ANNEX I : GENERAL CONDITIONS

FOR SUPPLY CONTRACTS FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION OR BY THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND

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PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Article 1 - Definitions

1.1. The headings and titles in these General Conditions shall not be taken as part thereof or be taken into consideration in the interpretation of the contract.

1.2. Where the context so permits, words in the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa, and words in the masculine shall be deemed to include the feminine and vice versa.

1.3. Words designating persons or parties shall include firms and companies and any organisation having legal capacity.

1.4. The definitions of the terms used throughout this General Conditions are laid down in the "Glossary of terms", annex A1 to the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions, which forms an integral part of this contract.

Article 2 - Law and language of the contract

2.1. The Special Conditions shall specify the law governing all matters not covered by the contract.

2.2. The contract and all written communications between the parties will be drafted in the language of the procedure.

Article 3 - Order of precedence of contract documents

3.1. Save where otherwise provided in the special conditions, the contract is made up of the following documents, in order of precedence:

a) the contract agreement;

b) the Special Conditions;

c) the General Conditions (Annex I);

d) the Technical Specifications (Annex II) including clarifications before the deadline for submission of tenders and minutes from the information meeting/site visit;

e) the Technical Offer (Annex III), including clarifications from the Contractor provided during tender evaluation;

f) the budget breakdown (Annex IV);

g) specified forms and other relevant documents (Annex V)

Addenda have the order of precedence of the document they are modifying.

3.2. The various documents making up the contract shall be deemed to be mutually explanatory; in cases of ambiguity or divergence, they should be read in the order in which they appear above.

Article 4 - Communications

4.1. Communications between the Contracting Authority and/or the Project Manager on the one hand, and the Contractor on the other, shall be exclusively in writing. Unless otherwise specified in the Special Conditions, communications between the Contracting Authority and/or the Project Manager on the one hand, and the Contractor on the other hand, shall be sent by post, cable, telex, fax transmission, or delivered by hand, to the addresses designated by the Parties for that purpose.

4.2. If the person sending a communication requires acknowledgement of receipt, he/she shall indicate this in his communication. Whenever there is a deadline for the receipt of a written communication, the sender should ask for an acknowledgement of receipt of his communication. In any event, the sender shall take all necessary measures to ensure receipt of his communication.

4.3. Wherever the contract provides for the giving or issue of any notice, consent, approval, certificate or decision, unless otherwise specified such notice, consent, approval, certificate or decision shall be in writing and the words "notify", "certify", "approve" or "decide" shall be construed accordingly. Any such consent, approval, certificate or decision shall not unreasonably be withheld or delayed.

Article 5 - Assignment

5.1. An assignment shall be valid only if it is a written agreement by which the Contractor transfers his contract or part thereof to a third party.

5.2. The Contractor may not, without the prior written consent of the Contracting Authority, assign the contract or any part thereof, or any benefit or interest thereunder, except in the following cases:

a) a charge, in favour of the Contractor's bankers, of any monies due or to become due under the contract; or

b) the assignment to the Contractor's insurers of the Contractor's right to obtain relief against any other person liable in cases where the insurers have discharged the Contractor's loss or liability.

5.3. For the purpose of Article 5.2, the approval of an assignment by the Contracting Authority shall not relieve the Contractor of his obligations for the part of the contract already performed or the part not assigned.

5.4. If the Contractor has assigned his contract without authorisation, the Contracting Authority may, without giving formal notice thereof, apply as of right the sanctions for breach of contract provided for in Article 35 and 36.

5.5. Assignees must satisfy the eligibility criteria applicable for the award of the contract and they can not be in any of the situations excluding them from participating in contracts which are listed in Section 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide to contract procedure for EU external actions.

Article 6 - Subcontracting

6.1. A subcontract shall be valid only if it is a written agreement by which the Contractor entrusts implementation of a part of the tasks to a third party.

6.2. The Contractor shall not subcontract without the prior written authorisation of the Contracting Authority. The elements of the contract to be subcontracted and the identity of the subcontractors shall be notified to the Contracting Authority. The Contracting Authority shall notify the Contractor of its decision within 30 days of receiving the notification, stating its reasons if authorisation is withheld.

6.3. Subcontractors must satisfy the eligibility criteria applicable for the award of the contract and they can not be in any of the situations excluding them from participating in contracts which are listed in Section 2.3.3 of the Practical Guide to contract procedure for EU external actions.

6.4. The Contracting Authority recognises no contractual link between itself and the subcontractors.

6.5. The Contractor shall be responsible for the acts, defaults and negligence of his subcontractors and their agents or employees, as if they were the acts, defaults or negligence of the Contractor, his agents or employees. The approval by the Contracting Authority of the subcontracting of any part of the contract or of the subcontractor shall not relieve the Contractor of any of his obligations under the contract.

6.6. If a subcontractor has undertaken any continuing obligation extending for a period exceeding that of the warranty period under the contract towards the Contractor in respect of the supplies provided by the subcontractor, the Contractor must, at any time after the expiration of the warranty period, transfer immediately to the Contracting Authority, at the Contracting Authority's request and cost, the benefit of such obligation for the unexpired duration thereof.

6.7. If the Contractor enters into a subcontract without approval, the Contracting Authority may, without giving formal notice thereof, apply as of right the sanctions for breach of contract provided for in Article 35.

6.8. If a subcontractor is found by the Contracting Authority or the Project Manager to be incompetent in discharging its duties, the Contracting Authority or the Project Manager may request the Contractor forthwith, either to provide a subcontractor with qualifications and experience acceptable to the Contracting Authority as a replacement, or to resume the implementation of the tasks itself.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

Article 7 - Supply of documents

7.1. If necessary, within 30 days of the signing of the contract, the Project Manager shall, where necessary, provide the Contractor, free of charge, with a copy of the drawings prepared for the implementation of the tasks and a copy of the specifications and other contract documents. The Contractor may purchase additional copies of these drawings, specifications and other documents, in so far as they are available. Upon the issue of the warranty certificate, or upon final acceptance, the Contractor shall return to the Project Manager all drawings, specifications and other contract documents.

7.2. Unless it is necessary for the purposes of the contract, the drawings, specifications and other documents provided by the Project Manager shall not be used or communicated to a third party by the Contractor without the prior consent of the Project Manager.

7.3. The Project Manager shall have authority to issue to the Contractor administrative orders incorporating such supplementary documents and instructions as are necessary for the proper execution of the contract and the remedying of any defects therein.

7.4. The special conditions must indicate the procedure used, if necessary, by the Contracting Authority and the Project Manager to approve drawings and other documents provided by the Contractor.

Article 8 - Assistance with local regulations

8.1. The Contractor may request the assistance of the Contracting Authority in obtaining copies of laws, regulations and information on local customs, orders or bye-laws of the country where the supplies are to be delivered which may affect the Contractor in the performance of his obligations under the contract. The Contracting Authority may provide the assistance requested to the Contractor at the Contractor's cost.

8.2. If necessary, the Contractor shall duly notify the Contracting Authority of details of the supplies so that the Contracting Authority can obtain the requisite permits or import licences.

8.3. If necessary, the Contracting Authority will undertake to obtain, in accordance with the Special Conditions, the requisite permits or import licences within a reasonable period, taking account of the implementation dates for the tasks.

8.4. Subject to the provisions of the laws and regulations on foreign labour of the states in which the supplies are to be delivered, the Contracting Authority shall make every effort to help the Contractor obtain all the visas and permits required for the personnel whose services the Contractor and the Contracting Authority consider necessary and residence permits for their families.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTOR

Article 9 - General Obligations

9.1. The Contractor shall implement the contract with due care and diligence including, where specified, the design, manufacture, delivery to site, erecting, testing and commissioning of the supplies and carrying out of any other work including the remedying of any defects in the supplies. The Contractor shall also provide all necessary equipment, supervision, labour and facilities required for the implementation of the tasks.

