

MODEL CONTRACT
Cost reimbursement
for demonstration projects (EC)
Flat-rate version

NB: This contract is to be used where the Community contribution consists of a flat-rate amount. The Community contribution may not exceed EUR 100 00.

CONTRACT No _____

The European Community ("the Community"), represented by the Commission of the European Communities ("the Commission"), itself represented for the signature of this contract by [Mr (*name*)] [Ms (*name*)], Director-General for [*name of the DG*] or [his] [her] duly authorised representative,

of the one part

and

- [*name of principal contractor*] ([*acronym*]) ("the *coordinator*"), established in [*name of State and full address*], represented by its legal/statutory/authorized representative[s], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*],
- [*name of principal contractor*] ([*acronym*]), established in [*name of State and full address*], represented by its legal/statutory/authorized representative[s], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*],
- [*name of principal contractor*] ([*acronym*]), established in [*name of State and full address*], represented by its legal/statutory/authorized representative[s], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*],
- [*name of principal contractor*] ([*acronym*]), established in [*name of State and full address*], represented by its legal/statutory/authorized representative[s], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*],

(collectively "*the principal contractors*"),

[and

- [*name of assistant contractor*] ([*acronym*]), established in [*name of State and full address*], represented by its legal/statutory/authorized representative[s], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*],
- [*name of assistant contractor*] ([*acronym*]), established in [*name of State and full address*], represented by its legal/statutory/authorized representative[s], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*], [Mr/Ms [*insert name*], [*function*],
(collectively "*the assistant contractors*"),]

of the other part,

(collectively "*the contracting parties*")

HAVE AGREED to a project called "[*name of project*]" to be carried out in the framework of the specific research and technological development programme "[*name of specific RTD programme*]" (the "specific programme") according to the following provisions.

Article 1 - Scope

The *contractors*¹ shall carry out the work set out in Annex I to this contract. The *project* is divided up into the milestones specified in Annex I.

Subject to cases of *force majeure*, the *principal contractors* shall do their utmost to achieve the results set for each milestone, and shall submit the *project deliverables*. They shall carry out the *project* jointly and severally vis-à-vis the Community. The *assistant contractors* shall do their utmost to carry out the part of the *project* specifically assigned to them and submit the related *project deliverables*.

Article 2 - Duration

1. The *duration of the project* shall be [*insert number*] months from [the first day of the month after the last signature of the *contracting parties*] [*insert date*].
2. This contract shall enter into force following its signature by all the *contracting parties*.

This contract shall be completed on the date of the final payment of the Community's financial contribution. However,

- Articles 5, 6 and 8 of this contract,
- Article 2(1), first subparagraph, points (a), (d), (e) and (f), Article 2(2) (c), (d), (g) and (i), Article 3(4), Article 4(5), Article 6, Articles 9 to 21 and Articles 22 and 24 of Annex II to this contract

shall continue to apply after that date to the extent of any limitations specified in those Articles.

Article 3 - Community's financial contribution

The Community shall fund the *project* up to an amount of EUR [*insert amount (not exceeding EUR 100 00)*] ([*insert amount in words*] Euro).

The Community's financial contribution to the *project* shall be paid as specified in Article 3 of Annex II to this contract to the *coordinator's* following bank account:

- [*Coordinator's bank details*]

The initial advance for the *project* is fixed at EUR [*insert amount*] ([*insert amount in words*] euro). It shall be distributed among the *contractors* in accordance with the indications laid down in the table of the advance.

¹ The terms in italics are used in accordance with the definition given in Article 1 of Annex II to this contract.

Article 4 – *Project deliverables* and summary statements of amounts transferred by the coordinator to be submitted to the Commission

1. [*insert number*] copies of the reports and [*insert number*] copies of the requests for payment shall be submitted by the *coordinator* in accordance with Article 4 of Annex II to this contract. The reports shall be in [*insert language*].

Annex I shall determine the number of copies and the language of drafting of the other *project deliverables*.

2. The periodic and final reports shall cover [successive periods of [*insert number*] months from the *project commencement date*] [a first period ending on [*insert date*], and thereafter successive periods of [*insert number*] months]. The requests for payment and the summary statement of amounts transferred to the *contractors* by the *coordinator* shall cover the *duration of the project*.

Where the work is completed before the end of the *duration of the project*, the final report(s), the requests for payment and the summary statement of amounts transferred to the *contractors* by the *coordinator* shall cover the period ending on such date.

However, and without prejudice to the first or second subparagraph of this paragraph, the *coordinator's* last request for payment shall also cover the period necessary for the drafting of the final report(s) within the maximum time-limit of two months as of the end of the *duration of the project*.

The other *project deliverables*, except the *technological implementation plan*, shall cover the periods set out in Annex I to this contract.

The *technological implementation plan* shall cover the results of work performed within the *duration of the project* or until the work is completed if such completion occurs at an earlier date.

Article 5 - Applicable law and jurisdiction

1. The law of [*law of competent authorising officer*] shall govern this contract.
2. The Court of First Instance of the European Communities and, in the case of an appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Communities shall have sole jurisdiction to hear any disputes between the Community, on the one hand, and the *contractors*, on the other hand, as regards the validity, the application or any interpretation of this contract.

Article 6 - Special conditions

[No special condition applies to this contract.]

[The following special conditions apply to this contract:]

[The special conditions applying to this contract are set out in its Annex III.]

[In addition to the special conditions set out in Annex III, the following special conditions shall apply to this contract:]

Article 7 - Amendments

This contract, including the annexes thereto, may be modified only in writing, by way of an amendment between the authorised representatives of the *contracting parties*. No verbal agreement may be binding on the *contracting parties* for this purpose.

Any request for amendment must be received by the Commission at least two months before the expiry of the *duration of the project*.

Article 8 - Final provisions

1. The following annexes are an integral part of this contract:

Annex I - Description of work

Annex II - General conditions

[Annex III - Special conditions]

2. In the event of any conflict between Annex I and any other provision of this contract, the latter shall take precedence.

[3. The special conditions set out in [Article 6 of][Annex III to][Article 6 of and Annex III to] this contract shall take precedence over any other provisions].

Article 9 - Signature and language of the contract

[*number (minimum two)*] copies of the contract in [*insert language*] shall be signed by the *contracting parties* and only that language version shall be authentic.

