

VOLUME 2

SECTION 2

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR WORKS CONTRACTS FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF) OR THE EUROPEAN UNION

CONTENTS

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS	3
Article 1: Definitions.....	3
Article 2: Law and language of the contract	3
Article 3: Order of precedence of contract documents.....	3
Article 4: Communications	3
Article 5: Supervisor and Supervisor's representative.....	4
Article 6: Assignment	4
Article 7: Subcontracting	5
OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY	6
Article 8: Supply of documents.....	6
Article 9: Access to site.....	6
Article 10: Assistance with local regulations	6
Article 11: Delayed payments to the Contractor's staff.....	7
OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTOR	7
Article 12: General obligations	7
Article 13: Superintendence of the works	9
Article 14: Staff.....	9
Article 15: Performance guarantee.....	9
Article 16: Insurance	10
Article 17: Programme of implementation of tasks	11
Article 18: Detailed breakdown of prices	12
Article 19: Contractor's drawings.....	12
Article 20: Sufficiency of tender prices	13
Article 21: Exceptional risks.....	14
Article 22: Safety on sites	14
Article 23: Safeguarding adjacent properties	15
Article 24: Interference with traffic	15
Article 25: Cables and conduits	15
Article 26: Setting-out.....	16
Article 27: Demolished materials.....	16
Article 28: Discoveries.....	17
Article 29: Temporary works	17
Article 30: Soil studies	17
Article 31: Overlapping contracts	17
Article 32: Patents and licenses.....	18
COMMENCEMENT AND DELAYS	18
Article 33: Commencement orders	18
Article 34: Period of implementation of tasks	18
Article 35: Extension of the period of implementation of tasks.....	19
Article 36: Delays in implementation of tasks	19
Article 37: Modifications	20
Article 38: Suspension	21
MATERIALS AND WORKMANSHIP.....	22
Article 39: Work register	22
Article 40: Origin and quality of works and materials	23
Article 41: Inspection and testing	23

Article 42: Rejection	24
Article 43: Ownership of plant and materials	25
PAYMENTS	26
Article 44: General principles	26
Article 45: Provisional price contracts	27
Article 46: Pre-financing	27
Article 47: Retention monies	28
Article 48: Revision of prices	28
Article 49: Measurement	29
Article 50: Interim payments	30
Article 51: Final statement of account	31
Article 52: Direct payments to sub-contractors	32
Article 53: Delayed payments	32
Article 54: Payments to third parties	33
Article 55: Claims for additional payment	33
Article 56: End date	34
ACCEPTANCE AND DEFECTS LIABILITY	34
Article 57: General principles	34
Article 58: Tests on completion	34
Article 59: Partial acceptance	35
Article 60: Provisional acceptance	35
Article 61: Defects liability	36
Article 62: Final acceptance	37
BREACH OF CONTRACT AND TERMINATION	37
Article 63: Breach of contract	37
Article 64: Termination by the Contracting Authority	37
Article 65: Termination by the Contractor	40
Article 66: Force majeure	40
Article 67: Decease	41
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES	41
Article 68: Settlement of disputes	41
FINAL PROVISIONS	42
Article 69: Ethics clauses	42
Article 70: Administrative and financial penalties	43
Article 71: Checks and audits by European Union bodies	44

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Article 1: Definitions

- 1.1. 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.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. Where the context so permits words importing the singular shall be deemed to include the plural and vice versa and words importing the masculine shall be deemed to include the feminine and vice versa.
- 1.4. Words importing persons or parties shall include firms and companies and any organization having legal capacity.

Article 2: Law and language of the contract

- 2.1. The law of the contract shall be the law of the State of the Contracting Authority unless otherwise stated in the Special Conditions.
- 2.2. In all matters which are not covered by these General Conditions, the law of the contract shall apply.
- 2.3. The language of the contract and of all communications between the Contractor, Contracting Authority and Supervisor or their representatives shall be as stated in the Special Conditions.

Article 3: Order of precedence of contract documents

The order of precedence of the contract documents shall be as stated in the Special Conditions.