9.2. The Contractor shall comply with administrative orders given by the Project Manager. Where the Contractor considers that the requirement of an administrative order goes beyond the scope of the contract, it shall, on pain of breach of contract, notify the Project Manager thereof, giving his reasons, within 30 days of receipt of the order. Execution of the administrative order shall not be suspended because of this notice.

9.3. For matters not governed by the contract, the Contractor shall respect and abide by all laws and regulations in force according to article 2 of the Special Conditions and shall ensure that his personnel, their dependants, and his local employees also respect and abide by all such laws and regulations. The Contractor shall indemnify the Contracting Authority against any claims and proceedings arising from any infringement by the Contractor, his employees and their dependants of such laws and regulations. The Contractor shall respect internationally agreed core labour standards, e.g. the ILO core labour standards, conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining, elimination of forced and compulsory labour, elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and the abolition of child labour.

9.4. The Contractor shall treat all documents and information received in connection with the contract as private and confidential. He shall not, save in so far as may be necessary for the purposes of the contract's execution, publish or disclose any particulars of the contract without the prior consent in writing of the Contracting Authority or the Project Manager. If any disagreement arises as to the necessity for any publication or disclosure for the purpose of the contract, the decision of the Contracting Authority shall be final.

9.5. If the Contractor is a joint venture or consortium of two or more persons, all such persons shall be jointly and severally bound to fulfil the terms of the contract according to the law of the state of the Contracting Authority and shall, at the request of the Contracting Authority, designate one of such persons to act as leader with authority to bind the joint venture or consortium. The composition of the joint venture or consortium shall not be altered without the prior consent in writing of the Contracting Authority.

9.6. Save where the European Commission requests or agrees otherwise, the Contractor shall take the necessary measures to ensure the visibility of the European Union financing or co-financing. These measures must comply with the rules in the Communication and Visibility Manual for EU External Actions published by the European Commission.

9.7. If the Contractor or any of his sub-contractors, agents or servants offers to give or agrees to offer or to give or gives to any person, any bribe, gift, gratuity or commission as an inducement or reward for doing or forbearing to do any act in relation to the contract or any other contract with the Contracting Authority; or for showing favour or disfavour to any person in relation to the contract or any other contract with the Contracting Authority, then the Contracting Authority may, without prejudice to any accrued rights of the Contractor under the contract, terminate the contract in which case the provisions of Articles 35 and 36 hereof shall apply.

9.8. The execution of the contract shall not give rise to unusual commercial expenses. If such unusual commercial expenses emerge, the contract will be terminated. Unusual commercial expenses are commissions not mentioned in the contract or not stemming from a properly concluded contract referring to the contract, commissions not paid in return for any actual and legitimate service, commissions remitted to a tax haven, commissions paid to a recipient who is not clearly identified or commission paid to a company which has every appearance of being a front company.

9.9. Any records must be kept for a 7-year period after the final payment made under the contract. Failure to maintain such records constitutes a breach of contract and may result in the termination of the contract.

Article 10 - Origin

10.1. Save where otherwise provided for in the Special Conditions, goods must originate in a Member State of the European Union or in an eligible country as stated in the invitation to tender.

10.2. The Contractor must certify that the goods tendered comply with this requirement, specifying their countries of origin. He may be required to provide more detailed information in this respect.

10.3. The Contractor shall present an official certificate of origin on provisional acceptance. Failure to comply with this obligation shall lead, after formal notice, to termination of the contract.

Article 11 - Performance guarantee

11.1. The Contractor shall, together with the return of the countersigned contract, furnish the Contracting Authority with a guarantee for the full and proper execution of the contract. The amount of the guarantee shall be specified in the Special Conditions. It shall be in the range of 5 and 10% of the amount of the contract price, including any amounts stipulated in addenda to the contract.

11.2. The performance guarantee shall be held against payment to the Contracting Authority for any loss resulting from the Contractor's failure to perform his contractual obligations fully and properly.

11.3. The performance guarantee, to be approved by the Contracting Authority, shall be in the format given in Annex V and may be provided in the form of a bank guarantee, a banker's draft, a certified cheque, a bond provided by an insurance and/or bonding company or an irrevocable letter of credit.

11.4. The performance guarantee shall be denominated in the currency in which the contract is payable. No payments shall be made in favour of the Contractor prior to the provision of the guarantee. The guarantee shall continue to remain valid until the contract has been fully and properly performed.

11.5. During the execution of the contract, if the natural or legal person providing the guarantee is not able to abide by his commitments, the guarantee shall cease to be valid. The Contracting Authority shall give formal notice to the Contractor to provide a new guarantee on the same terms as the previous one. Should the Contractor fail to provide a new guarantee, the Contracting Authority may terminate the contract. Before so doing, the Contracting Authority shall send a registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt, which shall set a new deadline of no less than 15 days from the day of delivery of the letter.

11.6. The Contracting Authority shall demand payment from the guarantee of all sums for which the guarantor is liable under the guarantee due to the Contractor's default under the contract, in accordance with the terms of the guarantee and up to the value thereof. The guarantor shall, without delay, pay those sums upon demand from the Contracting Authority and may not raise any objection for any reason whatsoever. Before making any claim under the performance guarantee, the Contracting Authority shall notify the Contractor stating the nature of the default in respect of which the claim is to be made.

11.7. Except for such part as may be specified in the Special Conditions in respect of after-sales service, the performance guarantee shall be released within 45 days of the issue of the final acceptance certificate.

Article 12 - Insurance

12.1. An insurance policy may be required to cover the carriage of supplies; the conditions of this insurance policy may be specified in Article 12 of the Special Conditions, which may also specify other types of insurance to be taken out by the Contractor.

12.2. Notwithstanding the Contractor's insurance obligations under Article 12.1, the Contractor shall bear sole liability for, and indemnify the Contracting Authority and the Project Manager against, any claims for damage to property or personal injuries arising from the execution of the contract by the Contractor, his subcontractors and their employees.

Article 13 - Programme of implementation of the tasks

13.1. If the Special Conditions so require, the Contractor shall submit a programme of implementation of the tasks for the approval of the Project Manager. The programme shall contain at least the following:

a) the order in which the Contractor proposes to perform the contract including design, manufacture, delivery to place of receipt, installation, testing and commissioning;

b) the deadlines for submission and approval of the drawings;

c) a general description of the methods which the Contractor proposes to adopt for executing the contract; and

d) such further details and information as the Project Manager may reasonably require.

13.2. The Special Conditions shall specify the time limit within which the programme of implementation of the tasks must be submitted to the Project Manager for approval. They may set time limits within which the Contractor must submit all or part of the detailed drawings, documents and items. They shall also state the deadline for the Project Manager's approval or acceptance of the programme of implementation, detailed drawings, documents and items. The approval of the programme by the Project Manager shall not relieve the Contractor of any of his obligations under the contract.

13.3. No material alteration to the programme shall be made without the approval of the Project Manager. If, however, the progress of the implementation of the tasks does not conform to the programme, the Project Manager may instruct the Contractor to revise the programme and submit the revised programme to him/her for approval.

Article 14 - Contractor's drawings

14.1. If the Special Conditions so provide, the Contractor shall submit to the Project Manager for approval:

a) the drawings, documents, samples and/or models, according to the time limits and procedures laid down in the Special Conditions;

b) such drawings as the Project Manager may reasonably require for the implementation of the tasks.

14.2. If the Project Manager fails to notify his decision of approval referred to in Article 14.1 within the deadlines referred to in the contract or the approved programme of implementation of the tasks, such drawings, documents, samples or models shall be deemed to be approved on expiry of the deadlines. If no deadline is specified, they shall be deemed to be approved 30 days after receipt.