Done at Brussels/Luxembourg,

On behalf of [*name and acronym of the coordinator/principal contractor/assistant contractor*]:

Name: (written out in full)

Title:

Signature:

(stamp of the organisation)

On behalf of the Commission:

Name: (written out in full)

Title:

Signature:

Date:

Table - Advance

Project No____ (ending on ____)

<i>Contractors</i>	<i>Principal contractor No</i>	Community con- tribution in euro	Advance
<i>Coordinator</i> ¹ (name)			
<i>Principal contractor</i> (name)			
<i>Principal contractor</i> (name)			
<i>Principal contractor</i> (name)			
	(Sub-total) :	_____	_____

¹ The administrative and financial *coordinator* in the event of separation of administrative and financial coordination from scientific coordination.

<i>Contractors</i>	Linked to <i>principal contractor</i> No	Community contribution in euro	Advance
<i>Assistant contractor</i> (name)			
<i>Assistant contractor</i> (name)			
<i>Assistant contractor</i> (name)			
<i>Assistant contractor</i> (name)			
	Total :	_____	_____

ANNEX II - GENERAL CONDITIONS

PART A: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *PROJECT*

Article 1 - Definitions

Article 2 - Management of the *project* and role of the *coordinator*

Article 3 - The Community's financial contribution

Article 4 - Submission of *project deliverables* and of summary statements of amounts transferred by the *coordinator*

Article 5 - *Subcontracts*

Article 6 - Liability

Article 7 - Termination of the contract and of the participation of a *contractor*

PART B: RULES RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY, PUBLICITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Article 8 - Ownership of *knowledge*

Article 9 - Protection of *knowledge*

Article 10 - *Exploitation* of *knowledge*

Article 11 - General principles relating to *access rights*

Article 12 - *Access rights* for carrying out of the *project*

Article 13 *Access rights* for *exploitation*

Article 14 - Conditions governing exclusive *access rights* for *exploitation*

Article 15 - Refusal to grant *access rights* for *exploitation*

Article 16 - *Technological implementation plan*

Article 17 - Content of the *technological implementation plan*

Article 18 - Publicity and communications concerning the *project* and *knowledge*

Article 19 - Confidentiality

Article 20 - Communication of data for evaluation and standardisation purposes

Article 21 - Incompatible or restrictive commitments

PART C: AUDITING

Article 22 - Technical verification of the *project*

Article 23 - Technological audit

PART D-1: MODEL REQUEST FOR PAYMENT

PART D-2: MODEL SUMMARY STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS TRANSFERRED BY THE
COORDINATOR

PART A: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE *PROJECT*

Article 1 - Definitions

1. "*Decision*" means Council Decision 1999/65/EC of 22 December 1998 concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the implementation of the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Community (1998-2002)².
2. "*Regulation*" means Commission Regulation (EC) No 996/1999 of 11 May 1999 on the implementation of Council Decision 1999/65/EC concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the implementation of the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Community (1998-2002)³.
3. "*Contracting parties*" means the Community, *principal contractors* and *assistant contractors*.
4. "*Principal contractor*" means a legal entity, an international organisation, or the Joint Research Centre (JRC), which has concluded this contract with the Community.
5. "*Assistant contractor*" means a legal entity, an international organisation, or the JRC, other than a *principal contractor*, which has concluded this contract with the Community, acting under the technical supervision of one or more *principal contractors* and having the same rights and obligations as them, except as regards the extent of its responsibility for carrying out the *project* and *access rights*.
6. "*Contractor*" means a *principal contractor* or an *assistant contractor*.
7. "*Coordinator*" means the *principal contractor* carrying out the tasks provided for in Article 2(1) of this Annex.
8. "*Subcontract*" means an agreement to provide services, supplies or goods concluded between a *contractor* and one or more *subcontractors* for the specific needs of the *project*.
9. "*Subcontractor*" means a legal entity, an international organisation or the JRC, which has concluded a *subcontract*.
10. "*Project*" means all the work referred to in Annex I to this contract.
11. "*Project commencement date*" means the date referred to in Article 2(1) of this contract.
12. "*Duration of the project*" means the period of performance of the *project* as referred to in Article 2(1) of this contract.

² OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 46.

³ OJ L 122, 12.5.1999, p. 9.

13. "*Contract completion date*" means the date referred to in Article 2(2) subparagraph 2 of this contract.
14. "*Project deliverables*" means the reports and the requests for payment referred to in Article 4 of this contract and Article 4 of this Annex as well as any element designated as such in Annex I to this contract.
15. "*Consortium agreement*" means an agreement concluded between *contractors* in order to specify or supplement, between themselves, the provisions of this contract.
16. "*Associated State*" means a State party to an international agreement concluded with the Community, in particular on the basis of Article 170 of the Treaty establishing the European Community, under which that State makes a financial contribution to the Framework Programme.
17. "*Third country*" means a country other than a Member State or an *Associated State*.
18. "*Change of control*" means any change in the control exercised over a *contractor*, within the meaning of Article 5(1), third subparagraph, of the *Regulation*. Such control may result in particular from:
 - direct or indirect holding of a majority of the share capital of the *contractor* or a majority of the voting rights of the latter's shareholders or associates,or
 - direct or indirect holding in fact or in law of decision-making powers in the *contractor*.
19. "*Force majeure*" means any unforeseeable and insuperable event affecting the carrying out of the *project* by one or more *contractors*.
20. The "*interests of the Community*" are to be assessed in particular with regard to:
 - the objective of strengthening the international competitiveness of Community industry,
 - the objective of providing appropriate incentives for maintaining and creating jobs in the Community,
 - the objective of promoting sustainable development and improving the quality of life in the Community,
 - the needs of other Community policies in support of which indirect RTD actions are carried out,
 - the existence of scientific and technical cooperation agreements between the Community and third States or international organisations.
21. "*Knowledge*" means the results, including information, arising from any *project* covered by Decision No 182/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 1998 concerning the Fifth Framework Programme of the European Community for research, technological development and demonstration

activities (1998 to 2002)⁴ (hereinafter referred to as the "Fifth Framework Programme"), as well as copyright or rights attaching to the results following applications for, or the issue or registration of, patents, designs and models, plant varieties, additional certificates or other similar forms of protection.

