



KUMMISSJONI TAL-KOMUNITAJIET EWROPEJ

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2004/0272 (COD)

Proposta għal

DEĊIŻJONI TAL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW U TAL-KUNSILL

li temenda d-Deċiżjoni tal-Kunsill 2000/819/KE dwar il-programm multiannwali għall-impriżi u intraprenditorija, u b'mod partikolari għall-impriżi żghar u ta' daqs medju (SMEs) (2001–2005)

(preżentata mill-Kummissjoni)

MEMORANDUM TA' SPJEGAZZJONI

1. Il-programm multiannwali (MAP) għall-imprizi u intraprenditorija, u b'mod partikolari għall-imprizi żgħar u ta' daqs medju (SMEs) gie adottat fl-20 ta' Diċembru 2000 biex jibda mill-1 ta' Jannar 2001 sal-31 ta' Diċembru 2005, b'baġit ta' 450 miljun euro.
2. L-MAP għandu l-għan li jikseb l-għanjiet li ġejjin:
 - biex isahha it-tkabbir u l-kompetittività ta' l-imprizi f'ekonomija internazzjonalizzata u msejsa fuq l-għarfien;
 - biex jippromwovi l-intraprenditorija;
 - biex jissemplifika u jtejjeb il-qafas amministrattiv u regolatorju għan-negozju sabiex ir-riċerka, l-innovazzjoni u l-holqien tan-negozju jikber;
 - biex itejjeb l-ambjent finanzjarju għan-negozju, speċjalment għall-SMEs;
 - biex jagħti lin-negozju aċċess aktar faċli għas-servizzi ta' appoġġ tal-Komunità, programmi u netwerks u biex itejjeb il-koordinazzjoni ta' dawn il-faċilitajiet; u
 - biex isostni l-implimentazzjoni tal-Karta Ewropea għall-Imprizi żgħar fuq Livell Komunitarju.
3. L-MAP hu implimentat permezz ta' 3 tipi ta' strumenti tat-twassil.
 - l-iskambju ta' esperjenza u l-identifikazzjoni ta' prattiċi tajbin bejn l-Istati Membri;
 - l-operazzjoni ta' netwerk ta' Ċentri Ewropej tat-Tagħrif li joffru servizzi u parir dwar suġġetti Ewropej lill-imprizi madwar ir-regjuni Ewropej;
 - id-dispożizzjoni, permezz tal-Fond Ewropew ta' l-Investment (EIF), ta' numru ta' strumenti finanzjarji Komunitarji għall-SMEs.
4. Evalwazzjoni esterna tal-MAP giet mwettqa minn esperti indipendenti. L-esperti kkonfermaw li l-MAP kienet issodisfat l-għanjiet globali tagħha kollha u li l-istrumenti tat-twassil tagħha kienu effettivi.
 - L-istrumenti finanzjarji tal-Komunità għall-SMEs instabu li għinu b'suċċess għat-thaffif ta' l-aċċess ta' l-SMEs għall-finanzi. Huma jindirizzaw lakuni magħrufa fis-suq jew fallimenti tas-suq li jkomplu jeżistu minkejja l-integrazzjoni tas-suq għal servizzi finanzjarji. Madankollu, evalwazzjonijiet urew li l-konċentrazzjoni eċċesiva, ta' l-istrumenti finanzjarji tal-Komunità għall-SMEs, fuq setturi speċifiċi ta' l-ekonomija jew fuq ċerti għanjiet tal-politika tista' tillimita l-approvazzjoni tagħhom fis-suq. Minbarra dan, għandha tinkiseb visibilità aħjar għall-istrumenti finanzjarji tal-Komunità. Ir-rwol ta' l-EIF fit-thaddim ta' l-istrumenti finanzjarji tal-Komunità għall-SMEs imsejjes fuq talba gie meqjus bħala prattika aħjar.
 - L-evalwazzjonijiet ivverifikaw ir-rwol pożittiv tan-Netwerk ta' Ċentri Ewropej tat-Tagħrif biex jipprovdu servizzi ta' appoġġ ta' negozju għall-SMEs. Madankollu, gie ssuġġerit li r-rwol trasversali tan-netwerk ta' Ċentri Ewropej tat-

Tagħrif fit-twassil tal-programm għandu jissahha, per eżempju, fit-tixrid ta' l-attivitajiet u riżultati tal-programm.

