

AGREEMENT ON A NORWEGIAN COOPERATION PROGRAMME  
FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN  
BULGARIA

between

THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY

and

THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”

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*Article 1*

Objective

A Norwegian Cooperation Programme shall be established for promoting social and economic development in Bulgaria through bilateral co-operation projects between the Parties within the sectors referred to in Article 4.

*Article 2*

Financial Scope

For the purpose of the Norwegian Cooperation Programme for the Republic of Bulgaria, the Kingdom of Norway shall make available a total amount of EUR 20 million, for commitment in a single tranche in 2007.

*Article 3*

Duration

The amount referred to in Article 2 shall be made available from the date of entry into force of the Agreement on the Participation of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania in the European Economic Area, or as from the date of entry into force of an agreement to apply the Agreement provisionally, to 30 April 2009.

*Article 4*

Priority Sectors

The Norwegian Cooperation Programme for Bulgaria shall be available for bilateral co-operation projects between eligible applicants from the Parties to promote social and economic development in the Republic of Bulgaria within the following priority sectors:

- reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including Joint Implementation projects under the Kyoto Protocol, and other emissions in air and water;
- energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- facilitating sustainable production, including certification and verification;
- implementation of Schengen *acquis*, support of National Schengen Plans as well as strengthening the judiciary.

Possible activities are inter alia innovation, human resource–development, networking, capacity-building, technology transfer, and research and development.

*Article 5*

Co-financing ceilings

The Norwegian contribution in the form of grants shall not exceed 60 % of the project cost except for projects otherwise financed by central, regional or local government budget allocations, where the contribution may not exceed 85 % of project cost. Community ceilings for co-financing shall not be exceeded in any case. Contributions to non-governmental organisations and social partners may be up to 90 % of project costs.

*Article 6*

Management

The Norwegian Cooperation Programme for Bulgaria shall be managed by the Norwegian Government or an entity appointed by it. The Management Entity shall consult with the Focal Point to be appointed by the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Commission may screen the projects.

Further provisions for the implementation of this Agreement will be issued by the Norwegian Government as necessary.

The management costs of the Norwegian Cooperation Programme shall be covered by the amount referred to in Article 2.

*Article 7*

Entry into force

This Agreement shall be ratified by the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of Bulgaria according to their national procedures. It shall enter into force thirty days after the date on which the last Party has deposited its instrument of ratification with the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, but not earlier than the entry into force of the Agreement on the Participation of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania in the European Economic Area, or as from the date of entry into force of an agreement to apply the latter agreement provisionally.

Done in Brussels,

For the Kingdom of Norway

For the Republic of Bulgaria