basic economic and social data that is vital for designing and monitoring the reform process. The development of a strong private sector is likewise dependent on such information. Following exchange visits between Eurostat and GUS (the Polish Central Statistical office) a preliminary programme of cooperation has been identified for 1990-91.

The general aim of the programme is to assist GUS in developing statistical information systems in order to:

- support and monitor the economic reforms envisaged
- provide market operators with sound vital macro and micro economic information for investment decisions, wage and price management etc.
- support the monitoring of international economic cooperation.

To achieve this, the programme breaks down into two major components:

Section A: Training, seminars, workshops and technical cooperation with the aim of achieving

- The harmonisation of classifications and nomenclatures in order to enable data integration and comparison, and thus assist GUS in the adoption of international - in particular EC-standards.
- The redesign and updating of the system of registers and data collection relating to small and medium size enterprises to ensure compatibility with the demands of private sector liberalisation.
- The implementation of the EC national account system, which would allow international comparisons and exchange of informations.
- The reform of price surveys.
- The implementation of a system of foreign trade statistics compatible with international standards.
- The design of a comprehensive, integrated and internationally compatible system of information on the environment.
- The provision of technical assistance for the procurement as well as monitoring and evaluation of informatics.

These activities will be organised by the CESD Communautaire in liaison with GUS.

Section B: Data processing equipment

A feasibility study carried out by GUS in collaboration with Eurostat has provided a detailed multiannual programme of equipment modernisation. The first part of this programme will be implemented in 1991 and will concentrate on purchasing and upgrading of equipment at a regional level. It will involve mainly super mini computers and related equipment.

The supply contracts will be organised by GUS according to the normal EC procedure of open international tender, with appropriate technical assistance, if necessary.

4. Implementation of the Trans-European Mobility Programme for higher education (TEMPUS) in Czechoslovakia - ECU 4 million

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

In line with the Council Decision of 7 May 1990 establishing the TEMPUS programme and following the extension of Community Economic assistance to other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Commission has decided to extend the implementation of the TEMPUS programme to Czechoslovakia.

The purpose of the scheme is to assist in the modernisation of higher education and vocational training in Czechoslovakia, and to promote relations between higher education institutes in Czechoslovakia and appropriate organisations in the EC.

Implementation of the programme will begin as soon as possible and is likely to be concentrated in three specific areas:

- (a) Grants to join European projects linking universities and/or enterprises with their counterparts in the EC.
- (b) Mobility grants for teachers/trainers, students/trainees, and administrators.
- (c) Grants for complementary activities.

The TEMPUS office in Brussels will coordinate the programme in cooperation with appropriate bodies in Community Member States and the G-24 countries. Czechoslovakia is already setting up a national TEMPUS office in Prague, which will be responsible for the provision of information about TEMPUS to local universities, teachers, students and enterprises, as well as for the implementation of the three types of actions foreseen by the programme.

A financing facility has already been established at an appropriate bank, and a special account opened and exclusively reserved for payments to grant holders. Any interest earned will be accumulated in this operational fund.

The first part of the document discusses the general principles of the project and the objectives that have been set. It also outlines the scope of the work and the resources that will be required to complete it.

The second part of the document provides a detailed description of the methodology that will be used to carry out the project. This includes a discussion of the data collection methods and the analysis techniques that will be employed.

The third part of the document describes the results of the project to date. This includes a summary of the data that has been collected and the findings that have been identified to date.

The fourth part of the document discusses the conclusions that have been drawn from the project to date. This includes a summary of the key findings and the implications of these findings for the project as a whole.

The fifth part of the document provides a summary of the project and a list of references. This includes a brief overview of the project and a list of the sources that have been consulted in the course of the project.

The sixth part of the document provides a detailed description of the methodology that will be used to carry out the project. This includes a discussion of the data collection methods and the analysis techniques that will be employed.

The seventh part of the document describes the results of the project to date. This includes a summary of the data that has been collected and the findings that have been identified to date.

The eighth part of the document discusses the conclusions that have been drawn from the project to date. This includes a summary of the key findings and the implications of these findings for the project as a whole.

The ninth part of the document provides a summary of the project and a list of references. This includes a brief overview of the project and a list of the sources that have been consulted in the course of the project.

The tenth part of the document provides a detailed description of the methodology that will be used to carry out the project. This includes a discussion of the data collection methods and the analysis techniques that will be employed.

The eleventh part of the document describes the results of the project to date. This includes a summary of the data that has been collected and the findings that have been identified to date.

The twelfth part of the document discusses the conclusions that have been drawn from the project to date. This includes a summary of the key findings and the implications of these findings for the project as a whole.

The thirteenth part of the document provides a summary of the project and a list of references. This includes a brief overview of the project and a list of the sources that have been consulted in the course of the project.

The fourteenth part of the document provides a detailed description of the methodology that will be used to carry out the project. This includes a discussion of the data collection methods and the analysis techniques that will be employed.

The fifteenth part of the document describes the results of the project to date. This includes a summary of the data that has been collected and the findings that have been identified to date.

The sixteenth part of the document discusses the conclusions that have been drawn from the project to date. This includes a summary of the key findings and the implications of these findings for the project as a whole.

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