Article 4: Communications

- 4.1. Unless otherwise specified in the Special Conditions, communications between the Contracting Authority and/or the Supervisor on the one hand, and the Contractor on the other hand, shall be sent by post, cable, telex, facsimile transmission, e-mail or personal delivery, to the appropriate addresses designated by those parties for that purpose.
- 4.2. If the sender requires evidence of receipt, he shall state such requirement in his communication and shall demand such evidence of receipt whenever there is a deadline for the receipt of the communication. In any event, the sender shall take all the necessary measures to ensure receipt of his communication.
- 4.3. Wherever in the contract provision is made 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: Supervisor and Supervisor's representative

- 5.1. The Supervisor shall carry out the duties specified in the contract. Except as expressly stated in the contract, the Supervisor shall not have authority to relieve the Contractor of any of his obligations under the contract.
- 5.2. The Supervisor may, from time to time, while retaining ultimate responsibility, delegate to the Supervisor's representative any of the duties and authority vested in the Supervisor and he may at any time revoke such delegation or replace the representative. Any such delegation, revocation or replacement shall be in writing and shall not take effect until a copy thereof has been delivered to the Contractor. The administrative order which determines the duties, authority and identity of the Supervisor's representative shall be issued at the moment of the commencement order. The role of the Supervisor's representative shall be to supervise and inspect works and to test and examine the materials employed and the quality of workmanship. Under no circumstances will the Supervisor's representative be empowered to relieve the Contractor of its obligations under the contract or – save where express instructions to that effect are given below or in the contract – order works resulting in an extension of the period of implementation of tasks or additional costs to be paid by the Contracting Authority or introduce variants in the nature or scale of the works.
- 5.3. Any communication given by the Supervisor's representative to the Contractor in accordance with the terms of such delegation shall have the same effect as though it had been given by the Supervisor, provided that:
 - (a) any failure on the part of the Supervisor's representative to disapprove any work, materials or plant shall not prejudice the authority of the Supervisor to disapprove such work, materials or plant and to give the instructions necessary for the rectification thereof;
 - (b) the Supervisor shall be at liberty to reverse or vary the contents of such communication.
- 5.4. Instructions and/or orders issued by the Supervisor shall be by way of administrative orders. Such orders shall be dated, numbered and entered by the Supervisor in a register, and copies thereof delivered by hand, where appropriate, to the Contractor's representative.

Article 6: Assignment

- 6.1. 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.
- 6.2. The Contractor shall 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) 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.
- 6.3. For the purpose of Article 6.2 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.

- 6.4. If the Contractor has assigned his contract without authorization, the Contracting Authority may, without giving formal notice thereof, apply as of right the sanctions for breach of contract provided for in Articles 63 and 64.
- 6.5. 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 7: Subcontracting

- 7.1. A subcontract shall be valid only if it is a written agreement by which the Contractor entrusts performance of a part of his contract to a third party.
- 7.2. The Contractor shall not subcontract without the prior written authorization of the Contracting Authority. The work to be sub-contracted and the identity of the sub-contractors shall be notified to the Contracting Authority. The Contracting Authority shall with due regard to the provisions of Article 4.3 within 30 days of receipt of the notification, notify the Contractor of his decision, stating reasons should he withhold such authorization.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. Subject to Article 52, the Contracting Authority shall have no contractual relations with the subcontractors.
- 7.5. The Contractor shall be responsible for the acts, defaults and negligence of his sub-contractors 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 sub-contracting of any part of the contract or of the subcontractor to perform any part of the works shall not relieve the Contractor of any of his obligations under the contract.
- 7.6. If a subcontractor has undertaken any continuing obligation for a period exceeding that of the defects liability period under the contract towards the Contractor in respect of the work executed or the goods, materials, plant or services supplied by the subcontractor, the Contractor shall, at any time after the expiration of the defects liability 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.
- 7.7. If the Contractor enters into a subcontract without approval, the Contracting Authority may apply, as of right without giving formal notice thereof, the sanctions for breach of contract provided for in Articles 63 and 64.
- 7.8. If a subcontractor is found by the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor to be incompetent in discharging its duties, the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor 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 8: Supply of documents

- 8.1. Save where otherwise provided in the Special Conditions, within 30 days of the signing of the contract, the Supervisor shall provide to the Contractor, free of charge, a copy of the drawings prepared for the implementation of tasks as well as two copies of the specifications and other contract documents. The Contractor may purchase additional copies of these drawings, specifications and other documents, insofar as they are available. Upon the final acceptance, the Contractor shall return to the Supervisor all drawings, specifications and other contract documents.
- 8.2. Unless it is necessary for the purposes of the contract, the drawings, specifications and other documents provided by the Contracting Authority shall not be used or communicated to a third party by the Contractor without the prior consent of the Supervisor.
- 8.3. The Supervisor shall have authority to issue to the Contractor administrative orders incorporating such supplementary documents and instructions as shall be necessary for the proper and adequate execution of the works and the remedying of any defects therein.

