

accordance with the provisions of the Decision of the Council of the European Communities of 21 December 1990, which established the programme.

The Parties shall coordinate, and where appropriate, harmonize, their policies regarding the regulation of cross-border broadcasts, technical standards and the promotion of European audiovisual technology.

TITLE VIII

FINANCIAL COOPERATION

Article 98

In order to achieve the objectives of this Agreement and in accordance with Articles 99, 100, 102 and 103, without prejudice to Article 101, the Slovak Republic shall benefit from temporary financial assistance from the Community in the form of grants and loans, including loans from the European Investment Bank according to the provisions of Article 18 of the Statute of the Bank.

Article 99

This financial assistance shall be covered by:

- the operation Phare measures provided for in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3906/89, as amended, for as long as they are applicable; thereafter grants will be made available by the Community, either within the framework of the operation Phare on a multiannual basis, or within a new financial multiannual framework established by the Community following consultations with the Slovak Republic and taking into account the consideration set out in Articles 102 and 103,
- the loan(s) provided by the European Investment Bank until the expiry date of the availability thereof; following consultations with the Slovak Republic the Community shall fix the maximum amount and the period of availability of loans from the European Investment Bank for the Slovak Republic for subsequent years.

Article 100

The objectives and the areas of the Community's financial assistance shall be laid down in an indicative programme to be agreed between the two Parties. The Parties shall inform the Association Council.

Article 101

1. The Community shall, in case of special need, taking into account the availability of all financial resources, on request of the Slovak Republic and in coordination with international financial institutions, in the context of the G-24, examine the possibility of granting temporary financial assistance:

- to support measures with the aim to introduce and maintain the convertibility of the Slovak Republic currency,
- to support medium_term stabilization and structural adjustment efforts, including balance of payments assistance.

2. This financial assistance is subject to the Slovak Republic's presentation of IMF support programmes in the context of G_24, as appropriate, for convertibility and/or for restructuring its economy, to the Community's acceptance thereof, to the Slovak Republic's continued adherence to these programmes and, as an ultimate objective, to rapid transition to reliance on finance from private sources.

3. The Association Council will be informed of the conditions under which this assistance will be provided and of the respect of the obligations undertaken by the Slovak Republic concerning such assistance.

Article 102

The Community financial assistance shall be evaluated in the light of the needs which arise and of the Slovak Republic's development level, and taking into account established priorities and the absorption capacity of the Slovak Republic economy, the ability to repay loans and accomplishment of a market economy system and restructuring in the Slovak Republic.

Article 103

In order to permit optimum use of the resources available the Contracting Parties shall ensure that Community contributions are made in close coordination with those from other sources such as the Member States, other countries, including the G_24, and international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

TITLE IX

INSTITUTIONAL, GENERAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 104

An Association Council is hereby established which shall supervise the implementation of this Agreement. It shall meet at ministerial level once a year and when circumstances require. It shall examine any major issues arising within the framework of this Agreement and any other bilateral or international issues of mutual interest.