

SUMMARY PROJECT FICHE

Project number: BG9807

Title: Institution building and investment projects for the Ministry of Environment and Water.

Objectives:

The overall objective of this project is to reduce and control environmental pollution in Bulgaria through:

- the development of functional institutional structures for environment, including the setting up of a continuous planning mechanism, and the realisation of accession programmes in the field of the environment,
- the continuation of the transposition of the legal framework, including establishment of detailed approximation programmes and creation of implementation strategies,
- improved environmental infrastructure contributing to environmental pollution control, reduced pollution emissions, the protection of environmental resources and public health and safety.

The priority for the institution building sub-project is the elaboration and adoption of the frame-legislation as well as the supporting regulations in order to ensure application of European norms and standards for the environment. Special attention will be paid to water protection, air quality, waste management and nature protection with the respective institutional requirements.

The investment sub-project is the commencement of the implementation of measures for some of the most important directives on environment. The sub-project will permit effective implementation of the EC standards for water quality, waste and modernisation of industry, as specified in the Accession Partnership and the Bulgarian National Program for the Adoption of the *Acquis*.

Description:

Sub-project 1: Institution building:

Target institutional building

- Preparation of an overall strategy for the Ministry of Environment and Water, and update the National Environmental Action Plan:
Long-term strategic policy advice will be provided to the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water for the preparation of an overall strategy for environment and of the National Action Plan for the Environment.
- Provision of technical assistance for the National Environmental Protection Fund (NEPF) on management and environmental projects selection and preparation, in particular in the perspective of the ISPA instrument from year 2000.
- Preparation of a general programme for public awareness for the Ministry of Environment and Water:

Assistance will be provided to the Ministry for achieving a greater transparency of its policies and inclusion of the public in the process of conservation of the environment by the publishing of information materials.

- Development and implementation of a system for exchange of information between the monitoring stations and for provision of information to the public:

A system for the transmission in real time of data including parameters for the quality of the environment will be established between the automatic monitoring stations, the Regional Inspectorates, the National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Environment and Water, with the view of providing the public with updated environmental information.

Approximation of legislation

- Harmonisation of the Bulgarian legislation with the European legislation in the priority sectors:
Approximation of law will cover areas where harmonisation is rapidly needed, including:

- environmental information and the right to access it (Directive 90/313/EEC);
- water (European Commission Proposal for Framework Water Directive), development of a methodology for determining of the individual emission limits for the discharge of waste water from large sources of pollution;
- air (Directive 93/12/EEC on emission of sulphur in the liquid fuels, Directive 94/63/EC on reduction of the emission of VOC (volatile organic components), and Directives 88/609/EEC and 94/66/EC on emissions from large combustion plants);
- nature protection (Directives 79/409/EEC, 82/72/EEC, 92/43/EEC and 94/24/EC on habitats and birds);
- non-operational vehicles and household appliances (collection and processing).

- Establishment of a National Cadastre of protected areas:

The preparation of a National Cadastre of protected areas is included in the Strategy for accession of Bulgaria to the European Union. The cadastre will be established with a view of registering the existing and the future protected areas. Geographical Information System will also be established for these areas.

- The implementation of the European practice in assessing the past environmental damages:

Technical assistance will be provided to specialists from the Ministry of Environment and Water for rapid assessment of the past environmental damages: identification, assessment of the need for remediation works. This know how will be applied in particular for making a reliable assessment of risks as the basis of the process of negotiation during privatisation. The outputs will be a method and a legislative basis, based of the *acquis* of the European Union for the assessment of past environmental damages.

Sub-project 2: Investment

Two investment projects have been identified by the Ministry of Environment and Water as hot-spots on a national level and high priorities for the National Environmental Action Plan.

- Reconstruction of Buhovo Tailings Pond - Phase 2

The sub-project is the continuation of a 1994 project: "Reconstruction of the Buhovo Tailings Pond - Phase 1", which will be completed in June 1998.

The Buhovo site is located 20 km north-east of Sofia in a mountainous zone. Uranium mining activities ceased in 1992 in Bulgaria. Following detailed studies, the tailings dam of the Buhovo uranium mine was declared no longer adequately safe and the facility producing the tailings ceased operation. Today,

the Buhovo tailings pond is potentially one of the most dangerous facilities surrounding Sofia.

