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Social Security Coordination and Social Security Reforms

SSCSSR(2010)6RSC3DRAFTREP

6th MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

2 July 2010

Hotel Rixos, Ankara

MEETING REPORT

Working language: English

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the draft agenda

The 6th Steering Committee meeting was organised on 2nd July 2010 at the Rixos Hotel in Ankara, Turkey. At the opening of the meeting, Mr Halûk ŞAHIN**,** Steering Committee Member from Turkey, welcomed the participants and wished the Committee members a successful work.

The Committee appointed Mr Sahin as the Chair of the meeting (following the Beneficiary Parties' alphabetical order) and adopted the proposed draft agenda.

The draft (annotated) agenda of the meeting was adopted without discussion.

2. Communication from the EC

Mr Numan ÖZCAN, representative of the EC Delegation in Turkey, took the floor at the begining of the meeting. He stated that the EC is taking into consideration the request for extension of the Programme, so as to allow the Programme to implement a number of additional activities to the original Action Plan and, the case need to be, finalised any remaining activity foreseen in the latter Action Plan. He reminded that, unless otherwise decided by the EC, the Programme should be finalised by 30th November 2010.

He indicated that, to allow an extension of the Programme's duration could only be done by the acceptance of an internal Commission. According to the rules of the Commission, the projects/programmes are extended only in cases of "force majeur" which prevent the proper implementation of the activities scheduled in the Action Plan. He emphasised that the Commission would be examining the proposals submitted by the Committee and the Secretariat in order to decide whehter the extension, for a limited duration, could be granted.

Mr Sixto MOLINA, SSCSSR Programme Manager explained that about 20% of the budget allocated to the Programme was yet not spent. He particularly emphasised that all the activities included in the Action Plan, except the delivery of a set of study, had or will be organised before 30th November. That said, and due to a meticulous organisation and planification of the events, the Programme has managed to make substantial savings.

He also explained that, if no extension was granted by the EC, the Secretariat will return the sums unspent to the Commission, as stipulated in the SSCSSR IPA contract.

He recalled that, if the EC decided to grant the extension, the activities that could potentially be organised had to be of a "Regional" character. National activities/seminar/events could then be organised within the framework of the Programme's potential new Actoin Plan.

Mr Molina requested the members of the Steering Committee to propose to the Secretariat the activities they would like to consider for the extension period so as to prepare a draft Action Plan. SC member agreed that they will be sending their proposed by 12th July the latest. A preliminary exchange of views about potential activities to be oragnised took place but the members of the Committee confirmed that the issue had to be examined by their respective national bodies/institutions before having a final stand point.

Mr Numan ÖZCAN, EC representative noted the statements of the SC members. He stated that although the implementation of the Programme so far has been successful, in order to examine a potential extension, a concrete proposal should be submitted by the Committee to the European Commission.

3. Statement by the Secretariat

(a) Report of the 5th meeting of the RSC *[SSCSSR(2009)5SC3FINREP]*

The Report of the 5th meeting of the Committee has been adopted before the meeting by exchange of emails. During the meeting, the adoption of the report was once again confirmed.

(b) Report on the Regional Meeting of Health Funds

Mr Sixto MOLINA briefed the Committee about the Regional Meeting of Health Funds that was organised in June 2010 in Ohrid, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". The meeting was very successful and it was given a broad visibility (extensive press coverage).

Due to the fact that this event was organised and co-financed with the Macedonian Fund for Health Insurance the costs incurred in the organisation of the event was very much reduced. He thanked the Macedonian Fund for Health Insurance, through the Steering Committee member, for having co-financed this particular activity.

Ms Tatjana KOSTOVSKA, added that during this meeting not only SSCSSR countries were invited but also participants from other European countries (such as Latvia, Hungary etc) were represented at the meeting. A network of civil and public servants working in the area of healt insurance in now in place,

(c) Evaluation report on the Third Regional Summer School

Mr Sixto MOLINA presented the Summer School evaluation report. This event was organised in Mavrovo, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", in May 2010. He explained, in detail, the outcome of the summer school, stating that in case there is an extension of the programme a new type of event, similar to the summer school but shorter (4-5 days) could/should be organised, notably to take into account the impact of the new EC regulation of social security coordination in the accession procedure of the new candidate countries.

4. Organisation of national training events

Mr Sixto MOLINA, presented the list of events that need to be organised untill the official end of the Programme, that is 30th November 2010.

He also informed the SC members about developments in respect of the drafting of the different legal analysis and the two sets of studies (Professor Grega Strban and Professor Francis Kessler respectively).
He emphasised that if there is no extension of the Programme everything will need to be finished by mid-November (the latest) since in the second half of November the office needs to been closed.

Ms Serifa Godinjak, SC member from Bosnia and Herzegovina proposed that "National Training Events" should be opened for participants from other SSCSSR Beneficiary parties as well, in particular if they cover a topic that is of their interest, thus giving a Regional nature to these events.
Her proposal for possible nomination of 1 or 2 representatives from all Beneficiary parties to participate in National Training Events was accepted by the Committee.

5. Other Business

Specific issues related with the organisation of the Ministerial conference in October 2010 were discussed, such as: translation during the conference, procedure of signing the declaration, minor protocol arrangements etc.

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SSCSSR(2010)6SC1DRAFTPROG

6th MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

2 July 2010

Hotel Rixos, Ankara

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

Working language: English

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA

The meeting will be opened by the representative of the host country. Mr. Sixto MOLINA, the SSCSSR Programme Manager, DG III – Social Cohesion, will welcome the participants.

The Committee is invited to appoint the Chair of the meeting and adopt the draft agenda as set out in this document (accodring to Article 7 of the Terms of Reference).

ACTION: **APPOINT THE CHAIR OF THE MEEITNG AND ADOPT THIS DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA**

II. COMMUNICATION FROM THE EC

By Mrs. Agota KOVACZ, Programme Manager, DG Enlargement, European Commission.

ACTION: **TAKE NOTE**

III. STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat will inform the Committee of the most recent developments since the last meeting of the RSC.

(a) Report of the 5th meeting of the RSC

[SSCSSR(2009)5SC3FINREP]

The Committee has already aproved the Report of its 4th meeting.

ACTION: **TAKE NOTE**

(b) Report on the Regional Meeting of Health Funds

The Secretariat will inform the Committee about the Regional Meeting of Health Funds.

ACTION: **TAKE NOTE**

(c) Evaluation report on the Third Regional Summer School

The Secretariat will inform the Committee about the Third Regional Summer School.

ACTION: **TAKE NOTE**

IV. ORGANISATION OF NATIONAL TRAINING EVENTS

The Secretariat will inform the Steering Committee about the organisation of National Training Events in the period until November 2010.

ACTION: **TAKE NOTE**

V. OTHER BUSINESS

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SSCSSR(2010)6RSC2DRLOP

6th MEETING OF THE REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

2nd July 2010

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[1] All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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N.B. If you have any amendments to your contact details, please inform the Secretariat by the end of the meeting.