



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 26.6.2012
C(2012) 4199 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 26.6.2012

on the adoption of a financing decision for 2012 to fund a pilot project and a preparatory action in the field of energy

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities¹ (hereinafter the 'Financial Regulation'), and in particular Articles 49(6) and 75(2) thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities² (hereinafter the 'Implementing Rules'), and in particular Articles 90, 166 and 167 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 75 of the Financial Regulation and Article 90(1) of the Implementing Rules, the commitment of expenditure from the Community budget is preceded by a financing decision setting out the essential elements of the action involving expenditure and adopted by the institution or the authorities to which powers have been delegated by the institution.
- (2) This financing decision may also cover the payment of default interest due on the basis of Article 83 of the Financial Regulation and Article 106(5) of the Implementing Rules.
- (3) The term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 90(4) of the Implementing Rules should be defined for the purposes of applying this Decision.
- (4) Article 49(6)(a) and (b) of the Financial Regulation provide for the implementation of pilot projects and preparatory actions without a basic act, as long as the actions financed fall within the competence of the Community or the Union.
- (5) The purpose of this pilot project is to start a dialogue with citizens and launch an information campaign on shale gas before beginning to exploit it industrially.

¹ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002.

² OJ L 357, 31.12.2002.

- (6) The aim of this preparatory action is to examine all the conditions for successfully implementing the cooperation mechanisms of the Directive on renewable energy sources and their interaction with other national aid schemes or mechanisms. It will allow the need to develop a specific framework for exploiting this mechanism to be assessed,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

This financing decision on the pilot project and the preparatory action in the field of energy, as set out in Annexes I and II, is adopted.

Article 2

The maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the pilot project and the preparatory action is set at € 700 000 to be financed from the following budget lines of the general budget of the European Union for 2012:

- budget line 32 04 18 for the pilot project: € 200 000
- budget line 32 04 19 for the preparatory action: € 500 000

These appropriations may also cover default interest.

Article 3

Changes in allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objective of the action.

Done at Brussels, 26.6.2012

For the Commission
Günther OETTINGER
Member of the Commission

APPENDICES

ANNEX I

Grant for a pilot project in the field of energy awarded following a call for proposals

Budget line: **32 04 18 - Pilot project — Energy security — Shale gas**

Legal basis:

Pilot project within the meaning of Article 49(6) 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 (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1).

Objective(s):

To start a dialogue with citizens and launch an information campaign on shale gas before national decisions on its potential industrial exploitation. This debate should involve the public authorities, the local communities, the general public, businesses and NGOs.

This pilot project should test the feasibility and usefulness of closer links between public debates in the Member State and the efforts and activities taking place at EU level (such as studies), particularly with a view to enhancing the debates at EU level.

Expected result(s):

A series of public meetings between the Commission/public authorities of the Member State in regions where shale gas exploration projects are ongoing or planned in concrete terms, preceded by online consultations on the relevant aspects to discuss at the above-mentioned meetings.

Active involvement of the different sectors concerned

Subjects proposed for 2012	– Dialogue with citizens and launch of an information campaign on shale gas.
Date of the call for proposals	July 2012
Main eligibility criteria	– Call for proposals open to the Member States in cooperation with the public authorities responsible for regulating projects in the hydrocarbon field.
Main selection criteria	– The proposal must demonstrate that the applicant has the professional and technical qualifications and abilities required to conduct the proposed activities.
Main award criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Methodology for the online consultation.2) Methodology for the 'hearings' to ensure the inclusion of all the stakeholders.3) European dimension: methodology for dealing with local concerns and questions, in combination with the efforts made by the European institutions and the issues addressed by EU legislation.4) Cost-effectiveness: the budget, broken down by category of expenditure, must demonstrate a good level of cost-effectiveness for the action (balance between the expected results and the amount of the grant).
Financing rate	No more than 50% of the total eligible costs of the action. The rate of co-financing will be decided on the basis of the award criteria and the opinion of

	the Evaluation Committees. The maximum possible part-financing rate will be earmarked for the proposals which best meet the award criteria.
Budget	€ 200 000

ANNEX II

Contract for expenditure relating to a preparatory action

Description of the action and its objectives:

In the framework of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources (OJ L 140 of 5.6.2009, p. 16), which sets national targets for the share of renewable energy sources in gross final energy consumption, a new mechanism is proposed for achieving the national targets, under which Member States can make use of national support schemes and of the cooperation mechanisms provided in the context of Directive 2009/28/EC on energy from renewable sources. These mechanisms, which introduce flexibility for Member States on a voluntary cooperation basis, refer to statistical transfers between Member States (Article 6), joint projects between Member States (Articles 7 and 8), joint projects between Member States and third countries (Articles 9 and 10) and joint support schemes between Member States (Article 11).

This preparatory action should aim to examine all the conditions for the successful implementation of these cooperation mechanisms and their interaction with other mechanisms or national support schemes, and to assess the need to develop a specific framework for the operation of this mechanism. Development of this operation framework should be given priority in Member States with limited cross-border network capacities as well as in areas that exhibit high potential for specific renewable energy sources projects.

This action will follow up work performed under the IEE programme, namely the RES4LESS project and the discussions and actions based on the concerted action on the implementation of Directive 2009/28/EC.

CONTRACT FOR EXPENDITURE RELATING TO A PREPARATORY ACTION

Budget line	<i>32 04 19 Preparatory action – Cooperation mechanisms implementing the renewable energy sources Directive</i>		
Legal basis	Preparatory action within the meaning of Article 49(6) 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 (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1).		
Subject	Cooperation mechanisms implementing the renewable energy sources Directive		
2012 appropriations	Initial budget		500 000
	Transfers		0
	Total		500 000
Use of appropriations	Contract(s)		500 000
Amount covered by Annex II to this Decision for financing the abovementioned budget line			500 000
Details of grants			
N/A			
Details of contracts			
<i>Type of output</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Indicative amount</i>	<i>Date of conclusion of contract</i>
Procurement	Study (1)	500 000	Q1 (), Q2 (), Q3 (1), Q4 ()

Q1: 1st quarter, Q2: 2nd quarter, Q3: 3rd quarter, Q4: 4th quarter