

**GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO CONTRACTS AWARDED  
BY THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY**

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**Article 1 - Performance of the contract**

- (1) The contract shall be performed in such a way as to exclude the possibility of the Contractor or his staff supplying services under conditions identical to those governing the supply of services by a member of the European Environment Agency's staff. The Contractor and his staff may not be members of the European Environment Agency's staff.

**Article 2 - Secondary obligations of the Contractors**

- (1) The Contractor to the European Environment Agency undertakes to perform the tasks assigned to him according to the highest professional standards. In performance of the contract, the Contractor is required, depending on the circumstances, to use only his own highly qualified, professional staff.
- (2) The Contractor to the European Environment Agency undertakes to provide the Agency with any information it may request for the management of the contract. If the Contractor is a natural person, he shall be required to provide proof of his status either as a self-employed person or an employee for the duration of the contract. To this end, he shall provide the Agency with information about his occupation.
- (3) In the event of termination of the contract for one of the reasons referred to in Article 7 of these terms and conditions, the Contractor to the European Environment Agency shall undertake to send the Agency all information and documents in his possession on the tasks assigned to him.

**Article 3 - Confidentiality**

- (1) The Contractor undertakes not to make use of and not to divulge to third parties any facts, information, knowledge, documents or other matters communicated to him or brought to his attention during the performance of the contract or any matter arising therefrom. He shall continue to be bound by this undertaking after the expiry of the contract.
- (2) If the Contractor uses his own staff in the performance of the contract, he shall obtain from each staff member a written undertaking that they will respect the confidentiality of any information brought to their attention during the performance of the work and that they will not divulge to third parties or use for their own benefit or that of any third party any document or information not available publicly, even after completion of their assignment. A copy of the undertaking shall be sent to the European Environment Agency.

#### **Article 4 - Permits and licences**

- (1) The Contractor shall be solely responsible for taking the necessary steps to obtain any permit or licence required for the performance of the contract under the laws and regulations in force at the place where the tasks assigned to the Contractor are to be performed.
- (2) The European Environment Agency may terminate the contract without notice if the Contractor is unable, through his own fault, to obtain any permit or licence required for the performance of the contract.

#### **Article 5 - Spread of risk**

- (1) The Contractor shall not be entitled to payment if he is prevented by force majeure from performing the tasks assigned to him. Part performance only of any such task shall result in part payment. Provided it is specified in the contract, the above provisions shall not affect the Contractor's entitlement to reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses and of costs for the shipment of equipment incurred in the performance of the contract.

#### **Article 6 - Liability of the contracting parties**

- (1) The European Environment Agency may not under any circumstances or for any reason whatsoever be held liable for damage sustained by the Contractor himself or by his staff during the performance of the contract. The European Environment Agency shall not accept any claim for compensation or repairs in respect of such damage.
- (2) Except in case of force majeure, the Contractor shall be required to indemnify the European Environment Agency for any damage they may sustain during the performance, poor or otherwise, of the contract.

#### **Article 7 - Termination of contract**

- (1) Each contracting party may, of his own volition and without being required to pay compensation, terminate the contract by serving formal notice two months in advance. If the contract is terminated by the European Environment Agency, the Contractor shall be entitled to payment for the part performance of the contract only.
- (2) In the event of a serious failure by the Contractor to the European Environment Agency, duly noted by the European Environment Agency, to fulfil his obligations under the contract, the contract may be terminated at any time by registered letter without formal notice or payment of any compensation whatsoever by the European Environment Agency. This provision shall not affect the application of Article 6(2) of these General Terms & Conditions.

### **Article 8 - Termination of the contract and services to third parties**

- (1) The Contractor to the European Environment Agency shall not, without the prior and explicit approval of the European Environment Agency, assign the rights and obligations arising out of the contract in whole or in part or sub-contract any part of the contract to third parties.
- (2) Even where the European Environment Agency authorises the Contractor to sub-contract part or all of the work to third parties, he shall nonetheless remain bound by his obligations to the European Environment Agency under the contract.
- (3) Save where the European Environment Agency expressly authorises an exception, the Contractor shall be required to include in any sub-contracts for all or part of the work such provisions as enable the European Environment Agency to enjoy the same rights and guarantees in relation to the sub-contractors as it enjoys in relation to the Contractor himself.