14.3. Approved drawings, documents, samples and models shall be signed or otherwise identified by the Project Manager and may only be departed from on the Project Manager's instructions. Any of the Contractor's drawings, documents, samples or models which the Project Manager refuses to approve shall immediately be modified to meet the requirements of the Project Manager and resubmitted by the Contractor for approval.

14.4. The Contractor shall supply additional copies of approved drawings in the form and numbers stated in the contract or in subsequent administrative orders.

14.5. The approval of the drawings, documents, samples or models by the Project Manager shall not relieve the Contractor from any of his obligations under the contract.

14.6. The Project Manager shall have the right to inspect all drawings, documents, samples or models relating to the contract at the Contractor's premises at all reasonable times.

14.7. Before provisional acceptance of the supplies, the Contractor shall supply operation and maintenance manuals together with drawings, which shall be in such detail as will enable the Project Manager to operate, maintain, adjust and repair all parts of the supplies. Unless otherwise stated in the Special Conditions, the manuals and drawings shall be in the language of the contract and in such forms and numbers as stated in the contract. The supplies shall not be considered completed for the purpose of provisional acceptance until such manuals and drawings have been supplied to the Contracting Authority.

Article 15 - Sufficiency of tender prices

15.1. Subject to any provisions which may be laid down in the Special Conditions, the Contractor shall be deemed to have satisfied himself before submitting his tender as to the correctness and sufficiency of the tender and to have taken account of all that is required for the full and proper implementation of the tasks and to have included in his rates and prices all costs related to the supplies, in particular:

a) the costs of transport;

b) the costs of handling, packing, loading, unloading, transit, delivery, unpacking, checking, insurance and other administrative costs in connection with the supplies. The packaging shall be the property of the Contracting Authority unless otherwise provided in the Special Conditions;

c) the cost of documents relating to the supplies where such documents are required by the Contracting Authority;

d) execution and supervision of on-site assembly and/or commissioning of the delivered supplies;

e) furnishing of tools required for assembly and/or maintenance of the delivered supplies;

f) furnishing of detailed operation and maintenance manuals for each unit of the delivered supplies, as specified in the contract;

g) supervision or maintenance and/or repair of the supplies, for a period of time stated in the contract, with the stipulation that this service shall not release the Contractor from any warranty obligations under the contract;

h) training of the Contracting Authority's personnel, at the Contractor's factory and/or elsewhere as specified in the contract.

15.2. Since the Contractor is deemed to have determined its prices on the basis of its own calculations, operations and estimates, it shall, at no additional charge, carry out any work that is the subject of any item in its tender for which its indicates neither a unit price nor a lump sum.

Article 16 - Tax and customs arrangements

The terms of delivery of the goods shall be DDP (Delivered Duty Paid) – Incoterms 2010, International Chamber of Commerce.

Article 17 - Patents and licences

Save where otherwise provided in the Special Conditions, the Contractor shall indemnify the Contracting Authority and the Project Manager against any claim resulting from the use as specified in the contract of patents, licences, drawings, models, or brand or trade marks, unless such infringement results from compliance with the design or specification provided by the Contracting Authority and/or the Project Manager.

COMMENCEMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TASKS AND DELAYS

Article 18 - Commencement order

18.1. The Contracting Authority shall fix the date on which implementation of the tasks is to commence and advise the Contractor thereof either in the notice of award of the contract or by administrative order issued by the Project Manager.

18.2. Save where the Parties agree otherwise, implementation of the tasks shall begin no later than 90 days after notification of award of contract. After that date the Contractor shall be entitled not to implement the contract and to obtain its termination or compensation for the damage it has suffered. The Contractor shall forfeit this right unless it exercises it within 30 days of the expiry of the 90-day period.

Article 19 - Period of implementation of the tasks

19.1. The period of implementation of tasks shall commence on the date fixed in accordance with Article 18 and shall be as stated in the contract, without prejudice to extensions of the period which may be granted under Article 20.

19.2. If provision is made for distinct periods of implementation of the tasks for separate lots, in cases where one Contractor is awarded more than one lot per contract, the periods of implementation of the tasks for the separate lots will not be accumulated.

Article 20 - Extension of period of implementation of the tasks

20.1. The Contractor may request an extension to the period of implementation of the tasks if his implementation of the contract is delayed, or expected to be delayed, for any of the following reasons:

a) extra or additional supplies ordered by the Contracting Authority;

b) exceptional weather conditions in the country of the Contracting Authority which may affect installation or erection of the supplies;

c) physical obstructions or conditions which may affect delivery of the supplies, which could not reasonably have been foreseen by a competent contractor;

d) administrative orders affecting the date of completion other than those arising from the Contractor's default;

e) failure of the Contracting Authority to fulfil its obligations under the contract;

f) any suspension of the delivery and/or installation of the supplies which is not due to the

Contractor's default;

g) force majeure;

h) any other causes referred to in these General Conditions which are not due to the Contractor's default.

20.2. Within 15 days of realising that a delay might occur, the Contractor shall notify the Project Manager of his intention to make a request for extension of the period of implementation of the tasks to which it considers himself entitled and, save where otherwise agreed between the Contractor and the Project Manager, within 30 days provide the Project Manager with comprehensive details so that the request can be examined.

20.3. Within 30 days the Project Manager shall, by written notice to the Contractor after due consultation with the Contracting Authority and, where appropriate, grant such extension of the period of implementation of the tasks as may be justified, either prospectively or retrospectively, or inform the Contractor that it is not entitled to an extension.

Article 21 - Delays in implementation of the tasks

21.1. If the Contractor fails under his own responsibility to deliver any or all of the goods or perform the services within the time limit(s) specified in the contract, the Contracting Authority shall, without formal notice and without prejudice to its other remedies under the contract, be entitled, for every day which shall elapse between the expiry of the implementation period of the tasks and the actual date of completion, to liquidated damages equal to 5/1000 of the value of the undelivered supplies to a maximum of 15% of the total value of the contract.

21.2. If the non-delivery of any of the goods prevents the normal use of the supplies as a whole, the liquidated damages provided for in paragraph 21.1 shall be calculated on the basis of the total contract value.

21.3. If the Contracting Authority has become entitled to claim at least 15% of the contract value it may, after giving written notice to the Contractor:

- seize the performance guarantee;
- terminate the contract, in which case the Contractor will have no right to compensation; and
- enter into a contract with a third party for the provision of the balance of the supplies. The Contractor shall not be paid for this part of the contract. The Contractor shall also be liable for the additional costs and damages caused by his failure.

Article 22 - Variations

22.1. Subject to the limits of the procedure thresholds set in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions, the Contracting Authority reserves the right, to vary the quantities as stated in the Special Conditions. The total value of the supplies may not rise or fall as a result of the variation in the quantities by more than 25% of the tender price. The unit prices used in the tender shall be applicable to the quantities procured under the variation. Substantial modifications to the contract, including modifications to the total contract amount, must be made by means of an addendum.

22.2. The Project Manager shall have the power to order any variation to any part of the supplies necessary for the proper completion and/or functioning of the supplies. Such variations may include additions, omissions, substitutions, changes in quality, quantity, form, character, kind, as well as drawings, designs or specifications where the supplies are to be specifically manufactured for the Contracting Authority, method of shipment or packing, place of delivery, and in the specified sequence, method or timing of implementation of the tasks. No order for a variation may result in the invalidation of the contract, but the financial effect of any such variation shall be valued in accordance with Article 22.6.

22.3. No variation shall be made except by administrative order, subject to the following provisions:

a) if, for whatever reason, the Project Manager believes it necessary to give an order orally, he/she shall confirm the order by an administrative order as soon as possible;

b) if the Contractor confirms in writing an oral order given for the purpose of Article 22.3.a and the confirmation is not contradicted in writing forthwith by the Project Manager, an administrative order shall be deemed to have been issued for the variation;

c) an administrative order for a variation shall not be required when increasing or decreasing the quantity of any work because the estimates in the budget breakdown were too high or too low.