- Gie ssuġġerit li l-iskambju ta' esperjenza u l-identifikazzjoni ta' prattiċi tajbin bejn l-Istati Membri bl-għan li jissahha l-ambjent għall-intraprenditorija u l-imprizi jsir aktar ikkonċentrat. Ma' dan, il-monitoraġġ ta' l-attivitajiet ta' segwitu mwettaq mill-Istati Membri sejjer isahha l-effikaċja tiegħu.
5. L-implimentazzjoni tal-MAP kienet suġġetta għal evalwazzjonijiet regolari. Waħda minnhom ikkonċernat il-Programm Ewropew Kongunt ta' l-Intrapriża (JEV) li kien parti mill-Inizjattiva tat-Tkabbir u ta' l-Impjieg adottata mill-Kunsill fl-1998 u li giet integrata fil-MAP fl-aħħar ta' l-2000, mingħajr baġit supplimentari. Ir-rapport ta' evalwazzjoni ta' l-2003 dwar l-Inizjattiva tat-Tkabbir u l-Impjieg indika effettività fl-infiq baxx u talba tas-suq baxxa għall-programm JEV u giegħel lill-Kummissjoni li tippromwovi li temenda l-MAP sabiex jintemm l-użu tal-JAV f'mod gradwali. L-emenda rispettiva tal-programm giet adottata bid-Deċiżjoni tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill fil-21 ta' Lulju 2004.¹
6. Konsultazzjoni pubblika fuq l-elementi possibbli fuq programm ta' appoġġ fil-gejjieni għall-kompetittività ta' l-intraprenditorija u ta' l-imprizi, biex tagħti segwitu lill-MAP, twettqet mill-Kummissjoni minn Marzu sa Mejju 2004. Din il-konsultazzjoni indikat appoġġ qawwi għal bażi akbar għall-analiżi tal-politika, żvilupp u koordinazzjoni kif ukoll għal miżuri speċifiċi biex jgħinu lill-imprizi biex ikunu kompetittivi u innovattivi.
7. Il-programm propost għandu jibda fl-2006, taht il-perspettiva finanzjarja attwali, u jispiċċa fl-2010, id-data li fiha suppost jinkisbu l-għanjiet ambizzjużi stipulati mill-agenda ta' Lisbona. L-isfida għall-programm il-gdid tkun għalhekk li tgħin għal kompetittività b'mod aktar globali minn dak miksub mill-MAP. Wara l-evalwazzjoni u l-konsultazzjoni pubblika, il-Kummissjoni ddeċidiet li programm ta' qafas jkollu l-aqwa potenzjal biex jinkoraġġixxi l-innovazzjoni u l-kompetittività. Għalhekk, il-Kummissjoni pproponiet, f' Komunikazzjoni ta' l-14 ta' Lulju 2004² li tipprepara programm ta' qafas bħal dan fil-kuntest tal-perspettiva finanzjarja l-gdida (2007-2013). Il-programm ta' qafas sejjer jipprovdi l-mezzi u l-istrumenti għall-politika ta' implimentazzjoni f'setturi varji li jinfluwenzaw il-kompetittività Ewropea. Dan jinkludu:
- It-titjib ta' l-ambjent tan-negozju (aċċess għall-kapital għall-investment, netwerks elettronici żguri, it-twassil effettiv ta' servizzi tan-negozju madwar l-UE; u servizzi modernizzati permezz ta' l-użu tat-teknoloġija u l-komunikazzjoni ta' l-informatika.
 - il-garanzija li l-innovazzjoni taħdem biex tippromwovi l-kompetittività u tigi mwettqa fil-prattika fuq livell ta' negozju. (Sinerġiji mal-Programm ta' Qafas għal Riċerka "Pjattaformi teknoloġici", teknoloġija ambjentali, enerġija li tiġġedded, li jaħdmu permezz ta' l-Aġenzija ta' Enerġija Intelliġenti).

¹ ĠU L 268, tas-16.8.2004, p. 3-5.

² KUMM(2004) 487 finali.

- L-appoġġ tal-politika Ewropea dwar il-kompettività ta' l-intraprizi, innovazzjoni, intraprenditorija u SMEs ma' kompetenza politika u l-promozzjoni ta' azzjoni ta' l-UE.
8. Mhux possibbli li tiġi ppreżentata proposta tal-Kummissjoni bħal din għal programm ta' qafas dwar l-innovazzjoni u l-kompetittività fl-2004 sabiex tiżgura l-bidu tagħha fl-1 ta' Jannar 2006. Il-programm ta' qafas għall-innovazzjoni u l-kompetittività għandu jikkoincidi mas-Seba' Programm ta' Qafas għar-Riċerka. Għaldaqstant, iż-żewġ programmi ta' qafas għandhom jibdew konsekuttivament fl-1 ta' Jannar 2007.
9. Madankollu, jehtieg li tiġi ggarantita t-tkomplija tas-sostenn tal-Komunità għat-titjib ta' l-ambjent tan-negozju u għat-tkabbir u l-kompetittività ta' l-imprizi, b'mod partikolari l-SMEs. Għalhekk hu importanti li jiġi evitat kull tħarbit ta' l-istrumenti użati taht il-MAP. Fid-dawl ta' dawn iċ-ċirkostanzi, il-Kummissjoni tipproponi li l-programm preżenti, kif emendat fl-2004, għandu jiġi estiż sal-31 ta' Diċembru 2006. Dan sejjer jawtorizza lill-Kummissjoni li tippreżenta proposta għal programm ta' qafas tal-Komunità dwar l-innovazzjoni u l-kompetittività mill-aktar fiss.
10. B'hekk il-Kummissjoni tal-Komunità tipproponi:
- li testendi l-MAP sal-31 ta' Diċembru 2006;
 - li żżied l-ammont ta' referenza finanzjarja b'EUR 81.5 miljun.