22. "*Pre-existing know-how*" means information, other than *knowledge*, held by the *contractors* prior to the conclusion of the contract or acquired in parallel with it and necessary for carrying out the *project*, as well as copyright or rights attaching to such information following applications for, or the issue or registration of, patents, designs and models, plant varieties, additional certificates or other similar forms of protection.
23. "*Access rights*" means licences and user rights in respect of *knowledge* or *pre-existing know-how*.
24. "*Complementary contract*" means a contract concluded with the Community in respect of work technically related to the *project*, including for *use* purposes, and recognised in writing by the *contractors* to each contract as being complementary.
25. "*Complementary contractor*" means a legal entity or an international organisation or the JRC, which has concluded a *complementary contract*.
26. "*Principal contractor under the same specific programme*" means a legal entity or an international organisation or the JRC, which has concluded, as *principal contractor*, a research contract with the Community under the specific programme to which this contract relates.
27. "*Use*" means the direct or indirect use of *knowledge* in research activities or for *exploitation* purposes.
28. "*Exploitation*" means the direct or indirect use of knowledge for creating and marketing a product or process or for creating and providing a service.
29. "*Dissemination*" means the disclosure of *knowledge* by any appropriate means other than the publication resulting from the formalities for protecting the *knowledge*, for the purposes of promoting scientific and technical progress.
30. "*Dissemination and use plan*" means the intentions of the *contractors* regarding the *use* of possible *knowledge*, as set out in their proposal.
31. "*Technological implementation plan*" means the report the content of which is defined in Article 17 of this Annex.

⁴ OJ L 26, 1.2.1999, p. 1.

32. “*Legitimate interest*” means any interest, in particular of a commercial nature, of a *contractor* which may be invoked in the cases provided for in this Annex provided that the contractor demonstrates that the damage to that interest is likely, given the circumstances, to cause a specific prejudice that is disproportionate, considering the objectives of the provision in respect of which it is invoked.

Article 2 - Management of the *project* and role of the *coordinator*

1. Without prejudice to paragraph 2 of this Article, the *coordinator* shall be in charge of the scientific, financial and administrative coordination of the *project*. In this respect,
 - (a) he shall be the intermediary between the *contractors* and the Commission. In particular, he shall be responsible for transmitting to the Commission all documents and correspondence relating to the *project*;
 - (b) he shall inform the Commission of the actual date of commencement of the work and of the person designated by each *contractor* in accordance with paragraph 2(a) of this Article;
 - (c) he shall submit to the Commission:
 - the requests for payment provided for in Article 4 of this contract and Article 4 of this Annex, and
 - the periodic, final and supplementary reports provided for in Article 4 of this contract and Article 4 of this Annex after incorporating the content of data provided by the *contractors* and verifying their consistency with any corresponding requests for payment,
 - the summary of the *technological implementation plan* referred to in Article 17(2) of this Annex, as well as any other *project deliverable* except where Annex I to this contract provides otherwise;
 - (d) in his capacity as representative of the *contractors* he shall receive, subject to the special conditions set out in Article 6 of this contract, all the payments made by the Commission to the account referred to in Article 3(2), second subparagraph, of this contract;
 - (e) not being the beneficiary of payments intended for other *contractors* pursuant to this contract, he shall transfer to them the amount owing to them within 30 days of receipt of the funds paid by the Commission.

He shall inform the Commission of the distribution of the funds and of the date of transfer by means of the form in part D-3;

- (f) he shall inform the other *contracting parties* of any event of which he is aware which is liable to substantially affect the *project*, including any change in a person mentioned in paragraph 2(a) of this Article, any *change of control* with regard to a *contractor* and any circumstance affecting the conditions of participation referred to in Articles 3 to 12 of the *Decision*;

- (g) he shall request the Commission's approval for transfers in the budget set out in the table of the advance carried out in compliance with paragraph 3 of this Article .

Without prejudice to Article 7(3)(b) of this Annex, if the *coordinator* fails to perform his obligations, the Commission may, in agreement with the other *contractors*, designate another *coordinator* from among the *principal contractors*.

2. The *contractors*:

- (a) shall agree upon appropriate arrangements for the proper performance of the work incumbent upon them pursuant to Annex I to this contract. To this end, they shall designate one or more persons from among their personnel who shall direct their work and ensure that the tasks assigned are correctly performed;
- (b) shall conclude amongst themselves, if necessary, a *consortium agreement* in accordance with the provisions of this contract and the competition rules. Such agreement may, *inter alia*, specify the organisation of the work and supplement the provisions concerning the *access rights* referred to in Articles 12 to 15 of this Annex;
- (c) shall inform the *coordinator* of any event liable to substantially affect the *project*, including any change in a person mentioned in point (a) of this paragraph, any *change of control* with regard to them and any circumstance affecting the conditions of participation referred to in Articles 3 to 12 of the *Decision*;
- (d) shall keep duly signed original copies of any *subcontracts*;
- (e) shall forward to the *coordinator* the data needed to draw up the reports provided for in Article 4 of this contract and Article 4 of this Annex, and the requests for payment. With the exception of the individual part of the *technological implementation plan* referred to under (g), they shall do likewise in respect of any other *project deliverable*, except where Annex I provides otherwise;
- (f) shall each submit to the Commission the individual part of the *technological implementation plan* referred to in Article 17(3) of this Annex;
- (g) shall each notify the Commission of the measures taken to implement the *technological implementation plan* and of any significant changes thereto, in accordance with Article 16(3) of this Annex;
- (h) shall take part in meetings concerning the supervision, monitoring and evaluation of the *project* which are relevant to them;
- (i) shall provide all detailed data requested by the Commission for the purposes of the proper administration of this contract. They shall communicate such data for the purposes of approval of the *technological implementation plan*, in accordance with Article 16(2) of this Annex, in so far as they consider them relevant.

3. Any properly substantiated transfer, between *contractors*, in the budget set out in the table of the advance, approved by all the *principal contractors* and the *assistant*

contractors directly concerned shall require prior written approval by the Commission.

The Commission's approval shall be deemed to be granted in the absence of observations within one month of receipt of the request made by the *coordinator*.

4. The table of the advance determines the technical supervision links between *principal contractors* and *assistant contractors*.
5. The Commission may be assisted by independent experts in the framework of the meetings referred to under paragraph 2(h) of this Article.

It shall take appropriate steps to ensure that such experts treat confidentially the data that are communicated to them. Prior to such meetings, it shall disclose the identity of the experts scheduled to attend. It shall draw the appropriate conclusions from any objection on the part of *contractors* based on *legitimate interests*.

Article 3 - The Community's financial contribution

1. The Community's financial contribution shall be paid in accordance with the following principles:
 - (a) An initial advance shall be paid to the *coordinator* within a maximum period of 60 days running from the date of the last signature of the *contracting parties*. The *coordinator* shall allocate the advance in accordance with the table of the advance.