Article 9: Access to site

- 9.1. The Contracting Authority shall, in due time and in conformity with the progress of the works, place the site and access thereto at the disposal of the Contractor in accordance with the programme of implementation of tasks referred to in these General Conditions. The Contractor shall afford all reasonable opportunities to other persons concerned for carrying out their work as set out in the Special Conditions or as required by administrative orders.
- 9.2. Any land procured for the Contractor by the Contracting Authority shall not be used by the Contractor for purposes other than the implementation of tasks.
- 9.3. The Contractor shall preserve any premises placed at his disposal in a good state while he is in occupation and shall, if so required by the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor, restore them to their original state on completion of the contract, taking into account normal wear and tear.
- 9.4. The Contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for improvements resulting from work carried out on his own initiative.

Article 10: Assistance with local regulations

- 10.1. The Contractor may request the assistance of the Contracting Authority in obtaining copies of laws, regulations and information on local customs, orders or by-laws of the country where the works are located, 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.

- 10.2. Subject to the provisions of the laws and regulations on foreign labour of the State in which the works are to be carried out, the Contracting Authority shall make all efforts necessary to facilitate the procurement by the Contractor of all required visas and permits, including work and residence permits, for the personnel whose services the Contractor and the Contracting Authority consider necessary as well as residence permits for their families.

Article 11: Delayed payments to the Contractor's staff

Where there is a delay in the payment to the Contractor's employees of wages and salaries owing and of the allowances and contributions laid down by the law of the State in which the works are located, the Contracting Authority may give notice to the Contractor that within 15 days of the notice he intends to pay such wages, salaries, allowances and contributions direct. Should the Contractor contest that such payments are due, he shall make representations to the Contracting Authority with reasons, within the 15 day period. If the Contracting Authority, having considered such representations, is of the opinion that payment of the wages and salaries should be made, it may pay such wages, salaries, allowances and contributions out of amounts due to the Contractor. Failing this, he may obtain a contribution under any of the guarantees provided for in these General Conditions. Any action taken by the Contracting Authority under this Article shall not relieve the Contractor of his obligations to his employees, except to the extent that any obligation may be satisfied by this action. The Contracting Authority shall not assume any responsibility towards the Contractor's employees by this action.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE CONTRACTOR

Article 12: General obligations

- 12.1. The Contractor shall, with due care and diligence, and in accordance with the provisions of the contract, design the works to the extent stated in the contract, and execute, complete and remedy any defects in the works. The Contractor shall provide all superintendence, personnel, materials, plant, equipment and all other items, whether of a temporary or permanent nature required in and for such design, execution, completion and remedying of any defects, insofar as specified in, or can be reasonably inferred from, the contract.
- 12.2. The Contractor shall take full responsibility for the adequacy, stability and safety of all operations and methods of construction under the contract.
- 12.3. The Contractor shall comply with any administrative orders given to him. Where the Contractor considers that the requirements of an administrative order go beyond the authority of the Supervisor or of the scope of the contract he shall, on pain of being time-barred, give notice, with reasons, to the Supervisor within 30 days after receipt thereof. Execution of the administrative order shall not be suspended because of this notice.
- 12.4. The Contractor shall respect and abide by all laws and regulations in force in the State of the Contracting Authority 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.

- 12.5. 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 63 and 64 hereof shall apply.
- 12.6. The Contractor shall treat all documents and information received in connection with the contract as private and confidential, and shall not, save insofar as may be necessary for the purposes of the execution thereof, publish or disclose any particulars of the contract without the prior consent in writing of the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor after consultation with the Contracting Authority. 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.
- 12.7. 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 or the constitution of the joint venture or consortium shall not be altered without the prior consent of the Contracting Authority.
- 12.8. 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 as laid down in the rules published by the Commission on the visibility of external operations.
- 12.9. 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.
- 12.10. 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.
- 12.11. 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 12a: Design and build contracts

For design and build contracts only, the Contractor shall carry out, and assume responsibility for, the design of the works with the help of experienced designers satisfying the criteria laid down by the Contracting Authority. He shall draw up the requisite technical documents according to the provisions laid down in the Special Conditions and technical specifications. These documents must be submitted to the Supervisor for approval, in accordance with the Special Conditions, and may be corrected at the Contractor's expense to satisfy the Contracting

Authority's contractual requirements and eliminate errors, omissions, ambiguities, inconsistencies and other drafting defects. The Contractor shall train the Contracting Authority's personnel and deliver and update the set of detailed documents and operating and maintenance manuals, in accordance with the Special Conditions.