Proposta għal

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li temenda d-Deċiżjoni tal-Kunsill 2000/819/KE dwar il-programm multiannwali għall-impriżi u intraprenditorija, u b'mod partikolari għall-impriżi żgħar u ta' daqs medju (SMEs) (2001–2005)

(Test b'rilevanza għaż-ŻEE)

IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW U L-KUNSILL TA' L-UNJONI EWROPEA,

Wara li kkunsidraw it-Trattat li jstabbilixxi l-Komunità Ewropea, u b'mod partikolari l-Artikolu 157(3) tiegħu,

Wara li kkunsidraw il-proposta mill-Kummissjoni ³,

Wara li kkunsidraw l-opinjoni tal-Komitat Ekonomiku u Soċjali ⁴,

Wara li kkunsidraw l-opinjoni tal-Komitat tar-Regjuni ⁵,

Jagixxu bi qbil mal-proċedura stabbilita fl-Artikolu 251 tat-Trattat ⁶,

Billi:

- (1) Jehtieg li tiġi ggarantita t-tkomplija tas-sostenn tal-Komunità għall-impriżi u intraprenditorija, u b'mod partikolari għall-impriżi żgħar u ta' daqs medju (SMEs)
- (2) Għalhekk, jehtieg li jiġi estiz il-perijodu tal-validità tad-Deċiżjoni tal-Kunsill 2000/819/KE⁷ għal sena oħra sal-31 ta' Diċembru 2006 u li jitkabbar l-ammont ta' referenza finanzjarja b'EUR 81.5 miljun.
- (3) Id-Deċiżjoni 2000/819/KEE għandha tiġi emendata kif jehtieg,

³ ĠU C [...], [...], p. [...].

⁴ ĠU C [...], [...], p. [...].

⁵ ĠU C [...], [...], p. [...].

⁶ ĠU C [...], [...], p. [...].

⁷ ĠU L 333, tad-29.12.2000, p. 84. Deċiżjoni kif emendata l-aħħar mid-Deċiżjoni tal-Parlament Ewropew u tal-Kunsill Nru 593/2004/KE (ĠU L 268, tas-16.8.2004, p. 3).

IDDEĊIDEW KIF ĠEJ:

Artikolu 1

Id-Deċiżjoni 2000/819/KE hija emendata kif ġej:

- (1) Fl-Artikolu 7(1), l-ammont ta' referenza finanzjarja ta' EUR 450 miljun hu ssostitwit b'EUR 531.5 miljun.
- (2) Fl-Artikolu 8, id-data tal-31 ta' Diċembru 2005 hi ssostitwita b'dik tal-31 ta' Diċembru 2006.

Artikolu 2

Din id-Deċiżjoni għandha tidhol fis-seħh fil-ġurnata tal-pubblikazzjoni tagħha fil-*Ġurnal Uffiċjali tal-Unjoni Ewropea*.

Magħmula fi Brussel, [...]

Għall-Parlament Ewropew
Il-President

Għall-Kunsill
Il-President

LEGISLATIVE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Policy area: Enterprise

Activity: Encouraging entrepreneurship

TITLE OF ACTION: MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME FOR ENTERPRISE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND IN PARTICULAR FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs) (2001-2005)

1. BUDGET LINES + HEADINGS

The following existing budget lines:

010405: Improvement of the financial environment for SMEs;

02020301: Multiannual Programme for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, and in particular for SMEs;

02010404: Administrative support;

2. OVERALL FIGURES

2.1 Total allocation for action (Part B):

€ 81.5 million for commitment

This amount represents the budgetary impact of the proposal to prolong the existing programme, which is due to end on 31 December 2005, for the additional year to 31 December 2006.

2.2 Period of application: 1st January 2006 - 31st December 2006

Payment appropriations may extend beyond the end of the legal base until 31 December 2008.

