

COMMISSION DECISION

of 30 April 2008

on the clearance of the accounts of the paying agencies of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia concerning expenditure in the field of rural development measures financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) for the 2007 financial year

(notified under document number C(2008) 1710)

(Only the Czech, Estonian, Greek, English, Latvian, Lithuanian, Hungarian, Polish, Slovak and Slovenian texts are authentic)

(2008/395/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia before 31 March 2008 the results of its verifications, along with the necessary amendments.

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 of 21 June 2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy ⁽¹⁾, and in particular Articles 30 and 39 thereof,

(4) For the rural development expenditure covered by Article 7(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 27/2004 of 5 January 2004 laying down transitional detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 as regards the financing by the EAGGF Guarantee Section of rural development measures in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia ⁽³⁾ the outcome of the clearance decision is to be deducted from or added to subsequent payments made by the Commission.

After consulting the Committee on the Agricultural Funds,

Whereas:

(1) On the basis of the annual accounts submitted by the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia concerning expenditure in the field of rural development measures, accompanied by the information required, the accounts of the paying agencies referred to in Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 are to be cleared. The clearance covers the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the accounts transmitted in the light of the reports established by the certification bodies.

(5) In the light of the verifications made, the annual accounts and the accompanying documents permit the Commission to take, for certain paying agencies, a decision on the completeness, accuracy and veracity of the accounts submitted. The details of these amounts were described in the Summary Report that was presented to the Fund Committee at the same time as this Decision.

(2) The time limits granted to the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia referred to in Article 7(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 885/2006 ⁽²⁾ laying down detailed rules for the application of the procedure for the clearance of accounts of the EAGF for the submission to the Commission of the documents referred to in Article 8(1)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 and in Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 885/2006, have expired.

(6) In the light of the verifications made, the information submitted by certain paying agencies requires additional inquiries and their accounts cannot be therefore cleared in this Decision.

(3) The Commission has checked the information submitted and communicated to the Czech Republic, Estonia,

(7) For the rural development expenditure covered by Regulation (EC) No 27/2004, the amounts recoverable or payable under the clearance of accounts decision are to be deducted from or added to subsequent payments.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 209, 11.8.2005, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 1437/2007 (OJ L 322, 7.12.2007, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ OJ L 171, 23.6.2006, p. 90. Regulation as amended by Regulation (EC) No 1233/2007 (OJ L 279, 23.10.2007, p. 10).

(8) In accordance with Article 30(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005, this Decision does not prejudice decisions taken subsequently by the Commission excluding from Community financing expenditure not effected in accordance with Community rules,

⁽³⁾ OJ L 5, 9.1.2004, p. 36.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Without prejudice to Article 2, the accounts of the paying agencies of the Member States concerning expenditure in the field of rural development financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) in respect of the 2007 financial year, are hereby cleared.

The amounts which are recoverable from, or payable to, each Member State pursuant to this Decision in the field of rural development measures applicable in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia are set out in Annex I and Annex II.

Article 2

For the 2007 financial year, the accounts of the Member States' paying agencies in the field of rural development measures applicable in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia,

Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia, set out in Annex III, are disjoined from this Decision and shall be the subject of a future clearance Decision.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic.

Done at Brussels, 30 April 2008.

For the Commission
Mariann FISCHER BOEL
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

CLEARANCE OF THE PAYING AGENCIES' ACCOUNTS
Financial year 2007 — EAGF rural development expenditure in new Member States
Amount to be recovered from or paid to the Member State

MS	2007 — Expenditure for the paying agencies for which the accounts are		disjoined = total of interim payments reimbursed to the Member State for the financial year	Total a + b	Reductions	Total	Interim payments reimbursed to the Member State for the financial year	Amount to be recovered from (-) or paid to (+) the Member State (*)
	cleared	= expenditure declared in the annual declaration						
CY	EUR	17 817 990,09		17 817 990,09	0,00	17 817 990,09	17 817 394,00	596,09
CZ	EUR	188 407 840,07		188 407 840,07	0,00	188 407 840,07	107 317 031,00	81 090 809,07
EE	EUR	0,00	36 236 291,00	36 236 291,00	0,00	36 236 291,00	36 236 291,00	0,00
HU	EUR	178 498 827,76		178 498 827,76	0,00	178 498 827,76	142 520 308,00	35 978 519,76
LT	EUR	156 247 750,70		156 247 750,70	0,00	156 247 750,70	137 893 174,00	18 354 576,70
LV	EUR	110 967 368,28		110 967 368,28	0,00	110 967 368,28	92 775 801,00	18 191 567,28
MT	EUR	0,00	4 148 025,00	4 148 025,00	0,00	4 148 025,00	4 148 025,00	0,00
PL	EUR	1 085 818 964,54		1 085 818 964,54	0,00	1 085 818 964,54	624 783 864,00	461 035 100,54
SI	EUR	88 853 612,73		88 853 612,73	0,00	88 853 612,73	29 882 274,00	58 971 338,73
SK	EUR	144 596 146,16		144 596 146,16	0,00	144 596 146,16	105 327 185,00	39 268 961,16

(*) As payments have reached 95 % of the financial plan, the balance in respect of CZ, HU, LT, LV, PL, SI and SK will be settled during the closure of the programme.