22.4. Save where Article 22.2 provides otherwise, prior to issuing an administrative order for a variation, the Project Manager shall notify the Contractor of the nature and form of that variation. As soon as possible, after receiving such notice, the Contractor shall submit to the Project Manager a proposal containing:

- a description of the tasks, if any, to be performed or the measures to be taken and a programme of implementation of the tasks;
- any necessary modifications to the programme of implementation of the tasks or to any of the Contractor's obligations under the contract;
- any adjustment to the contract price in accordance with the rules set out in Article 22.

22.5. Following the receipt of the Contractor's submission referred to in Article 22.4, the Project Manager shall, after due consultation with the Contracting Authority and, where appropriate, the Contractor, decide as soon as possible whether or not the variation should be carried out. If the Project Manager decides that the variation is to be carried out, he/she shall issue an administrative order stating that the variation is to be made at the prices and under the conditions given in the Contractor's submission referred to in Article 22.4 or as modified by the Project Manager in accordance with Article 22.6.

22.6. The prices for all variations ordered by the Project Manager in accordance with Articles 22.3 and 22.5 shall be ascertained by the Project Manager in accordance with the following principles:

- where the task is of similar character and implemented under similar conditions to an item priced in the budget breakdown, it shall be valued at such rates and prices contained therein;
- where the task is not of similar character or is not implemented under similar conditions, the rates and prices in the contract shall be used as the basis for valuation in so far as is reasonable, failing which a fair valuation shall be made by the Project Manager;
- if the nature or amount of any variation relative to the nature or amount of the whole of the contract or to any part thereof is such that, in the opinion of the Project Manager, any rate or price contained in the contract for any item of work is by reason of such variation rendered unreasonable, then the Project Manager shall fix such rate or price as he/she thinks reasonable and proper in the circumstances;
- where a variation is necessitated by a default or breach of contract by the Contractor, any additional cost attributable to such variation shall be borne by the Contractor.

22.7. On receipt of the administrative order requesting the variation, the Contractor shall proceed to carry out the variation and be bound by that order in so doing as if such variation were stated in the contract. The supplies shall not be delayed pending the granting of any extension of implementation period of tasks or adjustment to the contract price. Where the order for a variation precedes the adjustment to the contract price, the Contractor shall keep records of the costs of undertaking the variation and of the time expended thereon. Such records shall be open to inspection by the Project Manager at all reasonable times.

22.8. Contractual variations not covered by an administrative order must be formalised through an addendum to the contract signed by all parties. Changes of address or bank account may simply be notified in writing by the Contractor to the Contracting Authority. Any contractual variations must respect the general principles defined in the Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions.

Article 23 - Suspension

23.1. The Project Manager may, by administrative order, at any time, instruct the Contractor to suspend:

a) the manufacture of the supplies; or

b) the delivery of supplies to the place of acceptance at the time specified for delivery in the programme of implementation of the tasks or, if no time specified, at the time appropriate for it to be delivered; or

c) the installation of the supplies which have been delivered to the place of acceptance.

23.2. The Contractor shall, during suspension, protect and secure the supplies affected at the Contractor's warehouse or elsewhere, against any deterioration, loss or damage to the extent possible and as instructed by the Project Manager, even if supplies have been delivered to the place of acceptance in accordance with the contract but their installation has been suspended by the Project Manager.

23.3. Additional expenses incurred in connection with such protective measure shall be added to the contract price. The Contractor shall not be paid any additional expenses if the suspension is:

a) dealt with differently in the contract; or

b) necessary by reason of normal climatic conditions at the place of acceptance; or

c) necessary owing to some default of the Contractor; or

d) necessary for the safety or the proper execution of the contract or any part thereof insofar as such necessity does not arise from any act or default by the Project Manager or the Contracting Authority.

23.4. The Contractor shall not be entitled to such additions to the contract price unless it notifies the Project Manager, within 30 days of receiving the order to suspend progress of delivery, of his intention to make a claim for them.

23.5. The Project Manager, after consultation with the Contracting Authority and the Contractor, shall determine such extra payment and/or extension of the period of implementation of the tasks to be made to the Contractor in respect of such claim as shall, in the opinion of the Project Manager, be fair and reasonable.

23.6. If the period of suspension exceeds 180 days, and the suspension is not due to the Contractor's default, the Contractor may, by notice to the Project Manager, request to proceed with the supplies within 30 days, or terminate the contract.

23.7. Where the award procedure or implementation of the contract is vitiated by substantial errors or irregularities or by suspected or proven fraud, the Contracting Authority shall suspend payments and/or execution of the contract. Where such errors, irregularities or fraud are attributable to the Contractor, the Contracting Authority may also refuse to make payments or may recover monies already paid, in proportion to the seriousness of the errors, irregularities or fraud. The Contracting Authority may also suspend payments in cases where there are suspected or established errors, irregularities or fraud committed by the Contractor in the performance of another contract funded by the general budget of the European Union or by EDF, which are likely to affect the performance of the present contract.

MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP

Article 24 - Quality of supplies

24.1. The supplies must in all respects satisfy the technical specifications laid down in the contract and conform in all respects to the drawings, surveys, models, samples, patterns and other requirements in the contract, which must be held at the disposal of the Contracting Authority or the Project Manager for the purposes of identification throughout the period of execution.

24.2. Any preliminary technical acceptance stipulated in the Special Conditions should be the subject of a request sent by the Contractor to the Project Manager. The request shall specify the materials, items and samples submitted for such acceptance according to the contract and indicate the lot number and the place where acceptance is to take place, as appropriate. The materials, items and samples specified in the request must be certified by the Project Manager as meeting the requirements for such acceptance prior to their incorporation in the supplies.

24.3. Even if materials or items to be incorporated in the supplies or in the manufacture of components to be supplied have been technically accepted in this way, they may still be rejected if a further examination reveals defects or faults, in which case they must immediately be replaced by the Contractor. The Contractor may be given the opportunity to repair and make good materials and items which have been rejected, but such materials and items will be accepted for incorporation in the supplies only if they have been repaired and made good to the satisfaction of the Project Manager.

Article 25 - Inspection and testing

25.1. The Contractor shall ensure that the supplies are delivered to the place of acceptance in time to allow the Project Manager to proceed with acceptance of the supplies. The Contractor is deemed to have fully appreciated the difficulties which it might encounter in this respect, and it shall not be permitted to advance any grounds for delay.

25.2. The Project Manager shall be entitled, from time to time, to inspect, examine, measure and test the components, materials and workmanship, and check the progress of preparation, fabrication or manufacture of anything being prepared, fabricated or manufactured for delivery under the contract, in order to establish whether the components, materials and workmanship are of the requisite quality and quantity. This shall take place at the place of manufacture, fabrication, preparation or at the place of acceptance or at such other places as may be specified in the Special Conditions.

25.3. For the purposes of such tests and inspections, the Contractor shall:

a) provide the Project Manager, temporarily and free of charge, with such assistance, test samples or parts, machines, equipment, tools, labour, materials, drawings and production data as are normally required for inspection and testing;

b) agree, with the Project Manager, the time and place for tests;

c) give the Project Manager access at all reasonable times to the place where the tests are to be carried out.

25.4. If the Project Manager is not present on the date agreed for tests, the Contractor may, unless otherwise instructed by the Project Manager, proceed with the tests, which shall be deemed to have been made in the Project Manager's presence. The Contractor shall immediately send duly certified copies of the test results to the Project Manager, who shall, if he/she has not attended the test, be bound by the test results.