If the *project* has not effectively commenced within three months of the payment of the initial advance, the Commission may:

- (i) either terminate the contract pursuant to Article 7(3)(a) of this Annex, or
 - (ii) decide to add interest to the initial advance from the date of payment until the effective date of commencement of the work at the rate applied by the European Central Bank for its main refinancing operations applicable on the first day of the month during which the three months time-limit has expired. Such interest shall be deducted from the subsequent payment made by the Commission.
- (b) The Community's financial contribution shall be paid, after receipt of requests for payment, within a maximum period of 60 days from the date on which the Commission approves or is deemed, in accordance with Article 4(3), fourth and fifth subparagraphs of this Annex, to have approved the last *project deliverable*.

The requests for payment referred to in point (b) of this paragraph shall be regarded as having been received by the Commission on the date of their reception by the Commission.

The payments referred to in points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph shall be regarded as having been effected on the date on which the Commission's account is debited.

The Commission may suspend the period of 60 days referred to under point (b) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph at any time by notifying the *contractors* concerned that it considers that additional checks should be carried out. The period shall continue to run once the Commission has completed the additional checks.

On expiry of the period provided for and without prejudice to the third subparagraph of this paragraph, the *contractors* concerned or the *coordinator*, acting on behalf of all the *contractors*, may claim, at the latest within two months of receiving the late payment, interest at the rate applied by the European Central Bank for its main refinancing operations, applicable on the first day of the month during which the time-limit has expired, plus one and a half percentage points. The interest shall cover the period running from the day after the time-limit for payment until the date of actual payment.

2. The Commission may, in case of suspected fraud or serious financial irregularity on the part of a *contractor*, suspend payments and/or instruct the *coordinator* not to make any payment to such *contractor*. The latter shall remain bound by his contractual obligations.
3. The Commission may or shall, as relevant, claim from a *contractor* the repayment of all the Community's financial contribution paid to him where it or its authorised representatives discover that he has committed a fraud or a serious financial irregularity. Interest at the rate applied by the European Central Bank for its main refinancing operations on the first day of the month during which the *contractor* concerned has received the funds plus two percentage points shall be added to the amount to be repaid. The interest shall cover the period between the receipt of the funds and their repayment.

Bank charges resulting from any reimbursement of sums due to the Community shall be borne exclusively by the *contractor* concerned.

A recovery order regarding payments made by the Commission drawn up by the latter and transmitted to a *contractor* who owes an amount to be reimbursed shall be enforceable within the meaning of Article 256 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

The Commission may decide to proceed with the reimbursement of sums owed to the Community by way of set-off against sums of any kind due to the *contractor* concerned.

Article 4 - Submission of *project deliverables* and of summary statements of amounts transferred by the *coordinator*

1. As regards reports:
 - (a) The following reports shall be submitted to the Commission for approval:
 - (i) periodic reports containing information about the progress of work, resources employed, departures from the work schedule, and results,

- (ii) supplementary reports containing information required by Annex I to this contract,
 - (iii) a final report covering all the work, objectives, results and conclusions, including a summary of all the latter,
 - (iv) where the reports referred to in points (i), (ii) and (iii) cannot be published in full, they shall, in addition, be presented in a suitable form for publication by the *contracting parties*. The final report suitable for publication shall include sufficient information on new developments to enable third parties established in the Member States or in *Associated States* to be informed of opportunities to request licences in respect of *knowledge*.
 - (v) a *technological implementation plan*.
- (b) The layout of the reports shall conform to the rules communicated by the Commission. The reports for publication should be of a suitable quality to enable direct reproduction. The layout of the *technological implementation plan* shall comply with the conditions set out in Article 17 of this Annex.

2. *Contractors* shall submit their requests for payment in euro in the format specified in part D-2.

Contractors that do not benefit from a financial contribution from the Community are required to submit only a description of the efforts deployed and the resources used in order to carry out the *project*.

3. Each periodic report and each supplementary report, shall be submitted to the Commission within two months of the end of the period covered by the report.

The final report(s) and the requests for payment shall be submitted to the Commission within two months of the end of the *duration of the project*.

The other *project deliverables*, except the *technological implementation plan*, shall be submitted within the time-limits set out in Annex I to this contract.

In the absence of observations by the Commission, the *project deliverables*, except the *technological implementation plan*, shall be deemed to be approved within two months of their receipt.

The *technological implementation plan* shall be submitted and approved within the time-limit set out in Article 16 of this Annex.

4. The Commission may decide not to pay the Community's financial contribution in case of failure to submit, within the time-limits laid down in paragraph 3 of this Article :

- requests for payment,
- the final report(s) or other *project deliverable*,
- the *technological implementation plan*,

subject to one month's written notice of non-receipt of that document.

5. The *coordinator* shall submit to the Commission the summary statements referred to in Article 2(1), first subparagraph, point (e), second sentence of this Annex immediately following the transfer of the Community's financial contribution.

Article 5 - Subcontracts

1. *Contractors* may conclude *subcontracts* where this proves necessary for the performance of their work.

Unless Annex I to this contract contains sufficiently detailed data, the Commission's prior written approval is required:

- (a) where the cumulative amount of the *subcontracts* for a *contractor* exceeds 20% of the financial contribution that he receives from the Community,
- (b) where the *subcontractor* is established in a *third country*, unless the *contractor* concerned is established there.

The Commission's approval shall be deemed to be granted in the absence of observations within one month of receipt of the request made by the *coordinator*.

2. The *contractor* shall ensure that *subcontracts* include an obligation for the *subcontractors*:
 - to submit invoices making reference to the *project* and providing a detailed description of the tasks or supply concerned,
 - to submit to the controls provided for in Article 22 of this Annex.

Article 6 - Liability

1. The liability of the *contracting parties* amongst themselves with regard to any losses, damages or injuries suffered in the context of the performance of this contract shall be governed by the law indicated in Article 5(1) of the contract.
2. The *principal contractors* shall take all necessary and reasonable measures to carry out the work incumbent on a defaulting *contractor*. However, they shall not be required to reimburse amounts owed by a *contractor* unless they have contributed to the latter's default.

The measures to be taken in the event of *force majeure* shall be agreed between the *contracting parties*. The *contracting parties* expressly agree that any default of a product or service used for the purpose of performing this contract and affecting such performance, including, for instance, anomalies in the functioning or performance of such product or service resulting from, or linked to the millennium date change (year 2000 problem), does not constitute *force majeure*.