Article 13: Superintendence of the works

- 13.1. The Contractor shall himself superintend the works or shall appoint a representative to do so. Such appointment shall be submitted to the Supervisor for approval. The approval may at any time be withdrawn. Should the Supervisor refuse to approve, or withdraw approval of the appointment, he shall set out the grounds on which his decision is based, and the Contractor shall submit an alternative appointment without delay. The address of the Contractor's representative shall be deemed to be the address for service given by the Contractor.
- 13.2. If the Supervisor withdraws his approval of the Contractor's representative, the Contractor shall, as soon as is practicable, after receiving notice of such withdrawal, remove the representative from the works and replace him with another representative approved by the Supervisor.
- 13.3. The Contractor's representative shall have full authority to make any decision necessary for the execution of the works, to receive and carry out administrative orders and to countersign the work register referred to in Article 39 or attachment, where appropriate. In any event, the Contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that the works are carried out satisfactorily including ensuring that the specifications and administrative orders are adhered to by his own employees and by his sub-contractors and their employees.

Article 14: Staff

- 14.1. The persons employed by the Contractor must be sufficient in number, and permit the optimum use of the human resources of the State in which the works are located. Such employees must have the skills and experience necessary to ensure due progress and satisfactory execution of the works. The Contractor shall immediately replace all employees indicated by the Supervisor, in a letter stating reasons, as likely to jeopardize the satisfactory execution of the works.
- 14.2. The Contractor shall make his own arrangements for the engagement of all staff and labour. The rates of remuneration and the general working conditions, as laid down by the law of the State of the Contracting Authority, shall apply as a minimum to employees on the site.

Article 15: Performance guarantee

- 15.1. Unless otherwise specified in the Special Condition, the Contractor shall, together with the return of the countersigned contract, furnish to the Contracting Authority a guarantee for the full and proper performance of the contract. The amount of the guarantee shall be as specified in the Special Conditions and 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.
- 15.2. The performance guarantee shall be held against payment to the Contracting Authority for any loss resulting from the Contractor's failure to fully and properly perform his obligations under the contract.

- 15.3. The performance guarantee shall be in the format provided for in the contract 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, an irrevocable letter of credit or a cash deposit made with the Contracting Authority. If the performance guarantee is to be provided in the form of a bank guarantee, a banker's draft, a certified cheque or a bond, it shall be issued by a bank or bonding and/or insurance company approved by the Contracting Authority.
- 15.4. Unless stated otherwise in the Special Conditions, the performance guarantee shall be denominated in the types and proportions of currencies in which the original contract is payable.
- 15.5. 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 implemented.
- 15.6. During the performance 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.
- 15.7. 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. Prior to 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.
- 15.8. Unless the contract provides otherwise the performance guarantee shall be released within 45 days of the issuing of the signed final statement of account referred to in Article 51, for its total amount except for amounts which are the subject of amicable settlement, arbitration or litigation.

Article 16: Insurance

- 16.1. The Contractor shall insure in the joint names of the Contracting Authority and himself against loss or damage for which he is liable under the contract. Such insurance shall, unless the Special Conditions provide otherwise, cover:
 - (a) the works, together with materials and plant for incorporation therein, to the full replacement cost against all loss or damage from whatever cause arising other than from *force majeure* or risks attributable under the contract to the Contracting Authority;
 - (b) an additional sum of 15% of such replacement cost, or as may be specified in the Special Conditions, to cover any additional costs of and incidental to the rectification of loss or damage including professional fees and the cost of demolishing and removing any part of the works and of removing debris of whatever nature;
 - (c) the Contractor's equipment and other things brought onto the site by the Contractor, for a sum sufficient to provide their replacement at the site.

- 16.2. The Contractor may substitute the insurance provided for in Article 16.1 by a global policy of insurance which covers, *inter alia*, the elements of Article 16.1 (a), (b) and (c). In such case, the Contractor shall notify the insurer of the Contracting Authority's interest.
- 16.3. The Contractor shall take out insurance covering his liability with regard to industrial accidents and civil liabilities to any person employed by him on the works, to the Contracting Authority and any employee of that authority, arising from the execution of the works. Such liability shall be unlimited in the case of personal injuries.
- 16.4. The Contractor shall take out insurance covering liability with regard to risks and civil liability resulting from an act or omission attributed to him, to his legal successors or agents. Such insurance shall be for at least the amount stated in the Special Conditions. Furthermore, he shall ensure that all his sub-contractors have taken out a similar insurance.
- 16.5. All the insurance referred to in this Article shall be taken out within 30 days of the notification of the award of the contract, and shall be subject to approval by the Contracting Authority. Such insurance shall take effect from the commencement of the works and remain in force until final acceptance of the works. The Contractor shall produce to the Contracting Authority the insurance policy and shall furnish proof of regular payment of premiums without delay whenever he is required to do so by the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor.
- 16.6. Notwithstanding the obligations of the Contractor to insure in accordance with Article 16, the Contractor shall be solely liable and shall indemnify the Contracting Authority and the Supervisor against any claims for damage to property or personal injuries arising from the execution of the works by the Contractor, his sub-contractors and employees in connection with the works.