2.3 Overall multiannual estimate of expenditure:

- a) Schedule of commitment appropriations/payment appropriations (financial intervention) (*see point 6.1.1*)

€ million (to three decimal places)

	2006	2007	2008	Total
Commitment appropriations	74.700			74.700
Payment appropriations	29.880	22.410	22.410	74.700

b) Technical and administrative assistance and support expenditure (*see point 6.1.2*)

	2006	2007	2008	Total
Commitment appropriations	6.800			6.800
Payment appropriations	6.800			6.800

Sub-total a+b				
Commitment appropriations	81.500	0	0	81.500
Payment appropriations	36.680	22.410	22.410	81.500

c) Overall financial impact of human resources and other administrative expenditure (*see points 7.2 and 7.3*)

Commitments/ payments	8.914	0	0	8.914
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TOTAL a+b+c				
Commitment appropriations	90.414	0	0	90.414
Payment appropriations	45.594	22.410	22.410	90.414

2.4 Compatibility with financial programming and financial perspective

- [X] Proposal is compatible with existing financial programming.
- [..] Proposal will entail reprogramming of the relevant headings in the financial perspective.
- [..] Proposal may require application of the provisions of the Interinstitutional Agreement.

2.5 Financial impact on revenue

- [X] Proposal has no financial implications (involves technical aspects regarding implementation of a measure).
[..] Proposal has financial impact.

3. BUDGET CHARACTERISTICS

Type of expenditure		New	EFTA contributions	Contributions from applicant countries	Heading in financial perspective	Budgetary lines
Non-comp.	Diff.	(NO)	YES	YES	N° 3	01 04 05
Non-comp	Diff	(NO)	YESYES	YES	N°3	02 02 03 01 02
Non-comp	Non-Diff	(NO)		YES	N°3	01 04 04

4. LEGAL BASIS

Article 157 (3) of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

5. DESCRIPTION AND GROUNDS

5.1 Need for Community intervention

The objective of the prolongation is to ensure the continuation of the multiannual programme (MAP) for enterprise and entrepreneurship, and in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises during the year 2006. The present programme will expire on the 31 December 2005. The prolongation is deemed necessary to ensure continuity of the Community action in the transition period towards a Community framework programme on innovation and competitiveness (as proposed in the Communication on the Financial Perspectives 2007-2013 of 14th July 2004, COM(2004)487 final). Moreover, the prolongation will allow the MAP to coincide with the financial perspectives, which have been established until 2006.

The present proposal for prolongation does not include any modification to Council Decision 2000/819/EC of 20 December 2000 as amended by Decision 593/2004/EC of 21/07/2004⁸ of the European Parliament and the Council, except for the duration of the programme. As a consequence an additional year of budget allocation will be established.

5.1.1 Objectives pursued

The objectives and instruments of the Multiannual Programme (MAP) for Enterprise and Entrepreneurship are set out in the Explanatory Memorandum.

⁸ OJ L268 of 16/08/2004, pp. 3-5.

Problems addressed by the programme

The needs addressed by the MAP derive from the problems enterprises face in all Member States and participating countries due to:

– Entrepreneurship gap and low rates of growth

The European Union does not adequately exploit its entrepreneurial potential. It fails to encourage enough people to become entrepreneurs. 45% of Europeans state that they prefer self-employment (although this varies between 26 and 71% across the EU) compared to 67% in the USA, and whereas 22% of European citizens have considered starting a business, this level is 34% in the USA⁹. Europe generates few start-ups relative to the USA, and after start-up enterprises demonstrate lower expansion rates. Whereas 30% of Europe's SMEs declare growth as their main ambition, too few actually experience substantial growth. All of Europe's largest firms at the end of the last decade were already large in 1960. To release entrepreneurial potential, the EU must take serious steps to make Europe more attractive for business activity by tackling actively the barriers that restrict the entry of new enterprises in the market. This concerns in particular seed and start-up financing for enterprises, but also development capital for their expansion.

One reason for inferior average EU performance is an administrative and regulatory environment that does not encourage entrepreneurship and innovation. Improving the environment in which firms operate must therefore be a continuous task and one where the Commission can assist Member States.

– Difficulties in access to debt and equity finance for SMEs

On the equity side, there is a recognised market gap for venture capital across Europe. It has been demonstrated that it is simply not rewarding for venture capital funds to invest in individual deals between 200,000€ and 2,500,000€. The supply of seed and early stage finance for new and young companies, especially in high tech sectors, is hampered. The main source of external finance for SMEs remains bank lending. Banks are reluctant to lend to some types of SME, since returns are perceived as low compared to the required capital allocation and to the unit handling costs. Furthermore, banks often suffer from "information asymmetry" when dealing with SMEs. Consequently, many SMEs face problems in obtaining loans due to their lack of collateral or track record. For micro-loans there is the additional problem of high processing costs for banks, which can increase their reluctance to lend. Furthermore, in most of the new Member States and the Candidate Countries there is a low level of banking intermediation, which restrains the development of the private sector, in particular SMEs. There are also very few venture capital funds providing seed and early stage finance in the new Member States.

