2006 discharge: European Agency for Reconstruction EAR

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PURPOSE: presentation of the final accounts of the European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) for the financial year 2006.

CONTENT: this document sets out a detailed account of the implementation of the 2006 budget, including the revenue and expenditure and the balance sheet for the year concerned.

According to this document, the final budget of the EAR, whose main head office is based in Thessalonica – Greece), amounted to **EUR 286.8 million** (compared to EUR 318.9 million in 2005) including an EU grant.

As regards the staffing policy, the EAR officially set out 108 posts in its establishment plan. 90 are currently occupied + 164 other posts (local staff) (157 currently occupied) and 29 contract staff (26 currently occupied) giving a total of 273 posts assigned to administrative and operational tasks of the Agency. In 2006, staff expenditure represented EUR 17.117 million (final appropriations paid).

The principal operational activities in 2006 are as follows:

KOSOVO

- start-up grants, loans, training and business advice to small businesses of minorities and returnees;
- support to privatisation;
- rehabilitation of district heating (in north) and waste and water utility buildings in (south) Mitrovica;
- improving border/boundary management;
- setting up a new system for public investment programming;
- expert advice and training to the Kosovo Assembly;
- support to Justice and Internal Affairs ministries and Statistical Office;
- environmental upgrades, including construction of Pristina regional landfill;
- support to drafting of Kosovo Rural Development Plan.

SERBIA

- draft laws in public administration reform;
- supply of equipment to border police;
- completion of state-of-the- art DNA laboratory;
- rehabilitation and supply of equipment to courts;
- rehabilitation programme for hospitals;
- new jobs created due to loans from the Revolving Credit Fund;
- training support to enterprises;
- regional training centres for adults;
- economic development programmes for poorest municipalities;
- handover of new border crossings with Hungary and Croatia;
- renovation of municipal infrastructure;
- reform of the statistics office;
- support to Foreign Direct Investment management;

- support to vulnerable groups including refugees and displaced persons;
- completion of power plant rehabilitation projects;
- air filter installed at Kostolac power plant.

MONTENEGRO

- construction of Podgorica international airport and refurbishment of Tivat airport;
- central IT database of the Ministry of the Interior;
- support for Human Resources Management Agency;
- new Roads Directorate and transport laws;
- electricity utility unbundling/restructuring, energy efficiency strategy;
- establishing an Environmental Protection Agency;
- providing management expertise to companies;
- supporting Judicial Training Centre;
- prison reform;
- support to drafting of strategy for agriculture and rural development.

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

- assistance in strengthening and creating new institutions in the public administration (e.g. State Statistical Office, Civil Society Unit in the General Secretariat; Public Procurement Bureau);
- support to development of electronic communications market;
- support to police reform including refurbishment of Police Academy;
- support to money laundering prevention and refurbishment of Skopje Basic Court;
- opening of new state phytosanitary laboratory;
- construction of National Border Management Coordination Centre;
- assistance to municipalities in decentralisation;
- upgrading of municipal infrastructure;
- training of civil servants from non-majority communities;
- management training for SMEs.

The complete version of the final accounts may be found at the following address: http://www.ear.europa.eu/agency/agency.htm