The highly radioactive tailings at Buhovo are contained behind two adjacent dams. These are an 'old' dam, which has not been used for many years and which is not considered to pose any danger, and a 'new' dam. Both dams are constructed from locally won clay. The new dam has some drains in the downstream face, but the existing pumping station at the downstream toe is derelict and water, which is contaminated mainly with uranium, radium and sulphates, is draining from the dam and discharges directly into the local stream. Additionally, the dam failure event is considered to be the most serious risk and could be caused by an earthquake to which this geographical zone is exposed. An earthquake could liquefy the contained tailings and cause a breach in the dam, allowing the liquefied tailings to pollute ground and surface water resources and flood Sofia. If it reached the river it would eventually pass into Romania and into the Danube.

The works proposed for Buhovo are intended to minimise the risk of contamination from the tailings pond and eliminate the contamination of water by preventing contaminated water leaving the site and entering drinking water supplies.

- Measures to prevent the pollution of surface water (included in Phase 1):

As part of the Phase 1 of the project, a dam was constructed across the gully to intercept the water flow upstream of the tailing pond. The intercepted water is diverted round the tailings pond via a by-pass channel.

- Measures for protection of the ground water (included in Phase 2):

Ground water contamination is to be prevented by the construction of a new cut-off drain downstream of the dam, feeding water to an underground reservoir from which it is pumped back into the tailings pond by automatically operated submersible pumps.

- Measures to prevent dam failure (included in Phase 2):

Dam failure is to be prevented by the addition of a substantial amount of clay fill to the downstream toe, generally laid on filter or drainage layers designed to intercept drainage water from the existing dam.

Inputs for this sub-project will be delivery of equipment, construction work and maintenance.

The implementation of this component will enable the tailing pond site to comply with the following acquis legislation: Directive on surface water for the abstraction of drinking water, Directive on groundwater, Directive on discharge of dangerous substances to the aquatic environment, Directive on drinking water, Framework Directive on water, Directive on hazardous waste, and the Regulation on civil protection regarding health and safety.

- Reconstruction and improvements at the Gara Iskar non-ferrous metal plant

The Gara Iskar Non-Ferrous Metal Company is located in the East Sofia Industrial Zone. It was a previous state company, and is since 1996, a joint stock company with 57% of the shares owned by a 100% Bulgarian Private company, Bulmetal. The plant utilises a metal pickling operation involving emission of sulphuric acid and oxides of sulphur. This currently poses serious threats to both the health and safety of the workforce and also results in acid and heavy metal discharges to the environment (air, soil and water resources).

The objective is to eliminate this major environmental hazard. This would be achieved through the replacement of an air cooling line for brass extrusions which requires subsequent acid pickling with an anaerobic water cooled extrusion process. The termination of the pickling operation would mainly eliminate the discharge of sulphuric acid into the atmosphere, and would prevent the contamination of

the waste and ground water with acid solutions. Additionally, the potential for production after the implementation of the sub-project will increase from 3,000 to 8,000 tons per annum, with increased employment on the plant.

The beneficiary of this sub-project is the Non-Ferrous Metal Works Company of Gara Iskar. The sub-project will be in the form of a loan from the National Environment Protection Fund (NEPF), and will be co-financed by 24% by the Company, and by 5% by the NEPF.

Inputs for this sub-project will be supply of equipment, construction and maintenance.

The sub-project incorporate various aspects of EU norms and directives, mainly the Air Quality Framework Directive for emissions of sulphur dioxide (under transposition), the Waste Framework Directive for disposal of metal sludge to land. Furthermore, it is likely that, the new process would, on environmental grounds, be the best available technology for the extrusion process.

Institutional framework:

The Ministry of Environment and Water will be in charge of the implementation of all the institution building components through its corresponding departments. The Ministry of Environment and Water will ensure the proper management of the different projects and their co-ordination with the other concerned Ministries, as necessary. Twinning will be insured by the relevant structures while in place.

The investment sub-project will be managed by both the Ministry of Environment and Water and the National Environment Protection Fund, in conjunction with the Bulgarian Committee of Energy. The NEPF was created by the Environmental Protection Act in 1993. The Fund is located in the Ministry of Environment and Water but is legally independent from it, and operates according to a constitution adopted under a Decree of the Council of Ministers (278/1992). Objectives of the fund are to channel the money from pollution fines to environmental projects, to provide loans for environmental projects at attractive rates, and to provide funds to private companies. Due to economic problems in the country, the financial capacity of the NEPF to assist the improvement of the environment has been very limited over the past years.

