



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL POLICY

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Romania, IPA/ISPA accession negotiations
The Director

Brussels,
19(2010)

Dear Mr Petyko,

Subject: Preserving human capital and skills in the National Development Agency

The European Commission Services have indicated many times, most recently in the letter signed by Mr D. Ahner, Director-General, on 10 November 2010, the importance of preserving human capital and building on the acquired competence and skills within the National Development Agency and in the other bodies participating in the management and control of Structural and Cohesion Funds.

Shared management implies the joint responsibility of the European Commission and the Member State. The European Commission has to be assured that the management and control functions are undertaken in the most professional way by the competent National Authorities and that the investment carried out in the past to develop the necessary technical capacity in the public service is preserved.

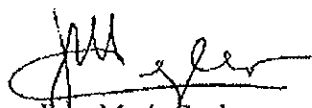
In this respect, we have serious concerns about the dismissal of some of the most experienced persons at middle management level in the National Development Agency and in the intermediate bodies. This instability of key personnel is unlikely to have a positive effect on the effective and regular implementation of Operational Programmes. The professional and managerial capacity of personnel is indeed a very important factor for the reliability and credibility of the whole system.

This is particularly important in the critical area of public procurement management and verification, where remedial measures must be put in place to improve existing practices and ensure genuine and full competition. The "public procurement action plan" announced by Hungarian authorities requires that the unit responsible for the verification process is segregated and independent from the adjudicating bodies and has the strongest technical capacity. It demands that the officials in charge of this function have adequate and high professional and managerial experience. Otherwise we experience the risk that any action plan would only be palliative and will not substantially improve the management verification process.

Mr Zoltán Petykó
President
National Development Agency
Wesselényi u. 20-22.
1077 Budapest
HUNGARY

The European Commission Services consider that sound management requires these principles to be taken into account in the management of the human resources within the National Development Agency and Intermediate Bodies. We consider that key personnel having specific managerial and professional competences should be as far as possible retained in their posts. We also wish to be reassured on the adequacy of the professional and managerial background of those officials who will in future assume important technical or managerial responsibilities in the management and control of Structural and Cohesion Funds, including in the management and verification of the public procurements.

Yours sincerely,



Jean-Marie Seyler

Copy: Mr M. Pasca-Raymondo, Dep. Director General
Mrs L. Andersson-Pench, Director for Audit