Article 17: Programme of implementation of tasks

- 17.1. Completing the work programme given as part of the offer, the Contractor shall within 30 days of receipt of the notification of the award of contract provide the Supervisor with a programme of implementation of the tasks, broken down by activity and by month and include the following information:
- (a) the order in which the Contractor proposes to carry out the works;
 - (b) the time limits within which submission and approval of the drawings are required;
 - (c) an organization chart containing the names, qualifications and curricula vitae of the staff responsible for the site,
 - (d) a general description of the method including the sequence, by month and by nature which the Contractor proposes to carry out the works;
 - (e) a plan for the setting out and organization of the site, and
 - (f) such further details and information as the Supervisor may reasonably require.
- 17.2. The Supervisor shall return these documents to the Contractor with his approval or any relevant remarks within ten days of receipt, save where the Supervisor, within those ten days, notifies the Contractor of his wish for a meeting. The approval of the programme by the Supervisor shall not relieve the Contractor from any of his obligations under the contract.

- 17.3. No material alteration to the programme shall be made without the approval of the Supervisor. If, however, the progress of the works does not conform to the programme, the Supervisor may instruct the Contractor to revise the programme and submit the revised programme to him for approval.

Article 18: Detailed breakdown of prices

- 18.1. If not provided in his tender and where necessary for the purposes of the contract, the Contractor shall provide a detailed breakdown of his rates and prices within no more than 20 days following the Supervisor's reasoned request.
- 18.2. Within 30 days of notification of the award of contract, the Contractor shall provide to the Supervisor for his information only, a detailed cash flow estimate, in quarterly periods, of all payments which may be due to the Contractor under the contract. The Contractor shall subsequently supply revised cash flow estimates at quarterly intervals, if so required by the Supervisor. The communication shall not impose any liability whatsoever on the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor.

Article 19: Contractor's drawings

- 19.1. The Contractor shall submit to the Supervisor for approval:
- (a) such drawings, documents, samples and /or models as may be specified in the contract within the time limits laid down therein or in the programme of implementation of tasks;
 - (b) such drawings as the Supervisor may reasonably require for the implementation of tasks.
 - (c) In the case of bridges and other reinforced concrete structures, the Contractor shall carry out the requisite soil surveys before commencing work on the foundations. The Contractor must submit the results of these surveys and the calculations for the foundations, in triplicate, to the Supervisor at least one month before commencing construction of the works in question.
 - (d) The Contractor shall prepare, at its own expense, all design and construction drawings and other documents and objects necessary for the proper execution of the contract, and in particular drawings and design calculations and the reinforcement drawings for reinforced concrete structures. The Contractor shall submit, in triplicate, construction, design and reinforcement drawings, design calculations and any other documents or objects it is to provide for the Supervisor's approval at least one month before commencing construction of the works in question.

Within 15 days of receiving the drawings, design calculations, objects and other documents required under (c) and (d), the Supervisor shall return them to the Contractor with either his endorsement or his remarks.

- 19.2. If the Supervisor fails to notify his decision of approval referred to in Article 19.1 within the time limits referred to in the contract or the approved programme of implementation of tasks, such drawings, documents, samples or models shall be deemed to be approved at the end of the time limits specified. If no time limit is specified, they shall be deemed to be approved 30 days after receipt.