3. The Community cannot be held liable for acts or omissions committed by the *contractors* performing this contract. It shall not be liable for any defaults of any products or services created on the basis of *knowledge* resulting from the *project*,

including, for instance, anomalies in the functioning or performance thereof resulting from, or linked to the millennium date change (year 2000 problem).

Contractors fully guarantee the Community, and agree to indemnify it, in case of any action, complaint or proceeding brought by a third party against it as a result of damage caused, either by any act or omission committed by the *contractors* in performing this contract, or because of any products or services created on the basis of *knowledge* resulting from the *project*, only to the extent that the *contractors* have contributed to or are responsible for the loss or damage concerned.

In the event of any action brought by a third party against the Community in connection with the performance of this contract, *contractors* which may bear responsibility shall be required to assist the latter.

4. In the event of any action brought by a third party against a *contractor* in connection with the performance of this contract, the Commission may, without prejudice to paragraph 1 of this Article, assist the latter upon written request. The costs incurred by the Commission in this connection shall be borne by the *contractor* concerned.

Article 7 - Termination of the contract or of the participation of a *contractor*

1. The Commission may terminate the contract or the participation of a *contractor*:
 - (a) for major technical or economic reasons substantially affecting the *project* (including where the resumption of the performance of the contract following its suspension on account of *force majeure* proves impossible),
 - (b) if the *exploitation* potential of the results of the *project* diminishes to a considerable extent.

The Commission shall determine, in the registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt, the notice period, which shall not exceed one month from the date of receipt of such letter.

2. The Commission shall not object:
 - (a) to the termination of the contract, at the written request of the *coordinator* in agreement with all the other *contractors*, on the grounds mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article,
 - (b) to the withdrawal of a *contractor* from the *project* where all the other *contractors* have given their prior agreement in writing, unless this withdrawal substantially affects the carrying out of the *project*.

The termination of the contract or the withdrawal of the *contractor* shall be effective:

- on the date of the letter of acceptance by the Commission notified by registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt,
- at the latest one month following receipt of notification by the interested party or parties in the absence of written observations by the Commission within that time-limit.

3. The Commission may immediately terminate this contract or the participation of a *contractor* from the date of receipt of the registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt:
 - (a) where the *project* has not effectively commenced within three months of the payment of the initial advance, and the new date proposed is considered unacceptable by the Commission,
 - (b) where the *contractor* has not fully performed his contractual obligations, and after a written request of the Commission, or of the *coordinator* in agreement with:
 - (i) the other *principal contractors* and the *assistant contractors* directly concerned, if he is a *principal contractor*,
 - (ii) the *principal contractors* and the other *assistant contractors* directly concerned, if he is an *assistant contractor*,to rectify the situation within a period not exceeding one month,
 - (c) where a *change of control* over a *contractor* is likely substantially to affect the *project* or the *interests of the Community*,
 - (d) in the event of bankruptcy, of winding up, of cessation of trading, of winding up by court order or composition, suspension of activities of a *contractor* or any similar proceeding provided for by national laws or regulations and leading to a similar results,
 - (e) in the event of a serious financial irregularity.
4. The Commission shall immediately terminate this contract or the participation of a *contractor* from the date of receipt of the registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt:
 - (a) where the conditions for participation in the *project* mentioned in Articles 3 to 12 of the *Decision* are no longer satisfied, unless it considers that the *project* is essential to the implementation of the specific programme,
 - (b) where a *contractor* has made false declarations for which he may be held responsible or has deliberately withheld information in order to obtain the Community's financial contribution or any other advantage provided for in the contract,
 - (c) where the *contractor* concerned has not submitted the individual part of the *technological implementation plan* referred to in Article 17(3) of this Annex within the time-limit specified in Article 16(1) of this Annex and has not remedied the default within a period not exceeding one month from the receipt of the Commission's request.
5. Any letter from the Commission serving to terminate the participation of a *contractor* (including in the event of his withdrawal) or to terminate the contract shall be addressed in the first case to the party concerned and in the second case to the *coordinator* in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraphs 1 to 4 of this

Article. A copy of the letter shall be sent in the first case to the *coordinator* and in the second case to the other *contractors*.

6. *Contractors* shall take appropriate action to cancel or reduce their commitments, upon receipt of the letter from the Commission notifying them of the termination of the contract or of their participation or upon the dispatch of their request for termination or withdrawal, as the case may be.

In the event of termination of the contract or of the participation of a *contractor* pursuant to paragraph 1, paragraph 2, first subparagraph, point (a) or paragraph 3, point (c) of this Article, the Community's financial contribution shall be evaluated taking into account the work carried out in accordance with Annex I and the achievement of the objectives of the *project*, but shall not exceed the amount indicated in Article 3(2)(1) of this contract.

In the event of termination of the contract or of the participation of a *contractor*:

- (a) pursuant to paragraph 2, first subparagraph, point (b), paragraph 3(b) or (d) or paragraph 4(c) of this Article, the Commission may require reimbursement of all or part of the Community's financial contribution, taking into account the nature and results of the work carried out and its usefulness to the Community in the context of the specific programme concerned,
 - (b) pursuant to paragraph 3(a) or (e) or paragraph 4(b) of this Article, the Commission may require repayment of all or part of the Community's financial contribution. Interest at the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its main refinancing operations on the first day of the month during which the *contractor* concerned has received the funds plus two percentage points shall be added to the amount to be repaid. The interest shall cover the period between the receipt of the funds and their repayment.
7. The termination of the participation of a *contractor* shall not prejudice the *access rights* for the carrying out of the *project* which the contractor granted before that date pursuant to Articles 11 and 12 of this Annex. He shall grant such *access rights* to any *contractor* taking over all or part of the work incumbent on him:
 - on a royalty-free basis, if his participation is terminated pursuant to paragraph 3(b) or (e), or paragraph 4(b) of this Article,
 - in accordance with the conditions laid down in Articles 11 and 12 of this Annex, in other cases.

Access rights for *exploitation* shall be granted by *contractors*, in accordance with Articles 11, 13, 14 and 15 of this Annex, in so far as necessary for the *exploitation* of new *knowledge* generated before the participation of the *contractor* terminated. Where *exploitation* is contemplated, the *contractors*, including the one whose participation terminates, shall submit a *technological implementation plan* which complies with Articles 16 and 17 of this Annex. However, a *contractor* whose participation terminates pursuant to paragraph 3(b), (c) or (e), or paragraph 4(b) of this Article shall not have *access rights* for *exploitation*.

