



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

REGIONAL POLICY

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden

The Director

Brussels,  
H2/DF D(2009) 890524

14.12.2009\*011674

Mr Andžs Ūbelis  
Deputy State Secretary  
Ministry of Finance  
Smilšu ielā 1  
LV- 1919 Rīga  
Latvia

**Subject: Major Project decision in the programming period 2007-2013**

Ref.: Meeting on 27 November 2009 between Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Latvian Authorities

Dear Mr Ūbelis,

The provisions governing major projects in the 2007-2013 programming period differ from those previously applicable to the ERDF<sup>i</sup> and from the provisions applicable to projects funded under the Cohesion Fund (adoption of individual decisions concerning each project irrespective of its total cost<sup>ii</sup>) under the 2000-2006 period.

Unlike decisions on major projects in the 2000-2006 programming period taken under Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999, the decision which will be taken on the basis of Article 41(2) of the General Regulation will not confirm the level of Community assistance to be granted to a given major project. Instead, the Commission decision "*shall define (...) the amount to which the co-financing rate for the priority axis applies*" i.e. the maximum amount of eligible expenditure<sup>iii</sup> that can be declared to the Commission for a contribution from the Funds to the major project. This maximum amount is that to which the provisions of Article 77 of the General Regulation on common rules for calculating payments will apply. In case of revenue-generating projects within the meaning of Article 55 of the General Regulation, this amount will not exceed the 'funding-gap' i.e. the current value of the investment costs less the current value of the net revenue<sup>iv</sup>.

However, the total ERDF contribution to a particular project stipulated in the National system can be lower than the maximum ERDF contribution set out in the adopted EC decision.

Yours sincerely,



Charlina Vitcheva

---

<sup>i</sup> Article 26(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999.

<sup>ii</sup> Article 10(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1164/1994 as amended.

<sup>iii</sup> The amount mentioned in the Commission's decision will correspond to eligible expenditure of the project. That amount will then have to be distinguished from the total costs, which can be higher and are those taken into account for the identification of major projects when the Member State, the managing authority or the Commission applies the thresholds set out in Article 39 of the General Regulation.

<sup>iv</sup> See Annex XXI and XXII of Commission Implementation Regulation (EC) No 1828/2006 and Information note to the COCOF No 07/0074/00-EN on Article 55 of the General Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006.