– Lack of European business support services for SMEs

SMEs have particular difficulties in accessing information about EU legislation or programmes having an impact on them. It is difficult for them to find out how to access new markets or to exploit public procurement opportunities offered by the single market. SMEs lack information on how they could find partners for potential common projects to take advantage of the single market. In addition, SMEs have difficulties, not only in obtaining

⁹ Flash Eurobarometer, Nov 2002.

information on EU-related issues, but also in voicing their views on EU-related matters, in particular when they want to provide direct feedback regarding European policies and initiatives.

Need for Community intervention, particularly in the light of the principle of subsidiarity

The programme is concerned with issues for which the Community is responsible. It is designed as a Community instrument in support of actions taken by the Member States - in other words, responsibility with the Member States is shared. Implementation of the proposed intervention instruments cannot be adequately achieved by the Member States alone for the following reasons:

First, the programme provides the framework for networking, exchanges of experience, know-how and good practices between Member States and other participating countries. This is by definition based on close cooperation on a European scale. To increase the effectiveness of this programme element, it will be supported by awareness raising and dissemination, and other relevant activities.

Second, the programme addresses recognised market gaps preventing SMEs from enjoying access to appropriate finance, in particular for starting businesses. It also addresses the difficulties of smaller enterprises, especially micro enterprises, in accessing loans. The proposed programme is sufficiently flexible to respond to economic cycles and to differences in the functioning and state of development of the financial markets in the Member States by providing leverage to respective national intervention (for instance carried out by national promotional banks).

Third, the programme aims at improving, together with partner organisations in the Member States, the provision of European business support services related to EU-legislation, standards and programmes, as well as fostering cooperation (particularly across borders) between SMEs. These services could not be offered with the same effectiveness and at affordable conditions for SMEs without Community intervention. Furthermore, the European-wide network effect achieved by the programme's business support services could not be achieved by individual Member States. Without such a network it would be very difficult to gather direct feed-back from SMEs in different regions and to centralise it in a timely manner so that it can be used for the definition of policies and initiatives at the EU level.

5.1.2 Measures taken following the evaluation of the multiannual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship, and in particular SMEs (2001-2005)

The multiannual programme (MAP) is subject to a number of evaluations, in accordance with Article 5 (1) of the Council Decision 2000/819/EC establishing the programme. The results of these evaluations will be taken into account in the implementation of the MAP for the period of the proposed extension.

Internal evaluations took place in accordance with Article 5 of the MAP Decision in order to examine the progress made towards the overall objectives of the programme and the achievement of outputs, results, efficiency and effectiveness of individual actions. The results of these evaluations were followed up and incorporated into subsequent annual programmes. This led, for example, to significant improvements in the application of the performance indicators established by the Programme's Management Committee.

A Strategic Evaluation of Financial Assistance Schemes for SMEs, carried out in 2003 by Deloitte Touche on behalf of DG BUDG identified the Community Financial Instruments of the MAP for particular praise and endorsed the effectiveness of its design and implementation methods.

The report of the external evaluation of the MAP was finalised in September 2004¹⁰. This mainly looked at the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the programme, at the relevance of the programme's objectives, and at the coherence between the measures undertaken under the programme and its objectives. In their report, the evaluators gave an overall positive assessment of the programme. It is fulfilling its main objectives and is having a general positive impact on environment in which businesses operate in Europe. With regard to policy development, MAP actions generally responded to the needs of the target groups and achieved their objectives. The Euro Info Centre Network was assessed as effective, although there is scope for improvement. It was also considered that the Community financial instruments achieved their objectives by contributing to improve the financial environment for business. The evaluation recommends:

- Improved consistency between the objectives of the programme and actions carried out under the programme through a better integrated strategic planning of activities. Innovation and business co-operation activities could be reinforced, as could links to other initiatives (e.g.: structural fund and research activities). It also suggested reinforcing the links between the MAP and the reporting process of the European Charter for Small Enterprises;
- re-enforcing the transversal role of the EICs;
- improving the visibility of the programme, particularly of the Community financial instruments. The EICs could provide a valuable resource in improving dissemination.
- a reduction of the overall number of actions, whilst increasing their size and impact.
- increased use of performance indicators in annual implementation reports.

These recommendations may be applied in the context of the current (extended) legal basis through annual programming measures and do not necessitate changes in the Council Decision 2000/819/EC. They will also be taken into account in the design of any successor programme from 2007.