8. Notwithstanding the termination of the contract or of the participation of a *contractor*, the following provisions shall continue to apply after that date subject to the limits specified therein, as the case may be:

- Articles 5, 6 and 8 of this contract,
- Article 2(1), first subparagraph, points (a), (d), (e) and (f), Article 2(2) (c), (d), (g) and (i), Article 3(4), Article 4(5), Article 6, Articles 9 to 21 and Article 23 of this Annex.

The *contractors* shall submit the *project deliverables* relating to the work performed until the date of termination of the contract or when their participation ends.

PART B: RULES RELATING TO INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY, PUBLICITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Article 8 - Ownership of *knowledge*

1. *Knowledge* shall be the property of the *contractors* who carried out the work leading to the *knowledge*.
2. Where several *contractors* have carried out work generating *knowledge*, they shall agree among themselves on the allocation and the terms of exercising the ownership of the *knowledge* in accordance with this contract.
3. If persons employed by a *contractor* may claim rights to *knowledge*, the participant shall take steps or reach appropriate agreements to ensure that these rights are exercised in a manner compatible with its obligations under this contract.
4. Where a *contractor* transfers ownership of *knowledge*, he shall take steps or conclude agreements to pass on his obligations under this contract to the assignee, in order to take account, inter alia, of the *interests of the Community* and in compliance with international agreements concluded by the Community.

The *contractor* shall inform the other *contracting parties* in advance of the conditions of the assignment.

Article 9 - Protection of *knowledge*

1. *Contractors* shall provide adequate and effective protection for *knowledge* owned by them which is capable of *exploitation*, in particular in the case of joint ownership.

The terms of the protection, including protection periods, shall be defined in the *technological implementation plan*, which must be in conformity with the principles set out in Articles 16 and 17 of this Annex.

2. Where a *contractor* does not intend to protect his *knowledge* in a country specified by the Commission or waives such protection, the latter may take measures to that end in agreement with the former. The *contractor* concerned may not refuse without good reason.

In such cases the Community shall assume the obligations referred to in Articles 10 to 14 of this Annex instead of the *contractor*.

The *contractor* shall, on request, be entitled to *access rights* in the country in question on a royalty-free basis, and may grant sublicences on the *knowledge*.

3. A *contractor* may publish, or allow the publication of, data, on whatever medium, concerning *knowledge* it owns provided that this does not affect the protection of that *knowledge*.

The other *contracting parties* shall be given, in good time, prior notice of any planned publication and the scheduled date thereof. A copy of the medium containing these data shall be communicated to them if they so request within 30 days after receipt of such notice. They may object to such publication, provided that due reasons for the objections are given, within a new period of 30 days after receipt of such data where, from their point of view, it would adversely affect the protection of the *knowledge* referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

The *consortium agreement* may specify the details of such a right to object and the measures necessary to ensure speedy publication without prejudicing protection.

Article 10 - *Exploitation of knowledge*

1. The *contractors* shall exploit or cause to be exploited the *knowledge* which they own within a reasonable time-limit in accordance with their interests, the *interests of the Community* and in compliance with international agreements concluded with the Community.

The terms of *exploitation*, including a reasonable time-limit within which it must take place, shall be set out in the *technological implementation plan* referred to in Articles 16 and 17 of this Annex. They shall take account, in particular, of the area of activity concerned.

2. If the *knowledge* is not exploited in accordance with the terms and time-limits referred to in paragraph 1, second subparagraph, of this Article, the *contractors* shall disseminate such *knowledge*, in accordance with:

- the need to safeguard intellectual and industrial property rights,
- confidentiality,

and taking into account the benefits of rapid *dissemination* and their *legitimate interests*.

Should the *contractors* fail to do so, the Community shall disseminate the *knowledge* itself under the same conditions.

Article 11 - General principles relating to *access rights*

1. *Access rights* shall be granted by *contractors* on request on the conditions provided for in Articles 12 to 15 of this Annex. *Access rights* shall be granted to *pre-existing know-how* provided that the *contractor* concerned is free to grant such rights.
2. *Access rights* shall be granted, depending on the case:
 - free of charge and subject to no other condition than those specified in this Annex (on a royalty-free basis),
 - on conditions that are more favourable than the market conditions, as a result of the granting of any kind of rebate (preferential conditions),
 - on market conditions.

Access rights may be granted by any *contractor* on financial conditions that are more favourable for the requester.

3. The granting of *access rights* may be made conditional on the conclusion of specific agreements aimed at ensuring that they are used only for the intended purpose and appropriate confidentiality agreements.
4. Except where the *contractor* granting *access rights* so agrees, *access rights* shall not confer any entitlement to grant sublicences.
5. The essential transfer costs for the granting of *access rights* shall be borne by the beneficiary.
6. In accordance with Article 2(2)(b) of this Annex, the *contractors* may, through the conclusion of a *consortium agreement*, grant additional *access rights* or supplement the rules of this Annex concerning *access rights*.

Article 12 - *Access rights* for the carrying out of the *project*

1. *Principal contractors* shall enjoy *access rights* to the *knowledge* needed to carry out their work in the framework of the *project*. They shall be granted on a royalty-free basis.

Assistant contractors shall be entitled to *access rights* to the *knowledge* needed to carry out their work in the framework of the *project*. Those rights shall be granted on a royalty-free basis by the *principal contractors* to whose technical supervision they are subject or their other *assistant contractors*. When they are requested from other *contractors*, *access rights* shall be granted on favourable conditions.

2. *Principal contractors* shall enjoy *access rights* to *pre-existing know-how* needed to carry out their work in the framework of the *project*. They shall be granted on favourable conditions.

Assistant contractors shall enjoy *access rights* to the *pre-existing know-how* needed to carry out their work in the framework of the *project*. Such rights shall be granted on favourable conditions by the *principal contractors* to whose technical supervision they

are subject or their other *assistant contractors*. When they are requested from other *contractors*, *access rights* shall be granted on market conditions.

3. Where *contractors* designate a contract under the framework programme as being a *complementary contract*, they shall determine with the contractors involved in that project the arrangements for the granting of *access rights* to the latter, the period during which they can be claimed, and the financial conditions attaching to them.
4. *Access rights* for the carrying out of the *project*, as referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, shall be granted until the end of the *duration of the project*.

Article 13 - Access rights for exploitation

1. *Principal contractors* shall enjoy *access rights* to all *knowledge* resulting from the *project* in order to exploit that *knowledge* or in order to exploit *knowledge* that they themselves have generated. They shall be granted on favourable conditions.