### **Article 9 - Ownership**

- (1) Any result or patent obtained by the Contractor in the performance of the contract shall belong to the European Environment Agency which may use them as it sees fit.
- (2) Copyright and any other rights of ownership in respect of manuscripts or parts thereof shall belong exclusively to the European Environment Agency except where copyright or other property rights already exist.
- (3) On the date of acceptance of the manuscripts and subject solely to the exception referred to in paragraph (2) above, all rights in respect of manuscripts, including amongst others the right to use, print, publish and sell all or part thereof in any manner and in any language whatsoever, shall be acquired by the European Environment Agency which may transfer all or part of such rights to third parties on its own terms.
- (4) The Contractor shall specify any parts of manuscripts, including illustrations, maps and graphs, in which copyright or any other right of ownership already exists and hereby affirms that he has obtained permission to use such parts from the titular holder(s) of such rights or from his or their legal representatives. Any cost for which the Contractor may become liable for such permission shall be paid by him. Save as otherwise provided for in paragraph (2), the Contractor hereby affirms that he is entitled to transfer the copyright or other rights of ownership in respect of the subject matter of the manuscript.
- (5) The European Environment Agency shall not be required to publish manuscripts or documents supplied in the performance of the contract. If it is decided not to publish the manuscripts or documents supplied, the Contractor shall not have them published elsewhere without the written approval of the European Environment Agency.

## **Article 10 - Methods of payment**

- (1) Payments shall be made in euro (€).
- (2) At the request of the Contractor, the Agency may pay him an advance equal to 30% of the amount due on completion of the contract. In addition to the requirement of the second paragraph of Article 45 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the Budget of the European Environment Agency, payment of the advance may be made conditional upon the furnishing by the Contractor of proof that he has lodged a deposit equal to the amount of the advance. The advance shall be deducted from subsequent payments in such a manner that it is fully recovered on exhaustion of the funds provided for such payments.
- (3) In the event of termination of the contract under Article 7 of these General Terms & Conditions, no payment shall be due except for services actually rendered up to the date of termination. In such an event, the amount due shall be calculated after deducting any payments already made. If the payments made prior to termination exceed the sum finally due, the additional amount shall be repaid by the Contractor to the European Environment Agency within 60 days of receipt of a request for repayment. If payment is not made within this period, the sum owed by the Contractor shall start to bear interest at the euro rate applied by the European Central Bank on the last day of the period allowed for repayment, as published in the C series of the Official Journal.
- (4) Reimbursable travel and subsistence expenses shall be paid, where appropriate, on production of supporting documents including receipts, used tickets and boarding pass.
- (5) Payments shall be made within 60 days of the due date.
- (6) The Contractor, whose registered office or place of abode shall be situated within the territory of one of the Member States of the European Environment Agency, shall be required to name a bank within the territory of his country of domicile for the payment of the sums due to him under the contract.

## **Article 11 - Provisions relating to taxation**

- (1) If the tax laws to which he is subject require the Contractor to pay VAT on fees received under the contract, the amount of VAT shall be included in the sums paid by the Environment Agency in return for services rendered.
- (2) The Contractor shall be responsible for complying with the national tax laws applicable to him in respect of revenue received under the contract with the European Environment Agency.

(3) Tax laws:

For Belgium

Direct exemption for transactions of 5.000 Bfr or more. The invoices shall be marked "*Exemption from VAT, Article 42, Paragraph 3.3 of the Code, Circular No. 2/1978*".

For the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Services rendered in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg for 10.000 Flux or more for official purposes of the European Environment Agency shall be granted exemption from Value Added Tax. The invoices shall be marked "*Articles 8 and 9 of the Regulation of the Grand Duchy of 19 December 1969, Article 47 of the law of 5 August 1969 (Recueil de Législation A - No. 66 of 24 December 1969)*".

For the Netherlands

Services rendered in the Netherlands for official purposes of the European Environment Agency shall be zero rated (cf. *Resolution of 14 March 1969 No. 69/1649 - Wet op de Omzetbelasting 1968*).

For Italy

Services rendered in Italy for 100.000 Lires or more inclusive of tax for official purposes of the European Environment Agency shall benefit from direct exemption. The invoices shall be marked "*Decrees of the President of the Republic No. 687 of 23 December 1974 - Italian Official Journal No. 338 of 28 December 1974 - and No. 288 of 2 July 1975 - Italian Official Journal No. 183 of 11 July 1975*".

For France

Services as referred to in Article 259B of the "Code général des Impôts" rendered outside France for official purposes of the European Environment Agency shall be granted exemption from Value Added Tax (note of the "*Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances of 29 July 1980, Official Bulletin - Direction Générale des Impôts, note No. 201 of 18 November 1980*").

For the other Member States

If the Contractor is required, under the fiscal laws to which he is subject, to pay VAT on the sums paid under this contract, the amount of the tax shall be included in the sum referred to in Article 4 of the contract.

The contractor shall, at the request of the European Environment Agency, make available to the latter all vouchers which it might require in order, where necessary, to apply for reimbursement by the fiscal authorities of levies and taxes which have been paid in execution of this contract, pursuant to Articles 3 and 4 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities.

**Article 12 - Amendments or additions to the contract**

- (1) The provisions of the contract and the annexes thereto may be amended or supplemented only by means of an additional agreement signed by each of the parties or their authorised representatives.
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