- 19.3. Approved drawings, documents, samples and models shall be signed or otherwise identified by the Supervisor and shall not be departed from except as otherwise instructed by the Supervisor. Any Contractor's drawings, documents, samples or models which the Supervisor fails to approve, shall be forthwith modified to meet the requirements of the Supervisor and resubmitted by the Contractor for approval. Within 15 days of being notified of the Supervisor's remarks, the Contractor shall make the requisite corrections, adjustments etc. to the documents, drawings, design calculations etc. The corrected or adjusted documents, drawings, design calculations etc. shall be resubmitted for the Supervisor's approval under the same procedure.
- 19.4. The Contractor shall supply additional copies of approved drawings in the form and number stated in the contract or in subsequent administrative orders.
- 19.5. The approval of the drawings, documents, samples or models by the Supervisor shall not relieve the Contractor from any of his obligations under the contract.
- 19.6. The Supervisor shall have the right at all reasonable times to inspect all contract drawings, documents, samples or models at the Contractor's premises.
- 19.7. Before provisional acceptance of the works, the Contractor shall supply operation and maintenance manuals together with drawings, which shall be in such detail as will enable the Contracting Authority to operate, maintain, adjust and repair all parts of the works. Unless otherwise stated in the Special Conditions, the manuals and drawings shall be in the language of the contract. The works shall not be considered to be completed for the purpose of provisional acceptance until such manuals and drawings have been supplied to the Contracting Authority.

Article 20: Sufficiency of tender prices

- 20.1. The Contractor shall be deemed to have inspected and examined the site and its surroundings and to have satisfied himself before submitting his tender, as to the nature of the ground and sub-soil, and to have taken into account the form and nature of the site, the extent and nature of the work and materials necessary for the completion of the works, the means of communication with and access to the site, the accommodation he may require and in general to have obtained for himself all necessary information as to risks, contingencies and all other circumstances influencing or affecting his tender.
- 20.2. The Contractor shall be deemed to have satisfied himself before submitting his tender as to the correctness and sufficiency of the tender and of the rates and prices stated in the bill of quantities or price schedule which shall, except in so far as it is otherwise provided in the contract, cover all his obligations under the contract.
- 20.3. Since the Contractor is deemed to have determined his prices on the basis of his own calculations, operations and estimates, he shall carry out without additional charge any work which is the subject of any item whatsoever in his tender for which he neither indicates a unit price nor a firm sum.

Article 21: Exceptional risks

- 21.1. If during the execution of the works the Contractor encounters artificial obstructions or physical conditions which could not reasonably have been foreseen by an experienced Contractor, and if the Contractor is of the opinion that additional costs will be incurred and/or an extension of the period of implementation of the tasks will be necessary as a result of this, he shall give notice to the Supervisor in accordance with Articles 35 and/or 55. The Contractor shall specify in such notice the artificial obstructions and/or physical conditions, giving details of the anticipated effects thereof, the measures he is taking or intends to take and the extent of the anticipated delay in or interference with the execution of the works.
- 21.2. Following receipt of the notice, the Supervisor may *inter alia*:
- (a) require the Contractor to provide an estimate of the cost of the measures he is taking or intends to take;
 - (b) approve measures referred to in Article 21.2 (a) with or without modification;
 - (c) give written instructions as to how the artificial obstructions or physical conditions are to be dealt with;
 - (d) order a modification, a suspension, or termination of the contract.
- 21.3. To the extent that the Supervisor shall decide that the whole or part of the said artificial obstructions or physical conditions could not reasonably have been foreseen by an experienced Contractor, the Supervisor shall:
- (a) take into account any delay suffered by the Contractor as a result of such obstructions or conditions in determining any extension of the period of implementation of tasks to which the Contractor is entitled under Article 35; and/or
 - (b) in case of artificial obstructions or physical conditions other than weather conditions, determine additional payments due to the Contractor in accordance with Article 55.
- 21.4. Weather conditions shall not entitle the Contractor to claims under Article 55.
- 21.5. If the Supervisor decides that the artificial obstructions or physical conditions could, in whole or in part, have been reasonably foreseen by an experienced Contractor, he shall so inform the Contractor as soon as practicable.

Article 22: Safety on sites

- 22.1. The Contractor shall have the right to forbid access to the site to any person not involved in the performance of the contract, with the exception of persons authorized by the Supervisor or the Contracting Authority.
- 22.2. The Contractor shall ensure the safety on sites during the whole period of execution and shall be responsible for taking the necessary steps, in the interests of his employees, agents of the Contracting Authority and third parties, to prevent any loss or accident which may result from carrying out the works.
- 22.3. The Contractor shall take all essential steps, on his own responsibility and at his expense, to ensure that existing structures and installations are protected, preserved and maintained. He shall be responsible for providing and maintaining at his expense all lighting, protection, fencing and security equipment which proves necessary for the proper implementation of the tasks or which may reasonably be required by the Supervisor.

- 22.4. If, during the implementation of the tasks, urgent measures are necessary to obviate any risk of accident or damage or to ensure security following any accident or damage, the Supervisor shall give formal notice to the Contractor to do what is necessary. If the Contractor is unwilling or unable to undertake the necessary measures, the Supervisor may carry out the work at the expense of the Contractor to the extent that the Contractor is liable.