Assistant contractors shall enjoy *access rights* to the *knowledge* needed to exploit the *knowledge* that they have generated in the framework of the *project*. Such rights shall be granted by the *principal contractor* or *principal contractors* to whose technical supervision they are subject or their other *assistant contractors* on preferential conditions. When they are requested from other *contractors*, *access rights* shall be granted on market conditions.

2. *Principal contractors* shall enjoy *access rights* to *pre-existing know-how* and *knowledge* other than that generated in the framework of the *project* to the extent necessary to exploit *knowledge* resulting from the *project*. Those *access rights* shall be granted on favourable conditions.
3. Where *contractors* designate a contract under the framework programme as being a *complementary contract*, they shall determine with the contractors involved in that project the arrangements for the granting of *access rights* to the latter, the period during which they may be claimed, and the financial conditions attaching thereto.
4. *Access rights* for *exploitation*, as referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, may be requested until two years after the end of the *duration of the project* unless a longer time limit is provided for the *exploitation of knowledge* in the *technological implementation plan*

Article 14 - Conditions governing exclusive access rights for exploitation

1. As a rule, *access rights* shall be granted on a non-exclusive basis.

Contractors may, exceptionally, grant exclusive *access rights* to their *knowledge* resulting from the *project* for *exploitation* purposes:

- in compliance with competition policy, and in particular the Community rules adopted pursuant to Article 81(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Community,

and

- provided that they are economically indispensable, taking into account in particular the market, the risks involved and the investments required.

They must be granted on market conditions.

The granting of such exclusive rights shall not affect the obligation, in accordance with Article 13(1) of this Annex, to grant *access rights* to the requester for the *exploitation* of his own *knowledge*.

2. A *contractor* who intends to grant *access rights* on his *knowledge* resulting from the *project* on an exclusive basis shall inform the other *contractors* in good time of the identity of the requester and of the arrangements for granting such rights.

Principal contractors may, within 30 days after receipt of this information, indicate their commitment to exploit such *knowledge* on the basis of non-exclusive *access rights*. In that case, the *access rights* may not be granted on an exclusive basis pursuant to paragraph 1, first subparagraph, of this Article.

Article 15 - Refusal to grant *access rights* for *exploitation*

A *contractor* may refuse to grant *access rights* for the *exploitation* of *knowledge* resulting from the *project* if he is exploiting it himself. The details thereof may be defined in the *consortium agreement*. Such refusal shall only be justified, however, when it is economically indispensable in view, in particular, of the market, the risks and the investment required to exploit the *knowledge*.

Such refusal shall not affect the obligation, in accordance with Article 13(1) of this Annex, to grant *access rights* to a requester for the *exploitation* of his own *knowledge*.

Article 16 - *Technological implementation plan*

1. A *technological implementation plan* drawn up in accordance with the principles set out in Article 17 of this Annex shall be submitted to the Commission no later than two months after the end of the *duration of the project*. It shall reflect, except in particular circumstances, the broad outlines of the *dissemination and use plan*.
2. The *technological implementation plan* shall be approved by the Commission taking into account compliance with the *interests of the Community* and international agreements concluded with the Community, as well as the interests of the *contractors*. To this end, the *contractors* shall submit to the Commission on request the documentation they consider relevant in the light of Article 17 of this Annex, whatever its medium, and in an appropriate form.

Approval of the *technological implementation plan* by the Commission shall be limited to verification of compliance with the obligations set out in the contract. It shall be without prejudice to Articles 14 and 15 of this Annex.

In the absence of observations by the Commission, the *technological implementation plan* shall be deemed to be approved within two months of its receipt.

3. *Contractors* shall inform the Commission of the arrangements for implementing the *technological implementation plan* at the latest on the expiry of the time-limits provided for therein.

They shall give proper justification for any change made to the *technological implementation plan* that significantly alters the conditions of *exploitation*. In the absence of observations within one month of its receipt, such change shall be deemed to be approved by the Commission.

Article 17 - Content of the *technological implementation plan*

1. The *technological implementation plan* shall include a summary of the project and a forecast of the intentions of the *contractors*, as well as a description of their achievements regarding the *exploitation* of the *knowledge*.
2. The summary of the project shall be sent by the *coordinator* to the Commission for *dissemination* and shall contain a description of the *project* and its results as well as the names of the *contractors* owning the results.
3. The forecast of the intentions of the *contractors* regarding *exploitation* of the *knowledge* as well as their achievements in that field shall be sent to the Commission by each *contractor* individually and shall contain, in particular, the following data:
 - (a) protection measures obtained or planned and steps taken to that effect,
 - (b) data necessary to ascertain the terms of *exploitation* as described in Article 10(1), second subparagraph, of this Annex, including an indicative timetable and an outline of the resources contemplated for that purpose,
 - (c) any other data necessary to ascertain the extent of the Community added-value,
 - (d) differences compared with the *dissemination and use plan*.

The Commission shall keep confidential any data, *knowledge* and document expressly communicated to it as confidential.

Article 18 - Publicity and communications concerning the *project and knowledge*

1. Without prejudice to Article 9(3) of this Annex concerning the publication of data on the *knowledge* and taking into account their *legitimate interests*, *contractors* shall, throughout the *duration of the project*, take appropriate measures to ensure suitable publicity for the *project* in order to highlight the support provided by the Community. The Commission may agree on such measures with the *contractors*.

Contractors shall give the Commission general data in advance concerning the proposed publicity.
2. The Commission may disseminate, by any appropriate means and for as long as necessary, general data relating in particular to the objectives, the estimated total cost, the duration and the state of progress of the *project*, to the Community's financial contribution and to the *knowledge*, as described in the final report. The legal designation of *contractors* and the names of the laboratories carrying out the work shall also be published unless they object to this in advance on the grounds of overriding *legitimate interests*.

Where the measures referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph presuppose access by the Commission or its duly authorised representatives to the premises of *contractors*, the latter may refuse such access on the grounds of *legitimate interests*.

On request and where he is free to do so, each *contractor* shall grant the Commission an irrevocable, non-exclusive right, on a royalty-free basis, to translate, reproduce and distribute articles for scientific and technical journals, conference papers and other documents drawn up in the framework of the *project* and published by the *contractor*.

