

PEACE III PROGRAMME (2007-2013) - PROGRESS ON REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

1.0 Introduction

Throughout the course of the year the Managing Authority has a number of regulatory deadlines to meet in relation to the Management of the programme. This paper outlines the progress to date that has been made in each of the required areas.

2.0 Communications Plan

A Communications Plan was submitted to the Commission by 5 March 2008, meeting the regulatory deadline of six months after approval of the programme. At the last Monitoring Committee in April, the Managing Authority outlined the content of the Communications Plan. This plan was subsequently approved and deemed acceptable by the Commission on 17 July 2008 after some minor amendments had been agreed.

3.0 Annual Implementation Report

An Annual Implementation Report (AIR) for 2007 was submitted to the Commission on 25 June 2008. The Report has been deemed admissible and satisfactory by the Commission.

4.0 Audit Strategy

The Audit Authority has submitted an Annual Audit Strategy to the Commission for approval. The Strategy was due nine months after the approval of the programme. The Audit Authority met this deadline and submitted the document to the Commission on 6 August 2008. The Commission has two months to comment on this document and has recently written to the Audit Authority requesting some minor amendments to the Plan. The Audit Authority is currently working on these amendments.

5.0 Description of the Management and Control Systems (Article 71)

The Managing Authority has been working for most of this year in developing the Management and Control Systems Report for the programme. This document is required to set out all of the management and control systems in the programme and explain how they will operate. It is a detailed document that sets out the role and functions of the main authorities within the programme, the Managing Authority, the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority. The Report also describes the role and functions of the Joint Technical Secretariat (and the Intermediary Body). The Report also described in detail the programmes accounting system and the levels of control operating within the programme.

5.1 The Report is due to be submitted to the Commission 12 months after the programmes approval, i.e. 6 November 2008. Prior to submission to the Commission, the Report must receive a positive assessment from the Audit Authority. The Managing Authority has been working on an iterative basis over the past few months with the Audit Authority on the development of the Report. The Report is almost complete and once a positive assessment has been received from the Audit Authority it will be submitted to the Commission to meet the regulatory deadline.

5.2 When the document has received the necessary approvals from the Audit Authority and the Commission, the Managing Authority will make the document available to Monitoring Committee members. It is envisaged that the agreed Management and Control Systems Report will then be presented to the Monitoring Committee at its next meeting in spring 2009.

6.0 Annual Control Report

The Audit Authority will also be responsible for submitting an annual control report on the programme. This report will set out the findings of the audit carried out in the previous 12 month period ending 30 June of the year concerned and in accordance with audit strategy for management and control. The first Annual Control Report is due to be submitted to the Commission on 31 December 2008 covering the period of 1 January 2007 to 30 June 2008.

All the Regulatory Requirements for 2008 are outlined in the table below:

Table 1 – Update on Compliance with Regulatory Requirements

Activity	Regulation	Required Date	Submission Date
Monitoring Committee set up (MS & MA)	1083/06, art 63	6 Feb 2008	6 Nov 2007
Communications Plan sent to Commission	1828/06, art 3	6 Mar 2008	6 Mar 2008
Payment forecasts sent to Commission (MS)	1083/06, art 76 3	30 Apr 2008	29 April 2008
Project selection criteria approved by Monitoring Committee	1083/06, art 65 a	6 May 2008	6 Nov 2007
Annual Implementation Reports sent to Commission	1083/06, art 67 1	30 June 2008	25 June 2008
Audit Strategy sent to Commission (AA)	1083/06, art 62 1 c	6 Aug 2008	6 Aug 2008
Management & Control Systems Report sent to Commission (MS)	1083/06, art 71 1	6 Nov 2008	To be submitted
Annual Control Report sent to Commission (AA)	1083/06, art 62 1	31 Dec 2008	To be submitted

7.0 Recommendation

The Monitoring Committee are requested to:

- **Note** the progress in the programme complying with Regulatory Requirements