25.5. When components and materials have passed the above-mentioned tests, the Project Manager shall notify the Contractor or endorse the Contractor's certificate to that effect.

25.6. If the Project Manager and the Contractor disagree on the test results, each shall state his views to the other within 15 days of such disagreement. The Project Manager or the Contractor may require such tests to be repeated on the same terms and conditions or, if either Party so requests, by an expert selected by common consent. All test reports shall be submitted to the Project Manager, who shall communicate the results of these tests without delay to the Contractor. The results of retesting shall be conclusive. The cost of retesting shall be borne by the Party whose views are proved wrong by the retesting.

25.7. In the performance of their duties, the Project Manager and any person authorised by him/her shall not disclose to unauthorised persons information concerning the undertaking's methods of manufacture and operation obtained through inspection and testing.

PAYMENTS

Article 26 - General principles

26.1. Payments shall be made in euro or national currency as specified in the Special Conditions. The Special Conditions shall lay down the administrative or technical conditions governing payments of pre-financing, interim and/or final payments made in accordance with the General Conditions. Where payment is in the national currency, it shall be converted into euro at the rate published on the Infor-Euro on the first working day of the month in which the payment is made.

26.2. Payments due by the Contracting Authority shall be made to the bank account mentioned on the financial identification form completed by the Contractor. The same form, annexed to the payment request, must be used to report changes of bank account.

26.3. Sums due shall be paid within no more than 45 days from the date on which an admissible payment request is registered by the competent department specified in the Special Conditions. The date of payment shall be the date on which the institution's account is debited. The payment request shall not be admissible if one or more essential requirements are not met.

26.4. The 45-day period may be suspended by notifying the Contractor that the payment request cannot be fulfilled because the sum is not due, because appropriate substantiating documents have not been provided or because the Contracting Authority thinks it is necessary to conduct further checks to verify if the expenditure is eligible. In the latter case, an inspection may be carried out on the spot for the purpose of further checks. The Contractor shall provide clarifications, modifications or further information within 30 days of being asked to do so. The payment period shall continue to run from the date on which a properly drawn-up payment request is registered.

26.5. The payments shall be made as follows:

a) 60% of the contract price after the signing of the contract, against provision of the performance guarantee. If the pre-financing payment exceeds EUR 150.000, or if no proof documents have been provided for the selection criteria, the Contractor must provide a financial guarantee for the full amount of the pre-financing payment. This guarantee shall be provided to the Contracting Authority following the procedure foreseen for the performance guarantee in accordance with Article 11, and in accordance with the format annexed to the contract. This financial guarantee must remain valid until it is released 45 days at the latest after the provisional acceptance of the goods. Where the contractor is a public body the obligation for a financial guarantee may be waived depending on a risk assessment made;

b) 40% of the contract price, as payment of the balance outstanding, following provisional acceptance of the supplies;

26.6. Where only part of the supplies have been delivered, the 40% payment due following partial provisional acceptance shall be calculated on the value of the supplies which have actually been accepted and the security shall be released accordingly.

26.7. For supplies not covered by a warranty period, the payments listed above shall be aggregated. The conditions to which the payments of pre-financing, interim and/or final payments are subject, shall be as stated in the Special Conditions.

26.8. The payment obligations of the EU under this Contract shall cease at most 18 months after the end of the period of implementation of the tasks, unless the Contract is terminated in accordance with these General Conditions.

26.9. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Special Conditions, contracts shall be at fixed prices, which shall not be revised.

26.10. The Contractor undertakes to repay any amounts paid in excess of the final amount due to the Contracting Authority before the deadline indicated in the debit note which is 45 days from the issuing of that note. Should the Contractor fail to make repayment within the deadline set by the Contracting Authority, the Contracting Authority may (unless the Contractor is a government department or public body of a Member State of the European Union) increase the amounts due by adding interest:

- at the rediscount rate applied by the central bank of the country of the Contracting Authority if payments are in the currency of that country;
- at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its main refinancing transactions in euro, as published in the Official Journal of the European Union, C series, where payments are in euro,

on the first day of the month in which the time-limit expired, plus seven percentage points. The default interest shall be incurred over the time which elapses between the date of the payment deadline set by the Contracting Authority, and the date on which payment is actually made. Any partial payments shall first cover the interest thus established.

Amounts to be repaid to the Contracting Authority may be offset against amounts of any kind due to the Contractor. This shall not affect the Parties' right to agree on payment in instalments. Bank charges incurred by the repayment of amounts due to the Contracting Authority shall be borne entirely by the Contractor.

26.11. Where necessary the European Union may as a donor subrogate itself to the Contracting Authority.

26.12. If the contract is terminated for any reason whatsoever, the guarantee securing the pre-financing may be invoked forthwith in order to repay the balance of the pre-financing still owed by the Contractor, and the guarantor shall not delay payment or raise objection for any reason whatever.

Article 27 - Payment to third parties

27.1. Orders for payments to third parties may be carried out only after an assignment made in accordance with Article 5. The Contracting Authority shall be notified of the assignment.

27.2. Notification of beneficiaries of the assignment shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor.

27.3. In the event of a legally binding attachment of the property of the Contractor affecting payments due to it under the contract, and without prejudice to the time limit laid down in the Special Conditions, the Contracting Authority shall have 30 days, starting from the day on which it receives notification of the definitive lifting of the obstacle to payment, to resume payments to the Contractor.

Article 28 - Delayed payments

28.1. The Contracting Authority shall pay the Contractor sums due within 45 days of the date on which an admissible payment is registered, in accordance with Article 26 of these General Conditions. This period shall begin to run from the approval of these documents by the competent department referred to in Article 26 of the Special Conditions. These documents shall be approved either expressly or tacitly, in the absence of any written reaction in the 45 days following their receipt accompanied by the requisite documents.

28.2. Once the time-limit referred to in Article 28.1 has expired, the Contractor – unless the contractor is a government department or public body in a European Union Member State - may, within two months of receipt of the late payment, receive default interest:

- at the rediscount rate applied by the central bank of the beneficiary country if payments are in the currency of that country;
- at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its main refinancing transactions in euro, as published in the Official Journal of the European Union, C series, if payments are in euro,

on the first day of the month in which the time-limit expired, plus seven percentage points. The interest shall be payable for the time elapsed between the expiry of the payment deadline and the date on which the Contracting Authority's account is debited. By way of exception, when the interest calculated in accordance with this provision is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it shall be paid to the Contractor only upon demand submitted within two months of receiving late payment.

28.3. Any default in payment of more than 90 days from the expiry of the period laid down in Article 28.1 shall entitle the Contractor either not to perform the contract or to terminate it, with 30 days' prior notice to the Contracting Authority and the Project Manager.

ACCEPTANCE AND MAINTENANCE

Article 29 - Delivery

29.1. The Contractor shall deliver the supplies in accordance with the conditions of the contract. The supplies shall be at the risk of the Contractor until their provisional acceptance.

29.2. The Contractor shall provide such packaging of supplies as is required to prevent their damage or deterioration in transit to their destination as indicated in the contract. The packaging shall be sufficient to withstand, without limitation, rough handling, exposure to extreme temperatures, salt and precipitation during transit and open storage. Package size and weight shall take into consideration, where appropriate, the remoteness of the final destination of the supplies, and the possible absence of heavy handling facilities at all points in transit.

29.3. The packaging, marking and documentation inside and outside the packages shall comply with such requirements as shall be expressly provided for in the Special Conditions, subject to any variations subsequently ordered by the Project Manager.

29.4. No supplies shall be shipped or delivered to the place of acceptance until the Contractor has received a delivery order from the Project Manager. The Contractor shall be responsible for the delivery at the place of acceptance of all supplies and supplier's equipment required for the purpose of the contract. If the Project Manager fails either to issue the certificate of provisional acceptance or to reject the Contractor's application within the period of 30 days, he/she shall be deemed to have issued the certificate on the last day of that period.