MS	Advances paid but still to be cleared for the programme implementation (Article 32 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1260/1999)
CZ	EUR 86 848 000,00
CY	EUR 11 968 000,00
EE	EUR 24 080 000,00
HU	EUR 96 368 000,00
LT	EUR 78 320 000,00
LV	EUR 52 496 000,00
MT	EUR 4 304 000,00
PL	EUR 458 624 000,00
SI	EUR 45 056 000,00
SK	EUR 63 536 000,00

ANNEX II

CLEARED EXPENDITURE BY EAGF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MEASURE FOR EXERCISE 2007 IN NEW MEMBER STATES

Differences between annual accounts and declarations of expenditure

CYPRUS

No	Measures	Expenditure 2007 Annex I column 'a'	Reductions Annex I column 'd'	Amount cleared for 2007 Annex I column 'e'
		i	ii	iii = i + ii
1	Support of investments for management of animal waste	3 225 390,38		3 225 390,38
2	Encouragement for improvement and development	2 413 832,05		2 413 832,05
3	Encouragement of the set-up of producer groups	0,00		0,00
4	Promotion of vocational training of farmers	0,00		0,00
5	Technical and advisory service to the farmers	0,00		0,00
6	Early retirement	476 161,06		476 161,06
7	Support for setting-up of young farmers	0,00		0,00
8	Meeting EU standards	1 327 209,76		1 327 209,76
9	Adoption of agri-environmental measures	5 598 846,60		5 598 846,60
10	Agri-environmental actions for the protection of natural value	1 385 404,31		1 385 404,31
11	Afforestation	80 294,63		80 294,63
12	Improving of infrastructure for livestock development	600 274,13		600 274,13
13	Less-favoured areas	1 298 319,91		1 298 319,91
14	Support for quality schemes	0,00		0,00
15	Support of small-scale traditional processing	211 518,23		211 518,23
16	Protection of agricultural and traditional landscapes	504 899,70		504 899,70
17	Protection from forest fires and other natural disasters	293 655,31		293 655,31
18	Afforestation of non-agricultural land	314 776,22		314 776,22
19	Improvement of harvesting process	79 455,98		79 455,98
20	Technical support of the implementation, monitoring	0,00		0,00
21	Technical support of collective initiatives at local level	7 951,82		7 951,82
	Total	17 817 990,09	0,00	17 817 990,09

CZECH REPUBLIC

No	Measures	Expenditure 2007 Annex I column 'a'	Reductions Annex I column 'd'	Amount cleared for 2007 Annex I column 'e'
		i	ii	iii = i + ii
1	Early retirement	1 590 493,75		1 590 493,75
2	Less-favoured areas	81 005 360,10		81 005 360,10
3	Agri-environment	102 916 341,29		102 916 341,29
4	Forestry	2 687 988,90		2 687 988,90
5	Producer groups	207 656,03		207 656,03
6	Technical assistance	0,00		0,00

No	Measures	Expenditure 2007 Annex I column 'a'	Reductions Annex I column 'd'	Amount cleared for 2007 Annex I column 'e'
		i	ii	iii = i + ii
7	Sapard programme	0,00		0,00
700	Investments in agricultural holdings, Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999	0,00		0,00
701	Processing and marketing, Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999	0,00		0,00
702	Flood damage 1	0,00		0,00
703	Improving structures for quality	0,00		0,00
704	Land improvement and reparation	0,00		0,00
705	Renovation and development of villages	0,00		0,00
706	Flood damage 2	0,00		0,00
707	Development of rural infrastructure	0,00		0,00
708	Development and diversification of activities	0,00		0,00
709	Agricultural production methods to protect	0,00		0,00
710	Improvement of vocational training	0,00		0,00
711	Technical assistance, Sapard programme	0,00		0,00
	Total	188 407 840,07	0,00	188 407 840,07

HUNGARY

No	Measures	Expenditure 2007 Annex I column 'a'	Reductions Annex I column 'd'	Amount cleared for 2007 Annex I column 'e'
		i	ii	iii = i + ii
1	Agri-environment	73 486 969,91		73 486 969,91
2	Meeting standards	4 105 536,55		4 105 536,55
3	Afforestation	22 816 432,69		22 816 432,69
4	Support for semi-substance farms	685 771,04		685 771,04
5	Producer groups	15 660 337,14		15 660 337,14
6	Early retirement	0,00		0,00
7	Less-favoured areas	5 445 831,94		5 445 831,94
8	Technical assistance	12 481 066,90		12 481 066,90
9	Projects approved under Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999	0,00		0,00
10	Complementary national direct payments	43 816 881,59		43 816 881,59
	Total	178 498 827,76	0,00	178 498 827,76

LITHUANIA

No	Measures	Expenditure 2007 Annex I column 'a'	Reductions Annex I column 'd'	Amount cleared for 2007 Annex I column 'e'
		i	ii	iii = i + ii
1	Agri-environment	22 285 402,90		22 285 402,90
2	Less-favoured areas and areas with environmental restrictions	49 265 832,76		49 265 832,76
3	Meeting standards	27 087 408,61		27 087 408,61