3. In the case of the reports referred to in Article 4(1)(a)(i), (ii) and (iii) of this Annex which cannot be published, the Commission may, on request, transmit these documents to other Community institutions on a confidential basis and subject to limits of such requests.
4. Any communication or publication, whatever the form or medium (including the Internet), concerning the state of progress of the *project* or concerning the *knowledge*:
 - shall mention the relevant specific programme and the support provided by the Community,

and

- shall, where it is made by the *contractor*, state that the author is solely responsible for it and that it does not represent the opinion of the Community, and that the Community is not responsible for any use that might be made of data appearing therein.

Where use of the European emblem is envisaged, prior approval shall be required from the Commission. Standards, in particular with regard to graphics, in force within the Commission must be complied with.

Article 19 - Confidentiality

1. Without prejudice to Article 18 of this Annex and any other obligation contained in this contract, the *contracting parties* shall be required to keep confidential any data, *knowledge*, documents and *pre-existing know-how* communicated to them on a confidential basis or the disclosure of which may be prejudicial to one of them.

This obligation shall no longer apply:

- where the content of such data, *knowledge*, documents and *pre-existing know-how* becomes publicly available through work or actions lawfully performed outside this contract and not based on activities under it,
 - where such data, *knowledge*, documents and *pre-existing know-how* have been communicated without any confidentiality restrictions or where the party communicating them subsequently waives their confidentiality.
2. Where this contract provides for the communication of any data, *knowledge*, *pre-existing know-how* or document referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the *contracting parties* shall first satisfy themselves that the recipient will keep it confidential and use it only for the purpose for which it is to be communicated.

Article 20 - Communication of data for evaluation and standardisation purposes

1. Without prejudice to Article 19 of this Annex, *contractors* shall be required to provide, at the request of the Commission or its authorised representatives, data necessary for:
 - the continuous review of the specific programme concerned and the Fifth Framework Programme,and
 - the evaluation of Community activities over the five years preceding that evaluation.

Such a request may be made throughout the duration of the contract and up to five years after the *contract completion date*.

The data collected shall be used exclusively in a statistical form.

2. Without prejudice to the provisions regarding the protection and *exploitation of knowledge*, and confidentiality, set out respectively in Articles 9, 10 and 19 of this Annex, *contractors* must inform the Commission and the standardisation bodies without delay of *knowledge* resulting from the *project* which may contribute to the preparation of European or, where appropriate, international standards, or to an industrial consensus on technical issues. To this end, they shall communicate appropriate data on such *knowledge* to the Commission and to the standardisation bodies during the entire duration of the contract and the two years following the *contract completion date*.

The provisions of this contract shall be without prejudice to the rules applicable, within the standardisation bodies, to data transmitted to them.

Article 21 - Incompatible or restrictive commitments

1. *Contractors* shall take all necessary steps to avoid commitments that are incompatible with the obligations provided for in Articles 10 to 20 of this Annex.
2. Without prejudice to paragraph 1 of this Article, *contractors* shall be informed, as soon as possible, by the *contractor* required to grant *access rights*, as referred to in Articles 12 and 13 of this Annex, as the case may be, of any limitations on the granting of *access rights* to *pre-existing know-how*, obligations to grant rights to *knowledge* or any restriction which might substantially affect the granting of *access rights*.

PART C: AUDITING

Article 22 - Technical verification of the *project*

1. The Commission, or any representative authorised by it, may initiate a technical verification of the *project* up to the *contract completion date* in order to verify that the *project* is being or has been carried out in accordance with the conditions indicated by the *contractor*.

The verification procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt sent by the Commission.

It shall be carried out on a confidential basis.

2. The Commission or any authorised representative may have access to the locations and premises where the work is being carried out, and to any document concerning the work which it considers to be relevant, and may request the handing-over of documents in an appropriate form.

The Commission shall take appropriate steps to ensure that its authorised representatives treat confidentially the data to which they have access or which is communicated to them. Prior to the carrying-out of the technical verification, the Commission shall communicate to the contractors the identity of the authorised representatives who are intended to perform the verification. It shall draw the appropriate conclusions from any objection on the part of *contractors* based on *legitimate interests*.

3. *Contractors* shall provide appropriate assistance to the Commission or its authorised representatives.
4. A report on the technical verification of the *project* shall be sent to the *contractor* concerned. The latter may communicate his observations to the Commission within a month of receiving it. The Commission may decide not to take into account the observations conveyed after that deadline.

Article 23 - Technological audit

1. The Commission and its authorised representatives may carry out technological audits in order to satisfy themselves that *contractors* are fulfilling the intentions referred to in Article 17(3) of this Annex.

They may initiate such audits after the technological implementation plan has been approved, in accordance with Article 16(2) of this Annex, and up to one year after the expiry of the time limits laid down in it.

The technological audit procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant registered letter with acknowledgment of receipt sent by the Commission.

2. In order to carry out their audits, the Commission and its authorised representatives shall have access, on a confidential basis, to all data they consider relevant in the light of Article 17 of this Annex, on whatever medium, in the possession of *contractors*, and may require it to be handed over to them in an appropriate form.

The Commission shall take appropriate steps to ensure that its authorised representatives treat as confidential the data to which they have access or which have been provided to them. Prior to the carrying out of the technological audit, the Commission shall disclose the identity of the authorised representatives who are intended to perform the audit. The *contractors* may object to their intervention on the ground of *legitimate interests*.

3. A technological audit report shall be sent to the *contractor* concerned. The latter may communicate his observations to the Commission within one month of receiving it. The Commission may decide not to take into account the observations conveyed after that deadline.

PART D-1 : REQUEST FOR PAYMENT¹

Title of *project*:

Contract No:

Name of *coordinator/principal contractor/assistant contractor*²:

The *contractor* hereby certifies that the reports and the other *project deliverables* required for the *project* have been submitted to the Commission in the number of copies and the language required by the contract.

Consequently, the *contractor* requests the Commission to pay him the sum of EUR _____³
(_____ ⁴euro), in accordance with Article 3(1) of Annex II to the contract.

Date:

Name of person in charge of the work⁵:

Signature:

Date:

Name of duly authorised financial officer:

Signature:

Reserved for Commission use

Any general remark:

I hereby confirm that the reports and the other *project deliverables* required for the *project* have been submitted to the Commission in accordance with the provisions of the contract and in the number of copies and the language required and that they may be regarded as satisfactory.

The scientific officer,

Name:

Date:

Signature:

¹ To be submitted in the number of copies specified in Article 4(1) of the contract. The amount of the payment is indicated in Article 3(3)(2) of the contract, after deduction of the initial advance.

² Delete as appropriate.

³ Amount in figures.

⁴ Amount in letters.

⁵ See Article 2(2)(a) of Annex II to the contract.