29.5. Each delivery must be accompanied by a statement drawn up by the Contractor. This statement shall be as specified in the Special Conditions.

29.6. Each package shall be clearly marked in accordance with the Special Conditions.

29.7. Delivery shall be deemed to have been made when there is written evidence available to both Parties that delivery of the supplies has taken place in accordance with the terms of the contract, and the invoice(s) and all such other documentation specified in the Special Conditions, have been submitted to the Contracting Authority. Where the supplies are delivered to an establishment of the Contracting Authority, the latter shall bear the responsibility of bailee, in accordance with the requirements of the law applicable to the contract, during the time which elapses between delivery for storage and acceptance.

Article 30 - Verification operations

30.1. The supplies shall not be accepted until the prescribed verifications and tests have been carried out at the expense of the Contractor. The inspections and tests may be conducted before shipment, at the point of delivery and/or at the final destination of the goods.

30.2. The Project Manager shall, during the progress of the delivery of the supplies and before the supplies are taken over, have the power to order or decide:

a) the removal from the place of acceptance, within such time or times as may be specified in the order, of any supplies which, in the opinion of the Project Manager, are not in accordance with the contract;

b) their replacement with proper and suitable supplies;

c) the removal and proper re-installation, notwithstanding any previous test thereof or interim payment therefore, of any installation which in respect of materials, workmanship or design for which the Contractor is responsible, is not, in the opinion of the Project Manager, in accordance with the contract;

d) that any work done or goods supplied or materials used by the Contractor is or are not in accordance with the contract, or that the supplies or any portion thereof do not fulfil the requirements of the contract.

30.3. The Contractor shall, with all speed and at his own expense, make good the defects so specified. If the Contractor does not comply with such order, the Contracting Authority shall be entitled to employ other persons to carry out the orders and all expenses consequent thereon or incidental thereto shall be deducted by the Contracting Authority from any monies due or which may become due to the Contractor.

30.4. Supplies which are not of the required quality shall be rejected. A special mark may be applied to the rejected supplies. This shall not be such as to alter them or affect their commercial value. Rejected supplies shall be removed by the Contractor from the place of acceptance, if the Project Manager so requires, within a period which the Project Manager shall specify, failing which they shall be removed as of right at the expense and risk of the Contractor. Any works incorporating rejected materials shall be rejected.

30.5. The provisions of Article 30 shall not affect the right of the Contracting Authority to claim under Article 21, nor shall it in any way release the Contractor from any warranty or other obligations under the contract.

Article 31 - Provisional acceptance

31.1. The supplies shall be taken over by the Contracting Authority when they have been delivered in accordance with the contract, have satisfactorily passed the required tests, or have been commissioned as the case may be, and a certificate of provisional acceptance has been issued or is deemed to have been issued.

31.2. The Contractor may apply, by notice to the Project Manager, for a certificate of provisional acceptance when supplies are ready for provisional acceptance. The Project Manager shall within 30 days of receipt of the Contractor's application either:

- issue the certificate of provisional acceptance to the Contractor with a copy to the Contracting Authority stating, where appropriate, his reservations, and, inter alia, the date on which, in his opinion, the supplies were completed in accordance with the contract and ready for provisional acceptance; or
- reject the application, giving his reasons and specifying the action which, in his opinion, is required of the Contractor for the certificate to be issued.

31.3. Should exceptional circumstances make it impossible to proceed with the acceptance of the supplies during the period fixed for provisional or final acceptance, a statement certifying such impossibility shall be drawn up by the Project Manager after consultation, where possible, with the Contractor. The certificate of acceptance or rejection shall be drawn up within 30 days following the date on which such impossibility ceases to exist. The Contractor shall not invoke these circumstances in order to avoid the obligation of presenting the supplies in a state suitable for acceptance.

31.4. If the Project Manager fails either to issue the certificate of provisional acceptance or to reject the supplies within the period of 30 days, he/she shall be deemed to have issued the certificate on the last day of that period, except where the certificate of provisional acceptance is deemed to constitute a certificate of final acceptance. In this case, Article 34.2 below does not apply. If the supplies are divided by the contract into lots, the Contractor shall be entitled to apply for a separate certificate for each lot.

31.5. In case of partial delivery, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to give partial provisional acceptance.

31.6. Upon provisional acceptance of the supplies, the Contractor shall dismantle and remove temporary structures and materials no longer required for use in connection with the implementation of the contract. He shall also remove any litter or obstruction and redress any change in the condition of the place of acceptance as required by the contract.

Article 32 - Warranty obligations

32.1. The Contractor shall warrant that the supplies are new, unused, of the most recent models and incorporate all recent improvements in design and materials, unless otherwise provided in the contract. The Contractor shall further warrant that all supplies shall have no defect arising from design, materials or workmanship, except insofar as the design or materials are required by the specifications, or from any act or omission, that may develop under use of the supplies in the conditions obtaining in the country of the Contracting Authority. This warranty shall remain valid as specified in the Special Conditions.

32.2. The Contractor shall be responsible for making good any defect in, or damage to, any part of the supplies which may appear or occur during the warranty period and which either:

a) results from the use of defective materials, faulty workmanship or design of the Contractor; and/or

b) results from any act or omission of the Contractor during the warranty period; or

c) appears in the course of an inspection made by, or on behalf of, the Contracting Authority.

32.3. The Contractor shall at his own cost make good the defect or damage as soon as practicable. The warranty period for all items replaced or repaired shall recommence from the date on which the replacement or repair was made to the satisfaction of the Project Manager. If the contract provides for partial acceptance, the warranty period shall be extended only for the part of the supplies affected by the replacement or repair.

32.4. If any such defect appears or such damage occurs during the warranty period, the Contracting Authority or the Project Manager shall notify the Contractor. If the Contractor fails to remedy a defect or damage within the time limit stipulated in the notification, the Contracting Authority may:

a) remedy the defect or the damage itself, or employ someone else to carry out the tasks at the Contractor's risk and cost, in which case the costs incurred by the Contracting Authority shall be deducted from monies due to or guarantees held against the Contractor or from both; or

b) terminate the contract.

32.5. In emergencies, where the Contractor cannot be reached immediately or, having been reached, is unable to take the measures required, the Contracting Authority or the Project Manager may have the work carried out at the expense of the Contractor. The Contracting Authority or the Project Manager shall as soon as practicable inform the Contractor of the action taken.

32.6. The warranty obligations shall be stipulated in the Special Conditions and technical specifications. If the duration of the warranty period is not specified, it shall be 365 days. The warranty period shall commence on the date of provisional acceptance and may recommence in accordance with Article 32.3.

Article 33 - After-sales service

An after-sales service, if required by the contract, shall be provided in accordance with the details stipulated in the Special Conditions. The Contractor shall undertake to carry out or have carried out the maintenance and repair of supplies and to provide a rapid supply of spare parts. The Special Conditions may specify that the Contractor must provide any or all of the following materials, notifications and documents pertaining to spare parts manufactured or distributed by the Contractor:

a) such spare parts as the Contracting Authority may choose to purchase from the Contractor, it being understood that this choice shall not release the Contractor from any warranty obligations under the contract;

b) in the event of termination of production of the spare parts, advance notification to the Contracting Authority to allow it to procure the parts required and, following such termination, provision at no cost to the Contracting Authority of the blueprints, drawings and specifications of the spare parts, if and when requested.

Article 34 - Final acceptance

34.1. Upon expiry of the warranty period or, where there is more than one such period, upon expiry of the latest period, and when all defects or damage have been rectified, the Project Manager shall issue the Contractor a final acceptance certificate, with a copy to the Contracting Authority, stating the date on which the Contractor completed his obligations under the contract to the Project Manager's satisfaction. The final acceptance certificate shall be issued by the Project Manager within 30 days of the expiry of the warranty period or as soon as any repairs ordered under Article 32 have been completed to the satisfaction of the Project Manager.