Budget:

BUDGET (MECU)	Investment	Institution Building	Total Phase (I+IB)	Recipient	NEPF	TOTAL
<i>Institution Building</i>						
Target Institutional Building	0	1	1	0	0	1
Approximation of Legislation	0	1	1	0	0	1
<i>Investment</i>						
Measure 1: Reconstruction of the Buhovo tailings pond: Phase 2	3.8	0	3.8	0	0	3.8
Measure 2: Gara Iskar Non-	1.5	0	1.5	0.5	0.1	2.1

Ferrous Metal Works						
TOTAL	5.3	2*	7.3	0.5	0.1	7.9

* Under Institution Building an estimated 1.8 Mecu is planned to be contracted by Brussels for twinning arrangements.

Implementation arrangements:

The Ministry of Environment and Water will act as an Implementing Agency utilising standard Phare DIS Procedures.

Institution building sub-project will be implemented by twinning arrangements with the European Union member states, technical assistance and training provision.

For the investment sub-project, the following implementation arrangements will be applied:

Reconstruction of Buhovo Tailings Pond - Phase 2

The Ministry of Environment and Water will manage the budget (tendering, contracting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) on behalf of the beneficiary, the Bulgarian Committee of Energy.

Reconstruction and improvements at the Gara Iskar non-ferrous metal plant

The Ministry will provide a preferential loan (no interest, grace period of two years, and reimbursement period of five years) to the private company Non-Ferrous Metal Works Company of Gara Iskar. The Ministry of Environment and Water will manage the budget (tendering, contracting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation) on behalf of the beneficiary, the Non-Ferrous Metal Works Company of Gara Iskar.

Implementation schedule:

Start of tendering	Start of implementation	Completion
Sept-Dec. 1998	Febr. 1998-Apr. 1999	Dec. 1999-Dec. 2000

Equal opportunities:

In the implementation of the projects, and especially in terms of selections of experts and targeting of technical assistance, equals right for participation will be given to men and women.

Environment:

The institution building sub-projects will result in the setting of a strategy plan for environment, setting of an adequate selection and preparation structures and methods for environmental investment projects, improvement of the environmental monitoring and control. These measures will affect directly the ongoing and future investment projects in the environmental field.

Regarding the investment sub-project, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) have been prepared for the components "Reconstruction and improvements at the Gara Iskar non-ferrous metal plant" in 1996. The component "Reconstruction of the Buhovo tailings pond - Phase 2" does not have presently an EIA because such statement was not required in Bulgaria by the time of preparing the project, in

1995, for a reconstruction project. However, the sub-project was approved by the highest possible body in Bulgaria to which such proposals are submitted, the Supreme Council for Territorial Development and Construction in the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works. The Permanent National Commission for Incidents and Disasters carried out a technical assessment of the Buhovo tailings pond and prepared an expert report which recommends urgent measures to be done to reconstruct and stabilise the tailings pond. On this basis, the University for Architecture and Construction prepared a project for reconstruction which was approved by the Supreme Council. However, the preparation of an EIA has been requested by the Commission to the Ministry of Environment and Water and will be prepared for the end of July 1998.

Rates of return:

After the implementation of the Non-Ferrous Metal Works in Gara Iskar component, the net profit for the company with the new installation will be around ECU750,000 per year, which will insure the reimbursement of the loan to the NEPF.

Investment criteria:

The following investment criteria were utilised in selecting the sub-projects:

1. Catalytic effect:

All sub-projects exhibit catalytic effects through their compliance with EU norms and regulations from the *acquis communautaire*. Implementation will result in accession driven actions, which would otherwise not have taken place, or would have taken place at a later date.

2. Co-financing:

The sub-projects will be financially supported by investments from the Gara Iskar Non-Ferrous Metal Works Plant as well as investments from the National Environmental Protection Fund.

3. Additionality:

Phare intervention has not displaced other public or private sector financiers for these projects.

4. Project readiness:

The proposals and all preparatory studies have been undertaken for these projects. They are therefore ready to go forward for tendering.

5. Sustainability:

All sub-projects comply with EU norms and standards and are coherent with the sector policies of the EU.

Conditionality and sequencing:

The Ministry of Environment and Water has the necessary capacity and structures to start immediate implementation of the institution building sub-project. Arrangements for twinning need to be put in place. Approximation of legislation is conditioned by the adoption of the relevant regulations by the Bulgarian Parliament.