Article 23: Safeguarding adjacent properties

- 23.1. On his own responsibility and at his expense, the Contractor shall take all the precautions required by good construction practice and by the prevailing circumstances to safeguard adjacent properties and avoid causing any abnormal disturbance therein.
- 23.2. The Contractor shall indemnify the Contracting Authority against the financial consequences of all claims by neighbouring landowners or residents to the extent that the Contractor is liable and to the extent that the damage to adjacent properties is not the result of a hazard created through the design or method of construction imposed by the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor upon the Contractor.

Article 24: Interference with traffic

- 24.1. The Contractor shall ensure that the works and installations do not cause damage to, or obstruct traffic on, communication links such as roads, railways, waterways and airports, save as permitted under the Special Conditions. He shall, in particular, take account of weight restrictions when selecting routes and vehicles.
- 24.2. Any special measures which the Contractor considers necessary or which are specified in the Special Conditions or which are required by the Contracting Authority in order to protect or strengthen sections of roads, tracks or bridges, shall be at the expense of the Contractor, whether or not they are carried out by the Contractor. The Contractor shall inform the Supervisor of any special measures he intends to take before carrying them out. The repair of any damage caused to roads, tracks or bridges by the transport of materials, plant or equipment shall be at the expense of the Contractor.

Article 25: Cables and conduits

- 25.1. Where, in the course of carrying out the works, the Contractor encounters bench-marks indicating the course of underground cables, conduits and installations, he shall keep such bench-marks in position or replace them, should execution of the works have necessitated their temporary removal. Such related operations require the authorization of the Supervisor.
- 25.2. The Contractor shall be responsible for the preservation, removal and replacement, as the case may be, of the cables, conduits and installations specified by the Contracting Authority in the contract and for the cost thereof.
- 25.3. Where the presence of cables, conduits and installations has not been specified in the contract but is revealed by bench-marks and references, the Contractor shall be under a general duty of care and similar obligations regarding preservation, removal and replacement to those set out above. In this case, the Contracting Authority shall compensate him for expenditure, to the extent that such work is necessary for the execution of the contract.

- 25.4. However, the obligations to remove and replace cables, conduits and installations and the expenditure resulting therefrom shall not be the responsibility of the Contractor if the Contracting Authority decides to accept that responsibility. The same shall apply where this obligation and the expenditure resulting therefrom devolve upon another specialist administration or an agent.
- 25.5. When any work on the site is likely to cause disturbances in or damage to a public utility service, the Contractor shall immediately inform the Supervisor in writing, giving a reasonable period of notice so that suitable measures can be taken in time to allow work to continue normally.

Article 26: Setting-out

- 26.1. The Contractor shall be responsible for:
- (a) the accurate setting-out of the works in relation to original marks, lines and levels of reference given by the Supervisor;
 - (b) the correctness, of the position, levels, dimensions and alignment of all parts of the works; and
 - (c) the provision of all necessary instruments, appliances and labour in connection with the foregoing responsibilities.
- 26.2. If, at any time during the execution of the works, any error appears in the position, levels, dimensions or alignment of any part of the works, the Contractor, shall, if the Supervisor so requires, at the Contractor's cost, rectify such error to the satisfaction of the Supervisor, unless such error is based on incorrect data supplied by the Supervisor, in which case the Contracting Authority shall be responsible for the cost of rectification.
- 26.3. The checking of any setting-out or of any line or level by the Supervisor shall not in any way relieve the Contractor of his responsibility for the accuracy thereof and the Contractor shall carefully protect and preserve all bench-marks, sight-rails, pegs and other items used in setting-out the works.

Article 27: Demolished materials

- 27.1. Where the contract includes demolition work, materials and articles obtained therefrom shall, unless the Special Conditions and /or the law of the state of the Contracting Authority otherwise provide and subject to the provisions of Article 28, be the property of the Contractor.
- 27.2. Should the Special Conditions reserve to the Contracting Authority the right of ownership of materials or all or part of the articles obtained from the demolition work, the Contractor shall take all the necessary precautions to ensure that these are preserved. He shall be liable for any destruction of, or damage to, such materials or articles caused by him or his agents.
- 27.3. Irrespective of the use to which the Contracting Authority intends to put the materials or articles, in respect of which he reserves the right of ownership, all costs incurred in transporting and storing them and all warehouse charges at the place indicated by the Supervisor shall be borne by the Contractor for any carriage not exceeding 100 meters.
- 27.4. Save where the Special Conditions provide otherwise, the Contractor shall, at his expense, progressively remove rubble and other demolition materials, rubbish and debris from the site.