5.2 Actions envisaged and budget intervention arrangements

The MAP will therefore continue, through the extension period, to be implemented through:

- (1) **Policy analyses, development and coordination** in the fields of entrepreneurship and SMEs through application of the open method of coordination between participating countries requiring studies, surveys, and publications; awareness raising including conferences and other events; as well as benchmarking, networking and other relevant activities. Actions will include support for the representation of SMEs in European standardisation;

¹⁰ SEC(2004)1460

- (2) **Community financial instruments for SMEs:** as under the MAP thus far, this will include investment of the European Investment Fund (EIF) in suitable venture capital funds; guarantees or counter-guarantees of SME loans, equity and quasi-equity, and contributions to financial intermediaries specialised in microcredit, and in the case of shortages of qualified investment and technology staff to deal with SME applications for venture capital;
- (3) **European business support services for SMEs:** this will include contributions to the Euro-Info-Centres or bodies hosting them. External technical support structures will continue to provide support for the EIC network in terms of co-ordination and auditing;

Target population

The target population consists of all enterprises in the European Economic Area and the candidate countries, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and existing and potential entrepreneurs throughout the participating countries. There are over 25 million enterprises in the enlarged EU, 99.8 per cent employ less than 250 persons and 93.1 per cent have less than 10 employees. Some actions are aimed at specific target groups and/or economic sectors. Business representative organisations and associations, including Chambers of Commerce, are additional target groups. The target population of each type of action differs slightly:

– Policy Analyses, Development and Co-ordination

The intermediaries will be national, and (to some extent) regional and local authorities with responsibility for the development and implementation of SME and entrepreneurship policies. The final beneficiaries will be enterprises and entrepreneurs at which national, regional or local measures are directed.

– Community Financial Instruments

The intermediaries will be banks and financial institutions, including venture capital firms and institutions specialised in microcredit. The final beneficiaries will be start-ups requiring access to equity to bring their products/services to the market and SMEs lacking sufficient collateral to gain access to loans, which will be supported via the guarantee schemes, including microcredits.

– European Business Support Services for SMEs

The intermediaries will be organisations hosting Euro Info Centres. The final beneficiaries will differ according to the services provided: in the case of promotion and information services, the potential target group would be a proportion of the 25 million SMEs. As regards the rendering of specialised assistance on EU-related issues or cooperation matters, the target SMEs will be those with a vocation and a potential to be active on a cross-border basis. Evidence suggests that about 8 million SMEs have foreign suppliers and about 5 million are exporting themselves. Only 3% collaborate with foreign SMEs or have a subsidiary, branch or joint venture abroad.

The envisaged **budget intervention arrangements** are the following:

- (1) Contracts and grant agreements following transparent procurement and selection procedures.
- (2) Co-financing (grants) for the c. 310 Euro-Info Centres or partner (“host”) organisations operating a Euro-Info Centre: each eligible Centre or the partner organisation receives 25.000€ (amounting on average to 10% of operating costs). The co-financing will be granted following transparent procedures based on appropriate criteria.
- (3) Technical and administrative support needed for the operation of the Network will continue to be provided by external contractors.

5.3 Methods of implementation

Budget implementation will be ensured by the Commission in a centralised way:

- (1) **Policy analyses, development and co-ordination** in the fields of Entrepreneurship, enterprise policy and SMEs will be directly implemented by the Commission.
- (2) The **Community Financial Instruments** will continue to be indirectly implemented by the Commission via the European Investment Fund and relevant financial intermediaries. This practice is based on Article 54.2 c) and Article 56.2 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.
- (3) European **Business Support Services** for SMEs will be directly managed by the Commission as provided for in Council Decision 2000/819/EC. The possibility will be studied of transferring these tasks to an Executive Agency from 2007 in accordance with Council Regulation EC/58/2003 of 19 December 2002¹¹ laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes, and in particular Article 3 (1) thereof.

¹¹ OJ L11 of 16.1.2003, p.1

6. FINANCIAL IMPACT

6.1 Total financial impact on Part B (over the entire programming period)

6.1.1 Financial intervention

Commitment appropriations in € million (to three decimal places)

	2006	Total
Objective 1: To enhance the growth and competitiveness of business in a knowledge-based internationalised economy	3.050	3.050
Objective 2: To Promote Entrepreneurship	3.450	3.450
Objective 3: To simplify and improve the administrative and regulatory framework for business so that research, innovation and entrepreneurship in particular can flourish	1.300	1.300
Objective 4: To improve the financial environment for business, especially SMEs	57.300	57.300
Objective 5: To give business easier access to support services, Community programmes and networks and to improve the coordination of these facilities	9.400	9.400
Objective 6: Other	200	200
TOTAL	74.700	74.700

6.1.2 Technical and administrative assistance, support expenditure and IT expenditure (commitment appropriations)

Expenditure on Budget Line 02 01 04 04	2006	Total
1) Technical and administrative assistance:		
a) Technical assistance offices (TAO) for operation of the Euro Info Centres and Euro Info Correspondence Centres network	6.100	6.100
b) Other technical and administrative assistance: - intra-muros: - extra-muros: <i>of which for construction and maintenance of computerised management systems:</i>		
Sub-total 1	6100	
2) Support expenditure:		
a) Studies		
b) Meetings of experts	700	
c) Information, publications and audio-visual material		
Sub-total 2	700	
TOTAL	6800	6800

