



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY
European Territorial Cooperation, Macro-regions, Interreg and Programme Implementation I
Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania

Brussels,
REGIO.DDG.D.5/AMS/regio.ddg.d.5
(2019) 2887671

Subject: Closure of the programme "Infrastructure and Services" (CCI N° 2007LV161PO002) – Interruption of the period for retention of documents with regard to the operations affected by pending cases

Dear Mr Eberhards

The Commission services received the closure documents referred to in Article 89(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 concerning the assistance in reference on the following dates: the final implementation report on 30 March 2017, the closure declaration on 30 March 2017 and the certified statement of expenditure including an application for payment of the final balance on 30 March 2017.

By letter Ares(2018)3731139 of 13 July 2018, the Commission services sent a pre-closure proposal to the authorities of the Republic of Latvia suggesting to deduct the amount affected by pending cases as it had no impact on the amount of assistance from the ERDF and CF to be paid. Following this pre-closure proposal, the Republic of Latvia has received payment of the final balance on 30 July 2018.

The above-mentioned pre-closure proposal has not been accepted by the authorities of the Republic of Latvia, Ares(2018)4701734 of 13 September 2018.

The starting date of the three-year period during which the supporting documents in relation to the above-mentioned assistance must be kept available in accordance with Article 90 of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 is to be fixed at 30 July 2018, which corresponds to the payment of the final balance.

However, pursuant to Article 90(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006, we must inform you that we have decided to interrupt the three-year period with regard to the operations affected by pending recoveries and on-going national investigations as from the date of receipt of this letter.

Mr Armands Eberhards
Deputy State Secretary
Ministry of Finance
Smilšu iela 1
Riga, LV-1919
Latvia

The request to interrupt the three-year period with regard to the operations affected by the above-mentioned pending cases is motivated by the fact that there is a lack of assurance that the expenditure declared to the Commission is legal and regular as it includes expenditure affected by those cases, entailing a risk for the Union's financial interests. For this reason, the closure documents have not yet been accepted by the Commission and the closure of the assistance has not yet been carried out.

As soon as the above-mentioned pending cases are resolved, the Commission will proceed with the closure of the corresponding assistance. The interruption of the three-year period with regard to the operations affected by the above-mentioned pending cases will be considered lifted as from the date of receipt of the closure proposal from the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Angela MARTINEZ SARASOLA
Head of Unit

c.c.: Ms Nata Lasmane, Head of Audit Authority, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia
Mr Kaspars Abolins, Head of Certifying authority, The Treasury of the Republic of Latvia