The conditionalities for the investment sub-project are:

- The transposition of the relevant EU legislation. Approximation of some of the legislation on water, air and nature protection is foreseen in the Phare National Program 1998 for Institution Building in the

Environmental Sector.

- The establishment of an effective operational structure within the NEPF for project management, provided under the Phare National Program 1998 for Institution Building.
- Maintenance after the completion of contraction to be provided by the constructor.

ANNEXES

1. Logframe in standard format.
2. Implementation chart.
3. Contracting and disbursement schedule.
4. Investment fiches.
5. Relation of project with previous Phare activities

BG980602: Transformation of Bulgarian Customs

AGENCY: Bulgarian Customs Administration

Contracting period expires: 31.12.2000	Disbursement 3
Total contribution:	Share contributed by the Commission 7

PROJECT STRUCTURE	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	HOW, WHEN AND BY WHOM INDICATORS WILL BE MEASURED
<p><u>WIDER OBJECTIVE</u></p> <p>To strengthen the capacities of BCA to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide an efficient environment for the management and development of international trade; meet the criteria for accession to the European Community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endorsement by the Commission that BCA fully in line with accession requirements and blueprints standards 	<p>European Commission/DGXXI and Bulgarian Government at the end of the project. Regular validation against the blueprints Pre-accession Unit and European Committee on Customs Co-operation</p>
<p><u>IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES</u></p> <p>Harmonisation of Bulgarian Customs legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assess the full harmonisation of the Bulgarian Customs legislation with the EU Customs code and best practice To propose and draft any necessary changes To provide instructions and guidelines to Customs officers and trade. <p>Computerisation of BCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve and sustain quality in the Customs clearance, revenue collection systems and border control. To consolidate national declaration data automatically for accounting and management purposes <p>Reinforcement of border controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To strategically prepare border operations for pre-accession and align them with EU best practice To improve the detection capability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal review completed Necessary amendments drafted Instructions and guidelines prepared for issue to Customs and trade. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Customs procedures brought into line with harmonised legislation and best practice Customs automated systems implemented and in current use. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic study completed and national strategy prepared and agreed Document prepared specifying the specialised equipment required in each border post and prioritising the delivery according to the above Trained Customs dogs and their handlers working in the identified key border posts. 	<p>Monitoring and assessment review at end of project by BCA and Bulgarian Government. Regular review by the European Committee representatives viz. "Legislation" blueprint</p> <p>Monitoring and assessment review at end of project by BCA and Bulgarian Government. Feedback to be obtained from the Trade Commission. Regular review by the European Committee representatives viz. "Computerisation" blueprint</p> <p>Monitoring and assessment review at end of project by BCA and Bulgarian Government. Regular review by the European Committee representatives viz. "Border and inland blueprint."</p>
<p><u>OUTPUTS</u></p> <p>Harmonisation of Bulgarian Customs legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exhaustive review of Bulgarian Customs legislation with shortcomings and amendments Instructions and guidelines to Customs officers and trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legal review and draft amendments prepared, documented, translated in Bulgarian language and submitted to the government Workplan for the development of any necessary new legislation prepared Instructions and guidelines prepared and agreed with BCA and ready for issue. 	<p>BCA and working teams nominated for achievement of this proposal together with the Commission. CFCU will regularly review and monitor evolution of the project implementation indicators of achievement, the outputs and implementation plan.</p> <p>Regular review by the European Committee representatives viz. "Legislation" blueprint</p>