6.2. Calculation of costs by measure envisaged in Part B (over the entire programming period)

Commitment appropriations in € million (to three decimal places)

Breakdown	Type of outputs (projects, files, etc.)	Number of outputs	Average unit cost	Total cost
		(total for years 1...n)		(total for years 1...n)
	1	2	3	4=(2X3)
Expenditure on budget line 02 02 03 01				
<u>Objective 1: To enhance the growth and competitiveness of business in a knowledge-based internationalised economy</u>				
Identification of dissemination of good practice in the incorporation of enterprises into the digital economy, including development of indicators	Open method project and report	6	100	600
Actions to promote adoption of standardisation by SMEs	Participation and information to SME organisations on standardisation bodies	1	350	350
Benchmarking of other issues affecting the competitiveness of enterprises		8	100	800
Improve access of crafts and small businesses to ICT by improved support services; electronic networking between support organisations, authorities and small businesses	projects and reports	7	100	700
Statistical development and analysis	Studies and reports	2	200	400
Studies	study	2	100	200
Total: Objective 1				3.050
<u>Objective 2: To Promote Entrepreneurship</u>	-	-	-	-
Strategy to promote entrepreneurship	Open method project and report	10	100	1.000
Identification, exchange and implementation of good practice through benchmarking, concerted actions, seminars and conferences, use of working groups and databases	projects and reports	8	150	1.200
Statistical development and analysis	Studies and reports	2	275	550
Studies		7	100	700
Total: Objective 2				3.450

<u>Objective 3: To simplify and improve the administrative and regulatory framework for business so that research, innovation and entrepreneurship in particular can flourish</u>	-	-	-	-
Identification, exchange and implementation of good practice through benchmarking, concerted actions, seminars and conferences, use of working groups and databases	Open method project and report	5	100	500
Statistical development and analysis for the development of the Business Impact Assessment system for Community legislation	Studies and reports	2	250	500
Studies for the development of the Business Impact Assessment system for Community legislation	projects and reports	3	100	300
Total: Objective 3				1.300
<u>Objective 4: To improve the financial environment for business, especially SMEs</u>	-	-	-	-
Organisation of Round Table of Bankers and SMEs in the candidate countries				0
Identification, exchange and implementation of good practice through benchmarking, concerted action, business angels, seminars, workshops and conferences, use of working groups and databases	projects and reports	3	200	600
Monitoring of the use of the euro by enterprises and, where necessary, facilitation of the adjustment process				0
Statistical development and analysis	Studies and reports	2	150	300
Studies	Studies and reports	2	200	400
Total: Objective 4				1.300
<u>Objective 5: To give business easier access to support services, Community programmes and networks and to improve the coordination of these facilities</u>	-	-	-	-
Ensure effective operation of the Euro Info Centres and Euro Info Correspondence Centres network (excludes expenditure on line 02 01 04 04 (see 6.1.2))	Grants to EICs	360	25	9.000
Identification, exchange and implementation of good practice through benchmarking of support services	projects and reports	4	100	400
Promotion of enterprise policy, information, EURO-info bulletin (excludes expenditure on line 02 01 04 04 (see 6.1.2))				0
Total: Objective 5				9.400
<u>Objective 6: Other</u>	-	-	-	-
European Observatory for SMEs; publication, dissemination				0
Evaluation of the Multiannual Programme	Evaluation report	1	200	200
Total: Objective 6				200

Expenditure on budget line 01 04 05				
<u>Objective 4: To improve the financial environment for business, especially SMEs</u>				
ETF-Start up	EIF investments in VC funds	5	3600	18.000
SME Guarantee Facilities	EIF (counter) guarantee agreements for SME loans with financial intermediaries	30	1200	36.000
Seed Action Capital	facility grants	4	500	2.000
JEV*				0
Total				56.000
TOTAL (A + B)				74.700

* JEV has been phased out under Decision 593/2004/EC of 21/07/2004.

Nota bene: Open Method of Co-ordination between participating countries will normally include expert meetings, analyses, seminars and publications.

7. IMPACT ON STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE

The needs for human and administrative resources shall be covered within the allocation granted to the managing DG in the framework of the annual allocation procedure.

