



CH-3003 Bern

Government Office of the Slovak Republic
Mr. Igor Federič
Head of Office
Námestie Slobody 1
813 70 Bratislava
Slovak Republic

Berne, 24 August 2009

Amendments to the Annexes 1, 2 and 3 of the Framework Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Swiss Federal Council concerning the Implementation of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme to Reduce Economic and Social Disparities within the Enlarged European Union, signed on 20th December 2007.

Dear Mr. Federič,

We have the honour to refer to the **Framework Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Swiss Federal Council concerning the Implementation of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme to Reduce Economic and Social Disparities within the Enlarged European Union**, signed on the 20th of December 2007, and, based on Article 11, paragraph 3, of the Framework Agreement, to propose on behalf of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, that the competent authorities defined under article 9 of the Framework Agreement agree to amend the Annexes 1, 2 and 3 to the aforementioned Agreement as follows:

ANNEX 1: Conceptual Framework of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme

Article 5. Thematic Focus and Indicative Financial Allocations

Table 1 "Security, Stability and Support for Reforms"

- The **amount** in the column "Indicative financial allocation (in million CHF)" of Focus area N° 3 "Strengthening institutions and capacity for combating corruption and organised crime" shall be changed to "Up to 7.000".
- Within Focus area N° 3 "Strengthening institutions and capacity for combating corruption and organised crime" a **new type of eligible project shall be added** as third bullet point with the following wording: "**Strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Justice and / or the Ministry of Interior (Police Forces) of the Slovak Republic**".

Table 4 "Human and Social Development"

- The **amount** in the column "Indicative financial allocation (in million CHF)" of Focus area N° 7 "Research and development" shall be changed to "Up to 3.000".

Reference:

- The **wording** of the first sentence "Individual project approach with the following objective:" shall be changed to "**Objective:**".

Table 5 "Special Allocation"

- The **amount** in the column "Indicative financial allocation (in million CHF)" corresponding to "Twinning Block Grant" shall be changed to "**Up to 1.300**".
- The **amount** in the column "Indicative financial allocation (in million CHF)" corresponding to "Project Preparation Facility" shall be changed to "**Up to 1.216**".

Table "Overview on the Indicative Allocations"

- The **amount** in the column "Indicative financial allocation (million CHF)" corresponding to "1. Security, Stability and support to Reforms" shall be increased from "15.000" to "**20.000**".
- The **amount** in the column "Indicative financial allocation (million CHF)" corresponding to "4. Human and Social Development" shall be increased from "6.000" to "**7.500**".
- The **amount** in the column "Indicative financial allocation (million CHF)" corresponding to "5. Special Allocations" shall be increased from "7.650" to "**9.866**".
- The **amount** in the column "Indicative financial allocation (million CHF)" corresponding to "6. Not yet allocated" shall be decreased from "9.716" to "**1.000**".

After the last table of Annex 1 "Overview on the Indicative Allocations" the following paragraph shall be inserted:

"The not yet allocated amount of 1.000 million CHF shall be used for highly ranked priority Projects to be approved, which cannot be financed by the available balance of the respective Focus area. Unused balances of Focus areas shall be added to this unallocated amount once all the final decisions on the Final Project proposals in the respective Focus area have been taken. The allocation of the unallocated funds shall be done by mutual agreement (e.g. confirmed in the minutes of meetings or by correspondence) between the NCU and SDC/SECO in the course of the operational implementation of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme."

ANNEX 2: Rules and Procedures for the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme

Article 1.2 Annual meetings

- The **wording** of the sentence of the third round bullet point "Summary and main conclusions of the audits of the Projects in accordance with Chapter 3.6" shall be changed to "**Summary and main conclusions of the audits of the Projects in accordance with Chapter 3.7**".

Article 2.1 First loop: Application and approval procedure of the Project outline

- The **wording** of the column "Organisations" corresponding to "5. Screening" part "Involved: selection committee" shall be changed to "**Involved: selection committee, National Monitoring Committee**".