34.2. The contract shall not be considered to have been performed in full until the final acceptance certificate has been signed or is deemed to have been signed by the Project Manager.

34.3. Notwithstanding the issue of the final acceptance certificate, the Contractor and the Contracting Authority shall remain liable for the fulfilment of any obligation incurred under the contract prior to the issue of the final acceptance certificate which remains unperformed at the time that final acceptance certificate is issued. The nature and extent of any such obligation shall be determined by reference to the provisions of the contract.

BREACH OF CONTRACT AND TERMINATION

Article 35 - Breach of contract

35.1. A Party shall be in a breach of contract if it fails to discharge any of its obligations under the contract.

35.2. Where a breach of contract occurs, the injured Party shall be entitled to the following remedies:

a) damages; and/or

b) termination of the contract.

35.3. Damages may be either:

a) general damages; or

b) liquidated damages.

35.4. In any case where the Contracting Authority is entitled to damages, he may deduct such damages from any sums due to the Contractor or from the appropriate guarantee.

Article 36 - Termination by the Contracting Authority

36.1. The Contracting Authority may, after giving the Contractor seven days' notice, terminate the contract in any of the following cases:

a) the Contractor substantially fails to perform his obligations under this contract;

b) the Contractor fails to comply within a reasonable time with a notice given by the Project Manager requiring it to make good any neglect or failure to perform his obligations under the contract which seriously affects the proper and timely implementation of the tasks;

c) the Contractor refuses or neglects to carry out administrative orders given by the Project Manager;

d) the Contractor assigns the contract or subcontracts without the authorisation of the Contracting Authority;

e) the Contractor is bankrupt or being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

f) the Contractor has been convicted of an offence concerning professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;

g) the Contractor has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the Contracting Authority can justify;

h) the Contractor has been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the European Union's financial interests;

i) the Contractor, following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the EU budget or EDF has been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to perform its contractual obligations;

j) any organisational modification occurs involving a change in the legal personality, nature or control of the Contractor, unless such modification is recorded in an addendum to the contract;

k) any other legal disability hindering implementation of the contract occurs;

l) the Contractor fails to provide the required guarantee or insurance, or if the person providing the earlier guarantee or insurance required under the present contract is not able to abide by his commitments;

m) where after the award of the contract, the award procedure or the performance of the contract prove to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud.

Prior to, or instead of, terminating the Contract as provided for in this Article, the Contracting Authority may suspend payments as a precautionary measure without prior notice.

36.2. Termination shall be without prejudice to any other rights or powers of the Contracting Authority and the Contractor under the contract. The Contracting Authority may, thereafter, conclude any other contract with a third party at the Contractor's own expense. The Contractor's liability for delay in completion shall immediately cease upon termination without prejudice to any liability thereunder that may already have occurred.

36.3. The Project Manager shall, upon the issue of the notice of termination of the contract, instruct the Contractor to take immediate steps to bring the implementation of the tasks to a close in a prompt and orderly manner and to reduce expenditure to a minimum.

36.4. In the event of termination, the Project Manager shall, as soon as possible and in the presence of the Contractor or his representatives or having duly summoned them, draw up a report on the supplies delivered and the work performed and take an inventory of the materials supplied and unused. A statement shall also be drawn up of monies due to the Contractor and of monies owed by the Contractor to the Contracting Authority as at the date of termination of the contract.

36.5. The Contracting Authority shall not be obliged to make any further payments to the Contractor until the supplies are completed, whereupon the Contracting Authority shall be entitled to recover from the Contractor the extra costs, if any, of providing the supplies or shall pay any balance due to the Contractor prior to the termination of the contract.

36.6. If the Contracting Authority terminates the contract, it shall without prejudice to its other remedies under the contract, be entitled to recover from the Contractor any loss it has suffered up to the value of the supply unless otherwise provided for in the Special Conditions. .

36.7. This contract shall be automatically terminated if it has given risen to no payment in the three years following its signing.

36.8. The Contracting Authority may, at any time and after giving the Contractor seven days' notice, terminate the contract, in addition to what is already provided for in Article 36.1.

36.9. Where the termination is not due to an act or omission of the Contractor, force majeure or other circumstances beyond the control of the Contracting Authority, the Contractor shall be entitled to claim in addition to sums owing to it for work already performed, an indemnity for loss suffered.

Article 37 - Termination by the Contractor

37.1. The Contractor may, after giving 14 days notice to the Contracting Authority, terminate the contract if the Contracting Authority:

- fails to pay the Contractor the amounts due under any certificate issued by the Project Manager after the expiry of the deadline stated in the Special Conditions;
- consistently fails to meet its obligations after repeated reminders; or
- suspends the delivery of the supplies, or any part thereof, for more than 180 days, for reasons not specified in the contract or not attributable to the Contractor.

37.2. Termination shall be without prejudice to any other rights or powers under the contract of the Contracting Authority and the Contractor.

37.3. In the event of such termination, the Contracting Authority shall pay the Contractor for any loss or damage the Contractor may have suffered.

Article 38 - Force majeure

38.1. Neither Party shall be considered to be in default or in breach of its obligations under the contract if the performance of such obligations is prevented by any event of force majeure arising after the date of notification of award or the date when the contract becomes effective

38.2. For the purposes of this Article, the term "force majeure" means acts of God, strikes, lock-outs or other industrial disturbances, acts of the public enemy, wars whether declared or not, blockades, insurrection, riots, epidemics, landslides, earthquakes, storms, lightning, floods, washouts, civil disturbances, explosions and any other similar unforeseeable events which are beyond the Parties' control and cannot be overcome by due diligence.

38.3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 21 and 36, the Contractor shall not be liable to forfeiture of his performance guarantee, liquidated damages or termination for default if, and to the extent that, his delay in implementation of the tasks or other failure to perform his obligations under the contract is the result of an event of force majeure. Nor, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 28 and 37, shall the Contracting Authority be liable for the payment of interest on delayed payments, for non-implementation of tasks or for termination by the Contractor for default if, and to the extent that, the Contracting Authority's delay or other failure to perform its obligations is the result of force majeure.

38.4. If either Party considers that any circumstances of force majeure have occurred which may affect performance of its obligations, it shall promptly notify the other Party and the Project Manager, giving details of the nature, the probable duration and the likely effect of the circumstances. Unless otherwise directed by the Project Manager in writing, the Contractor shall continue to perform his obligations under the contract as far as is reasonably practicable, and shall employ every reasonable alternative means to perform any obligations that the event of force majeure does not prevent it from performing. The Contractor shall not employ such alternative means unless directed to do so by the Project Manager.

38.5. If the Contractor incurs additional costs in complying with the Project Manager's directions or using alternative means under Article 38.4, the amount thereof shall be certified by the Project Manager.

38.6. If circumstances of force majeure have occurred and continue for a period of 180 days then, notwithstanding any extension of time for completion of the contract that the Contractor may by reason thereof have been granted, either Party shall be entitled to serve the other with 30 days' notice to terminate the contract. If, on the expiry of the period of 30 days, the situation of force majeure still applies, the contract shall be terminated and, by virtue of the law governing the contract, the Parties shall be released from further execution of the contract.

Article 39 - Decease

39.1. Where the Contractor is a natural person, the contract shall be automatically terminated if that person dies. However, the Contracting Authority shall examine any proposal made by the heirs or beneficiaries if they have notified their wish to continue the contract. The decision of the Contracting Authority shall be notified to those concerned within 30 days of receipt of such proposal.