No	Measures	Expenditure 2007 Annex I column 'a'	Reductions Annex I column 'd'	Amount cleared for 2007 Annex I column 'e'
		i	ii	iii = i + ii
4	Afforestation of agricultural land	2 282 657,14		2 282 657,14
5	Early retirement	25 344 412,08		25 344 412,08
6	Support for semi-subsistence farms undergoing restructuring	1 957 236,61		1 957 236,61
7	Other measures	261 299,00		261 299,00
8	Technical assistance	1 608 513,64		1 608 513,64
9	Complementary national direct payments	26 154 987,96		26 154 987,96
	Total	156 247 750,70	0,00	156 247 750,70

LATVIA

No	Measures	Expenditure 2007 Annex I column 'a'	Reductions Annex I column 'd'	Amount cleared for 2007 Annex I column 'e'
		i	ii	iii = i + ii
1	Early retirement	1 969 847,34		1 969 847,34
2	Producer groups	0,00		0,00
3	Support for semi-substance farms	11 380 749,30		11 380 749,30
4	Meeting standards	18 477 804,02		18 477 804,02
5	Agri-environment	28 455 604,50		28 455 604,50
6	Less-favoured areas	44 469 295,01		44 469 295,01
7	Technical assistance	687 059,69		687 059,69
8	Obligations transferred from previous programming period	5 527 008,42		5 527 008,42
9	Allocations of resources for single area payments	0,00		0,00
	Total	110 967 368,28	0,00	110 967 368,28

POLAND

No	Measures	Expenditure 2007 Annex I column 'a'	Reductions Annex I column 'd'	Amount cleared for 2007 Annex I column 'e'
		i	ii	iii = i + ii
1	Early retirement	208 211 570,06		208 211 570,06
2	Support for semi-substance farms	153 848 603,49		153 848 603,49
3	Producer groups	2 217 071,84		2 217 071,84
4	Less-favoured areas	268 656 270,64		268 656 270,64
5	Agri-environment undertakings and animal welfare	99 644 744,58		99 644 744,58
6	Afforestation	34 137 537,58		34 137 537,58
7	Meeting EU standards	162 483 934,83		162 483 934,83
8	Technical assistance	1 179 654,66		1 179 654,66
9	Complements to direct payments	155 386 446,75		155 386 446,75
10	Projects approved under Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999	53 130,11		53 130,11
	Total	1 085 818 964,54	0,00	1 085 818 964,54

SLOVENIA

No	Measures	Expenditure 2007 Annex I column 'a'	Reductions Annex I column 'd'	Amount cleared for 2007 Annex I column 'e'
		i	ii	iii = i + ii
1	Less-favoured areas	35 507 061,93		35 507 061,93
2	Agri-environment	36 570 020,31		36 570 020,31
3	Early retirement	2 157 975,90		2 157 975,90
4	Meeting standards	11 469 182,41		11 469 182,41
5	Technical assistance	622 994,02		622 994,02
6	Sapard programme	341 673,22		341 673,22
7	Complements to direct payments	2 184 704,95		2 184 704,95
	Total	88 853 612,73	0,00	88 853 612,73

SLOVAKIA

No	Measures	Expenditure 2007 Annex I column 'a'	Reductions Annex I column 'd'	Amount cleared for 2007 Annex I column 'e'
		i	ii	iii = i + ii
1	Investments in agricultural holdings	2 371 921,16		2 371 921,16
2	Training	0,00		0,00
3	Less-favoured areas and areas with environmental restrictions	69 206 792,25		69 206 792,25
4	Meeting standards	2 926 865,23		2 926 865,23
5	Agri-environmental support	47 813 409,02		47 813 409,02
6	Improving processing and marketing of agricultural products	355 963,87		355 963,87
7	Forest management	1 109,96		1 109,96
8	Afforestation of agricultural land	96 237,08		96 237,08
9	Land consolidation	316 125,54		316 125,54
10	Diversification of agricultural activities	9 505,89		9 505,89
11	Support for semi-subsistence farms	445 878,45		445 878,45
12	Producer groups	2 305 705,75		2 305 705,75
13	Technical assistance including evaluation	3 586 575,26		3 586 575,26
14	Complements to direct payments	14 365 364,23		14 365 364,23
901	Investments in agricultural holdings, Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999	131 805,70		131 805,70
905	Agri-environmental support — projects approved under Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999	582 024,62		582 024,62
907	Forest management — projects approved under Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999	0,00		0,00
912	Producer groups — project approved under Regulation (EC) No 1268/1999	80 862,15		80 862,15
	Total	144 596 146,16	0,00	144 596 146,16

ANNEX III

CLEARANCE OF THE PAYING AGENCIES' ACCOUNTS

Financial year 2007 — EAGF rural development expenditure in new Member States

List of the paying agencies for which the accounts are disjoined and are the subject of a later clearance decision

Member State	Paying agency
Estonia	PRIA
Malta	MRAE