PROJECT STRUCTURE	INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT	HOW, WHEN AND BY WHOM IT WILL BE MEASURED
Computerisation of BCA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automated declaration processing system Interfaces and additional application software Reinforcement of border controls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic study on the rationalisation of border posts operations in line with post accession requirements National strategy for the management and infrastructure of border posts Trained Customs drugs dogs and their handlers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application software meeting the users' requirements Application software customised and fully documented in Bulgarian language Hardware, system software, telecom equipment and application software fully integrated, implemented and in current use Interfaces and additional application software developed, fully documented in Bulgarian language and in current use Functional and technical training provided to system administrators and users <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic study completed and agreed by BCA National strategy prepared and agreed by BCA Lists of specialised equipment required in each border post and prioritised Deployment Plan, in line with the above, agreed with BCA Training/retraining programmes for Customs drugs dogs and their handlers prepared Drugs dog teams working in the identified key border posts and necessary facilities in place. 	<p>BCA and working teams nominated for achievement of this proposal together with CFCU will regularly review and monitor evolution of the project implementation indicators of achievement, the outputs and implementation plan.</p> <p>Regular review by the European Commission representatives viz. "Computerisation"</p> <p>BCA and working teams nominated for achievement of this proposal together with CFCU will regularly review and monitor evolution of the project implementation indicators of achievement, the outputs and implementation plan.</p> <p>Regular review by the European Commission representatives viz. "Border and inland blueprint."</p>
<p align="center"><u>INPUTS</u></p> <p>a) Relating to all Objectives</p> <p><u>Financial</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phare Programme: 7.00 MECU <p><u>BCA resources</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As described in the Project Summary Fiche Clearly defined teams to work on gathering correct and adequate Business Requirements <p>b) Additional Inputs – Objectives 1,2,4,6,7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phare Multi-country Customs Programme Matheus Programme <p>c) Additional inputs - Objective 5</p> <p>Catch-up Facility Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financing Memorandum approval Adequate business requirements Definition of project management structure BCA work teams definition Finalisation of contracts, Terms of Reference Adequate Business requirements for all sub-projects Qualified and adequate support by the EC and the Member States 	<p>The BCA and working teams nominated for achievement of this proposal together with CFCU, and the EC and related bodies, will monitor evolution of the project implementation indicators of achievement.</p>

Objective / Component	Investment**	Institution Building*	Total Phare (=I+IB)	Recipient	IFI	TOTAL
MODERNISATION OF BULGARIAN CUSTOMS LEGISLATION	0.03	0.92 (HQ)	0.95			0.95
MODERNISATION OF BCA	3.29	1.71	5.00			5.00
Technical assistance		1.01	1.05			1.05
Technical assistance for implementing ICIS		0.76	0.76			0.76
Training of ICIS trainers and training equipment	0.04	0.05	0.09			0.09
Translation of screens and documentation		0.20	0.20			0.20
IX and ORACLE/INFORMIX training		0.20	0.20			0.20
System pilot implementation and rollout, including supply of hardware, software and telecom equipment, integration of application software and training in system software	3.00	0.50	3.50			3.50
Development of interfaces and additional application software	0.25		0.25			0.25
REINFORCEMENT OF BORDER CONTROLS	0.80	0.15	0.95			0.95
Strategy for rationalisation of border operations		0.10	0.10			0.10
Reinforcement equipment	0.60		0.60			0.60
Trainers dogs	0.20	0.05	0.25			0.25
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OPERATIONAL BUDGET***	0.03	0.07	0.10			0.10
TOTAL	4.15	2.85	7.00			7.00

(*) In relation to changes in management, procedures, legislation, enforcement, training and general activities and services as result of investments

(**) In relation to infrastructure, equipment, software, related developments, installation, testing and documentation

(***) In relation to short term assistance for Phare documentation, project QA and PIU running costs i.e. missions to Brussels/partner countries, international telephone/fax, stationary etc.

Note: "Recipient" column is not costed in detail. However, BCA inputs to this project are outlined in the last paragraph of the section "Institutional framework" (Summary project fiche)

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING																							
	COMPONENT							PROGRAMME LIFE CYCLE IN MONTHS															
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<u>PROGRAMME SET-UP</u>	♦																						
Programme Officer (PO)																							
Transformation Programme Steering Committee (TPSC)																							
Programme Implementation Unit (PIU)																							
ON OF BULGARIAN CUSTOMS LEGISLATION		D	D	D	C	C	C	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I			
TION OF BCA																							
l assistance		D	C	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
d ORACLE/INFORMIX training		D	C	C	I	I	I	I	I	I													
t implementation and rollout		D	D	D	C	C	C	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
ment of interfaces and additional application software					D	D	D	C	C	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
NT OF BORDER CONTROLS																							
for the rationalisation of border operations		D	C	C	I	I	I																
ment equipment								D	C	C	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I					
drugs dogs		D	D	C	C	C	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I					
<u>ICAL ASSISTANCE AND OPERATIONAL BUDGET</u>		I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
CLOSURE																							
ie Report																							

Remarks: D= Designing; C= Contracting; I= Implementing; R= Review; S= Submitting of documents