39.2. Where the Contractor consists of a number of natural persons and one or more of them die, a report shall be agreed between the Parties on the progress of the contract, and the Contracting Authority shall decide whether to terminate or continue the contract in accordance with the undertaking given by the survivors and by the heirs or beneficiaries, as the case may be.

39.3. In the cases provided for in Articles 39.1 and 39.2, persons offering to continue to perform the contract shall notify the Contracting Authority thereof within 15 days of the date of decease.

39.4. Such persons shall be jointly and severally liable for the proper execution of the contract to the same extent as the original Contractor. Continuation of the contract shall be subject to the rules relating to establishment of the guarantee provided for in Article 11.

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

Article 40 - Dispute settlement

40.1. The Parties shall make every effort to settle amicably any dispute relating to the contract which may arise between them.

40.2. Once a dispute has arisen, a Party shall notify the other Party in writing of the dispute, stating its position on the dispute and any solution which it envisages, and requesting an amicable settlement. The other Party shall respond to this request for amicable settlement within 30 days, stating its position on the dispute. Unless the Parties agree otherwise, the maximum time period laid down for reaching an amicable settlement shall be 120 days from the date of the notification requesting such a procedure. Should a Party not agree to the other Party's request for amicable settlement, should a Party not respond in time to that request or should no amicable settlement be reached within the maximum time period, the amicable settlement procedure is considered to have failed.

40.3. In the absence of an amicable settlement, a Party may notify the other Party in writing requesting a settlement through conciliation by a third person. If the European Commission is not a Party to the contract, the Commission can accept to intervene as such a conciliator. The other Party shall respond to the request of conciliation within 30 days. Unless the Parties agree otherwise, the maximum time period laid down for reaching a settlement through conciliation shall be 120 days from the notification requesting such a procedure. Should a Party not agree to the other Party's request for conciliation, should a Party not respond in time to that request or should no settlement be reached within the maximum time period, the conciliation procedure is considered to have failed.

40.4. If amicable settlement procedure and, if so requested, the conciliation procedure fails, each party may refer the dispute to either the decision of a national jurisdiction or arbitration, as specified in Article 40 of the Special Conditions.

ETHICS CLAUSES

Article 41 - Ethic clauses

41.1. Any attempt by a candidate or tenderer to obtain confidential information, enter into unlawful agreements with competitors or influence the committee or the Contracting Authority during the process of examining, clarifying, evaluating and comparing tenders shall lead to the rejection of his candidacy or tender.

41.2. Without the Contracting Authority's prior written authorisation, a Contractor and his staff or any other company with which the Contractor is associated or linked may not, even on an ancillary or subcontracting basis, supply other services, carry out works or supply equipment for the project.

41.3. This prohibition also applies to any other programmes or projects that could, owing to the nature of the contract, give rise to a conflict of interest on the part of the Contractor.

41.4. When putting forward a candidacy or tender, the candidate or tenderer shall declare that it is affected by no potential conflict of interest and has no particular link with other tenderers or parties involved in the project. Should such a situation arise during execution of the contract, the Contractor must immediately inform the Contracting Authority.

41.5. The Contractor must at all times act impartially and as a faithful adviser in accordance with the code of conduct of his profession. He shall refrain from making public statements about the project or services without the Contracting Authority's prior approval. He may not commit the Contracting Authority in any way without its prior written consent.

41.6. For the duration of the contract the Contractor and his staff shall respect human rights and undertake not to offend the political, cultural and religious mores of the beneficiary state.

41.7. The Contractor may accept no payment connected with the contract other than that provided for therein. The Contractor and his staff must not exercise any activity or receive any advantage inconsistent with their obligations to the Contracting Authority.

41.8. The Contractor and his staff shall be obliged to maintain professional secrecy for the entire duration of the contract and after its completion. All reports and documents drawn up or received by the Contractor shall be confidential.

41.9. The contract shall govern the Parties' use of all reports and documents drawn up, received or presented by them during the execution of the contract.

41.10. The Contractor shall refrain from any relationship likely to compromise his independence or that of his staff. If the Contractor ceases to be independent, the Contracting Authority may, regardless of injury, terminate the contract forthwith without the Contractor having any claim to compensation. The Commission reserves the right to suspend or cancel project financing if corrupt practices of any kind are discovered at any stage of the award process and if the Contracting Authority fails to take all appropriate measures to remedy the situation. For the purposes of this provision, "corrupt practices" are the offer of a bribe, gift, gratuity or commission to any person as an inducement or reward for performing or refraining from any act relating to the award of a contract or implementation of a contract already concluded with the Contracting Authority.

41.11. Such unusual commercial expenses are commissions not mentioned in the main contract or not stemming from a properly concluded contract referring to the main contract, commissions not paid in return for any actual and legitimate service, commissions remitted to a tax haven, commissions paid to a recipient who is not clearly identified or commissions paid to a company which has every appearance of being a front company.

41.12. The Contractor undertakes to supply the Commission on request with all supporting documents relating to the conditions of the contract's execution. The Commission may carry out whatever documentary or on-the-spot checks it deems necessary to find evidence in cases of suspected unusual commercial expenses.

Article 42 - Administrative and financial penalties

42.1. Without prejudice to the application of penalties laid down in the contract, a Contractor who has been guilty of making false declarations, has made substantial errors or committed irregularities and fraud, or has been found in serious breach of its contractual obligations, may be excluded from all contracts and grants financed by the EU for a maximum of five years from the time when the infringement is established, as confirmed after an adversarial procedure with the Contractor. The Contractor may present his arguments against this penalty within 30 days of notification of the penalty by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt or any equivalent means. In the absence of any reaction on the part of the Contractor, or of withdrawal of the penalty by the Commission within 30 days of receipt of the Contractor's arguments against it, the decision imposing the penalty shall become enforceable. That period may be increased to ten years in the event of a repeat offence within five years of the first infringement.

42.2. If the Contractor is found to have seriously failed to meet its contractual obligations, other than foreseen in Article 21, it shall also be subject to financial penalties representing 2-10% of the total value of the Contract. That rate may be increased to 4-20% in the event of a repeat offence within five years of the first infringement.

42.3. Where, after the award of the contract, the award procedure or the performance of the contract prove to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, and where this is attributable to the Contractor, the Contracting Authority may refuse to make payments, may recover amounts already paid or may terminate all the contracts concluded with this Contractor, in proportion to the seriousness of the errors, irregularities or fraud.

Article 43 - Checks and audits by European Union bodies

43.1. The Contractor will allow the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Court of Auditors to verify, by examining the documents and to make copies thereof or by means of on-the-spot checks, the implementation of the project and conduct a full audit, if necessary, on the basis of supporting documents for the accounts, accounting documents and any other document relevant to the financing of the project. These inspections may take place up to 7 years after the final payment.

43.2. Furthermore, the Contractor will allow the European Anti-Fraud Office to carry out checks and verification on the spot in accordance with the procedures set out in the European Union legislation for the protection of the financial interests of the European Union against fraud and other irregularities.

43.3. To this end, the Contractor undertakes to give appropriate access to staff or agents of the European Commission, of the European Anti-Fraud Office and of the European Court of Auditors to the sites and locations at which the Contract is carried out, including its information systems, as well as all documents and databases concerning the technical and financial management of the project and to take all steps to facilitate their work. Access given to agents of the European Commission, European Anti-Fraud Office and the European Court of Auditors shall be on the basis of confidentiality with respect to third parties, without prejudice to the obligations of public law to which they are subject. Documents must be easily accessible and filed so as to facilitate their examination and the Contractor must inform the Contracting Authority of their precise location.

43.4. The Contractor guarantees that the rights of the European Commission, of the European Anti-Fraud Office and of the European Court of Auditors to carry out audits, checks and verification will be equally applicable, under the same conditions and according to the same rules as those set out in this Article, to any sub-contractor or any other party benefiting from EU or EDF funds.