Article 5.1 The National Coordination Unit

- The **wording** of the fifth bullet point "Establish an independent selection committees, chaired by the NCU in which among others relevant line ministries, the regions and NGOs will be represented" shall be changed to "**Establish independent selection committees, chaired by the NCU, of at least two experts**".
- The sixth bullet point "Select the Project outlines to be submitted to Switzerland" shall be deleted.
- The **wording** of the eighth bullet point "Transmit to Switzerland the Final Project proposals recommended by the National Monitoring Committee" shall be changed to "**Submit the**".

Project outlines and the Final Project proposals recommended by the National Monitoring Committee to Switzerland.

Article 5.4 Paying Authority

- The **wording** of the fifth bullet point "Report periodically to the NCU and Switzerland on financial flows and overall financial management of the NCU" shall be changed to "***Report periodically to the NCU and Switzerland on financial flows and overall financial management***".

Article 5.5 National Monitoring Committee

- The **wording** of the first sentence "The National Monitoring Committee (NMC) shall be composed among others from representatives of the NCU, the Paying Authority, relevant line ministries and NGOs" shall be changed to "***The National Monitoring Committee (NMC) shall be composed among others from representatives of the NCU, the Paying Authority, relevant line ministries, regions and NGOs***".
- The **wording** of the third sentence "The NMC is responsible for adjustments of the Projects after the first loop, which are afterwards forwarded for approval to Switzerland" shall be changed to "***The NMC is responsible for providing recommendations regarding Project outlines and Final Project Proposals to the NCU, which are afterwards submitted for approval to Switzerland***".

ANNEX 3: Rules and Procedures for Block Grants, the Project Preparation Facility, the Technical Assistance Fund and the Scholarship Fund in the Framework of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme

Chapter A. Block Grant

- In the whole Chapter SECO shall be added where SDC is mentioned in the following form: "***SDC / SECO***". As an exception, in article A. 2. "Selection of the Block Grant Intermediate Body" the sentence "The selection of the Block Grant Intermediate Body may follow a two step procedure agreed between the National Coordination Unit (NCU) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)", where it shall be changed to "***The selection of the Block Grant Intermediate Body may follow a two step procedure agreed between the National Coordination Unit (NCU) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) or the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)***".

Article A. 1. Definition and purpose

- The **wording** of the fourth sentence "In general, small projects shall: have a non-profit character and be in the range of 10'000.- to 100'000.- Swiss francs" shall be changed to "***In general, small projects shall have a non-profit character and be in the range of 10'000.- to 250'000.- Swiss francs***".

Article A. 3. Block Grant Agreement

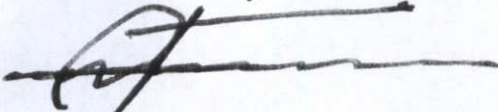
- The **wording** of the first two sentences "For each Block Grant, an agreement shall be prepared by the NCU based on a standard Block Grant Agreement provided by SDC. The Block Grant Agreement shall be signed by the NCU, SDC and the selected Block Grant Intermediate Body" shall be changed to "***For each Block Grant, an agreement shall be prepared by the NCU based on a standard Project Agreement provided by SDC / SECO. The Block Grant Agreement shall be signed by the NCU, SDC / SECO and the selected Block Grant Intermediate Body (if relevant)***".

Reference:

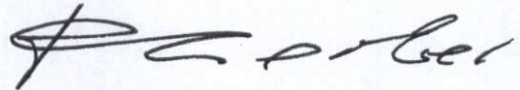
All other provisions in the Annexes of the *Framework Agreement between the Government of the Slovak Republic and the Swiss Federal Council concerning the Implementation of the Swiss-Slovak Cooperation Programme to Reduce Economic and Social Disparities within the Enlarged European Union*, **remain unchanged.**

If the Government Office of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic confirm in their reply letter that they accept the foregoing, the present letter and the reply letter will be considered as an agreement on the amendment of the Annexes 1, 2 and 3 to the Framework Agreement, entering into force upon receipt of the reply letter of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic and the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic.

Yours sincerely,



Martin Dahinden
Swiss Agency for Development and
Cooperation SDC



Jean-Daniel Gerber
State Secretariat for
Economic Affairs SECO

Enclosures

Amended Annex 1 to the Framework Agreement
Amended Annex 2 to the Framework Agreement
Amended Annex 3 to the Framework Agreement

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