SITUATION

Project	Budget	1998	1999				2000		
		TRIMESTER							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bulgarian Customs legislation	950,000	200,000	750,000						
of BCA	5,000,000	1,250,000	3,500,000	250,000					
border controls	950,000	100,000	250,000	600,000					
ice and operational budget	100,000	100,000							
	7,000,000	1,650,000	4,500,00	850,000					
		24%	64%	12%					
		1,650,000	6,150,000	7,000,000					
centage		24%	88%	100%					

SITUATION

Project	Budget	1998	1999					2000	
		TRIMESTER							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bulgarian Customs legislation	950,000	50,000	300,000	250,000	200,000	125,000	25,000		
of BCA	5,000,000	325,000	545,000	199,000	199,000	399,000	1,229,000	1,229,000	875,000
border controls	950,000	25,000	250,000	550,000	125,000				
ice and operational budget	100,000	50,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
	7,000,000	450,000	1,105,000	1,009,000	534,000	529,000	1,259,000	1,234,000	880,000
		6%	16%	14%	8%	8%	18%	18%	12%
		450,000	1,555,000	2,564,000	3,098,000	3,627,000	4,886,000	6,120,000	7,000,000
centage		6%	22%	36%	44%	52%	70%	88%	100%

ANNEX 5

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER PROJECTS

1. EU PHARE - AT NATIONAL LEVEL.

This project continues and develops Phare national project BG9305 - Customs modernisation programme, which provided assistance in the following areas:

- ◊ Preparation of Bulgarian Legal and Customs Management Systems, in the context of future integration in EU;
- ◊ Production of project planning documents for the 1998 and 1999.

2. EU PHARE - AT MULTI-COUNTRY LEVEL (PCMP)

- **In relation to – the “Acquis”**

This project will compare in detail for each partner country, their Customs Administration's current status with that of the Customs pre-accession “Blueprints”, which outline the “EU standards” for Customs sector. On the identification of gaps between existing practices and systems viz. blueprints standards, BCA will prepare action plans setting out measures and related technical assistance required to bring deficient areas up to EU standards and best practice.

Forward action plans will be prepared by each of BCA's appropriate Divisions and co-ordinated by BCA's Pre-accession Unit structure. In parallel, the Commission will continue technical assistance under the Phare Multi-country Customs Programme (PCMP) through until the end of 1998 in priority areas, of which the main is Transit management.

For the preparatory work on links to the specialised Commission's systems (TARIC, CCN/CSI, Quotas etc), assistance is provided by the Commission under its Customs 2000 programme and the PMCP Automation Support Unit (ASU).

- **Harmonisation of Bulgarian Customs legislation**

Non-V4 Transit/non-IT component

This programme provides technical assistance to fulfil the necessary legal, organisational and procedural requirements of the Common Transit Convention.

In order to ensure full harmonisation of Bulgarian Customs legislation with EU legislation and best practice, any necessary technical assistance will be further delivered through PMCP, provided that it will support the agreed Customs Pre-accession Strategy.

- **Customs training function**

MCP II Training Project

This programme provides a series of measures to increase the competence of operational staff and the skills of the trainers.

Specific assistance for the development of Customs training function is currently delivered through PCMP

- **Reinforcement of border controls**

Measures to Improve Efficiency at Border Posts (MIEABP)

This project introduces risk analysis, selectivity and profiling technique to BCA operational staff enabling the specific targeting of high-risk consignments and traders and a corresponding diminution of control on legitimate trade.

Customs Information and Intelligence

This project will provide technique assistance and data analysis tools to use data available within the Customs administration for the purposes of risk analysis and control incorporating, as a specific task, the standardisation with EU systems viz. CIS/SCENT and AFIS.

- **Co-operation between Customs, Trade and other agencies**

Measures to Improve Efficiency at Border Posts (MIEABP)

The introduction of risk analysis, selectivity and profiling techniques in the Customs working environment will have as an immediate effect the reduction of waiting time at the border posts and facilitation of legitimate trade.

3. EU OTHER

- **Training**

The Mattheus Programme

This programme seeks to increase the skills and knowledge of Customs staff by the organisation of exchange visits and workshops.

- **Human Resources policies and Integrity**

Catch-up Facility

A coherent package of measures has been submitted by BCA through the Phare "Catch-up Facility" to address the fight against corruption and organised crime.
