



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL**  
**REGIONAL AND URBAN POLICY**

The Director-General

Brussels,  
REGIO.D1/AJK

**Subject: 2014TC16I5CB007 IPA CBC Programme Bulgaria-Serbia 2014-2020**  
**Geographical coverage – Inclusion of Vratsa and Toplica District**  
**ARES (2014) 544715**

Madam

Following multiple discussions and a detailed justification provided by the Managing Authority on the inclusion of the Vratsa District, Bulgaria and Toplica District, Serbia into the eligible area of the Bulgaria-Serbia IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme, I would like to inform you that after careful examination of your proposal the Commission services consider it as acceptable and beneficial for the programme.

Taking into account the provided justification we assume that the inclusion of Vratsa District, Bulgaria and Toplica District, Serbia will not endanger the coherence and continuity of the CBC Programme Bulgaria-Serbia 2007-2013.

It will even open more opportunities to develop cooperation further by strengthening connections between the neighbouring countries and, to support the European Strategy for the Danube Region by including a part of the right bank of the Danube River into the Programme area.

We would like to highlight that such change will not lead to the budget increase of the Programme.

Yours sincerely

Walter Deffaa

Copies: Mr Danielsson, Mr Paquet, Ms Ferran, Mr Le Berigot (DG Enlargement)  
Ms Andersson-Pench, Mr Palma Andres, Mr Wolfe, Mr Rodriguez Saez,  
Ms Corda, Mr Ballette, Ms Krabatsch, Mr Hende, Ms Stojovic (DG  
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