7.1. Impact on human resources

Type of post		Staff to be assigned to management of the action using existing and/or additional resources (1), (2)		Total	Description of tasks deriving from the action
		Number of permanent posts	Number of temporary posts		
Officials or temporary staff	A	28	10	38	Preparation of the work programme, launch of calls for tenders and/or proposals, evaluation of the tenders/proposals, negotiation of and monitoring of contracts, monitoring and evaluation of the programme and reporting, technical and financial monitoring of the projects and contracts, monitoring of the implementation of the programme, information and programme promotion actions, coordination between other Community programmes and EU Member State initiatives, relations with the Committee, links to the institutions regarding the implementation of the programme, monitoring. 3 A-grade and 3 B-grade officials are employed in DG ECFIN to monitor and co-ordinate the execution of the Community financial instruments via EIF
	B	12	1	13	
	C	16	6	22	
Other human resources					
Total		56	17	73	

- (1) The estimates provided in the above table are based on current human resources involved in management or co-ordination of MAP actions. The figures exclude human resources from horizontal resources services.
- (2) At present 67 people (equivalent full time) are involved in implementing the multiannual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship (2001-2005) within DG Enterprise (35 grade A, 10 grade B and 22 grade C). In addition, central support services for the Euro-Info-Centres Network (as provided for by Council Decision 2000/819/EC on the MAP) employ 52 people in benefit of the Network. 6 further staff members (3 grade A; 3 grade B) work in DG ECFIN on the execution of the Community financial instruments for SMEs by the EIF requiring monitoring during and beyond the programme duration on the Commission side.

7.2 Overall financial impact of human resources

Type of human resources	Amount (€)	Method of calculation *
Officials: 56	7.884 €million	73 x €0.108 million per annum
Temporary staff: 17		
Other human resources (specify budget line)		
- ENDS		0 x € 0.0445 million p.a.
- Auxiliaries		0 x € 0.0870 million p.a.
Total 73	7.884 €million	

The amounts are total expenditure for twelve months.

7.3 Other operating expenditure deriving from the action

Budget line (number and heading)	Amount (€million)		Method of calculation
Overall allocations (Title ex-A7)			<i>(Annual estimates based on previous years experience)</i>
ex-A0701 - Missions	0,200	€ million	€800/mission x 250/year
ex A07030 - Meetings	0,400	€ million	€800/meetingx25exp./meetgx 20/year
ex A07031 - Compulsory committees ¹²	0,080	€ million	€800/meetingx32exp./meeting 3/year
ex A07032 - Non-compulsory committees			
ex A07040 - Conferences	0,350	€ million	
ex A0705 - Studies and consultations			
... Other expenditure (specify)			
Information systems (ex-A-5001/A-4300)			X
Other expenditure - Part A (specify)			X
Total	1,030	€ million	

The amounts are total expenditure for 12 months.

I.	Annual total (7.2 + 7.3)	8.914 €million
II.	Duration of action	1 year
III.	Total cost of action (I x II)	8.914 €million

8. FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION

8.1 Follow-up arrangements

Following the adoption of this Decision, the management of the programme actions will continue to be based on an annual programming cycle. The Commission will establish, in consultation with the Enterprise Programme Management Committee (EPMC), the 2006 annual work programmes including specific, appropriate and coherent performance indicators for the deliverables (quality and quantity), implementation and effectiveness. Each action will be explicitly linked to one or more stated objectives of the programme.

The performance of the programme will be scrutinised by the Management Committee which will meet 3 or 4 times in the year. As has been the case thus far, the EPMC will receive an annual Implementation Report, covering implementation and budget execution. The Implementation Report will also be made available to the European Parliament and general public.

8.2 Arrangements and schedule for evaluation

An independent external final evaluation of the actions carried out under the MAP has been carried out in accordance with Council Decision 2000/819/EC (Article 5) and will be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council. The recommendations of the evaluation will be taken into account in the proposed period of extension.

¹² Enterprise Policy Management Committee (EPMC)

9. ANTI-FRAUD MEASURES

(Article 3(4) of the Financial Regulation: "In order to prevent risk of fraud or irregularity, the Commission shall record in the financial statement any information regarding existing and planned fraud prevention and protection measures.")

There are no (internal or external) audit reports giving raise to indications for fraud under the activities undertaken in pursuance of Council Decision 2000/819/EC.

Verification before payment of subsidies or the delivery of services and studies ordered and carried out by Commission services will take place, taking into account the contractual obligations and the principles of economy and sound financial and global management. All contracts, conventions and legal undertakings concluded between the Commission and the beneficiaries under the programme foresee the possibility of an audit at the premises of the beneficiary by the Commission's services or by the Court of Auditors, as well as the possibility of requiring the beneficiaries to provide all relevant documents and data concerning expenses relating to such contracts, conventions or legal undertakings up to 5 years after the contractual period. Beneficiaries are subject to the requirement to provide reports and financial accounts, which are analysed as to the eligibility of the costs and the content, in line with the rules on Community financing and taking account of contractual obligations, economic principles and good financial management.