Article 28: Discoveries

- 28.1. Discoveries of any interest whatsoever made during excavation or demolition work shall be brought immediately to the attention of the Supervisor. The Supervisor shall decide how such discoveries are to be dealt with, taking due account of the law of the State of the Contracting Authority.
- 28.2. The Contracting Authority reserves the right of ownership of materials found during the excavation and demolition work carried out on land belonging to him, subject to compensating the Contractor for any special efforts.
- 28.3. Artifacts, antiquities and natural, numismatic, or other objects which are of scientific interest, and also rare objects or objects made of precious metals found during excavation or demolition work shall be the property of the Contracting Authority.
- 28.4. In the event of disagreements, the Contracting Authority shall have sole authority to decide as to the qualifications set out in Articles 28.1 and 28.3.

Article 29: Temporary works

- 29.1. The Contractor shall carry out at his expense all the temporary works to enable the works to be carried out. He shall submit to the Supervisor the drawings for temporary works which he intends to use, such as cofferdams, scaffolding, trusses and shuttering. He shall take into account any observations made to him by the Supervisor while assuming responsibility for these drawings.
- 29.2. Where the design of particular temporary works is specified in the Special Conditions to be the responsibility of the Contracting Authority, the Supervisor shall provide the Contractor with all drawings necessary in reasonable time to enable the Contractor to undertake the temporary works in accordance with his programme. In such cases, the Contracting Authority shall be solely responsible for the safety and adequacy of the design. However, the Contractor shall be responsible for the proper construction.

Article 30: Soil studies

Subject to the Special Conditions and to the technical specifications, the Contractor shall make available to the Supervisor, the personnel and equipment necessary for carrying out any soil survey which the Supervisor considers reasonably necessary. The Contractor shall be compensated for the actual cost of the manpower and equipment used or made available in such work, if not already provided for in the contract.

Article 31: Overlapping contracts

- 31.1. The Contractor shall, in accordance with the requirements of the Supervisor, afford all reasonable opportunities for carrying out their work to any other Contractors employed by the Contracting Authority and their workmen, to the workmen of the Contracting Authority and of any other public authorities who may be employed on or near the site in the execution of any work not included in the contract, or of any contract which the Contracting Authority may enter into in connection with, or ancillary to, the works.

- 31.2. If, however, the Contractor, on the written request of the Supervisor, makes available to any such Contractor, or public authority, or to the Contracting Authority, any roads or ways for the maintenance of which the Contractor is responsible, or permits the use by any such other persons of the Contractor's temporary works, scaffolding or other equipment on the site, or provides any other service of whatsoever nature, which was not provided for in the contract, the Contracting Authority shall pay to the Contractor in respect of such use or service, such sums and/or grant such extension of time, as shall, in the opinion of the Supervisor, be reasonable.
- 31.3. The Contractor shall not by reason of Article 31 be relieved of any of his obligations under the contract nor shall he be entitled to any claims other than those provided for in Article 31.2.
- 31.4. In no circumstances may difficulties arising with regard to one contract entitle the Contractor to modify or delay implementation of other contracts. Similarly, the Contracting Authority may not take advantage of such difficulties to suspend payments due under another contract.

Article 32: Patents and licenses

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

COMMENCEMENT AND DELAYS

Article 33: Commencement orders

- 33.1. The Contracting Authority shall fix the date on which implementation of the tasks is to commence, and advise the Contractor either in the notification of award of contract or by administrative order issued by the Supervisor.
- 33.2. The date for commencing implementation of the tasks shall be not later than 180 days following notification of award of contract unless agreed otherwise by the parties.

Article 34: Period of implementation of tasks

- 34.1. The period of implementation of tasks shall commence on the date fixed in accordance with Article 33.1 and shall be as laid down in the Special Conditions, without prejudice to extensions of the period which may be granted under Article 35.
- 34.2. If provision is made for distinct periods of implementation for separate lots, in cases where one Contractor is awarded more than one lot per contract, the periods of implementation for the separate lots will not be accumulated.

Article 35: Extension of the period of implementation of tasks

- 35.1. The Contractor may request an extension to the period of implementation of tasks if he is or will be delayed in completing the contract by any of the following causes:
- (a) exceptional weather conditions in the State of the Contracting Authority;
 - (b) artificial obstructions or physical conditions which could not reasonably have been foreseen by an experienced Contractor;
 - (c) administrative orders affecting the date of completion other than those arising from the Contractor's default;
 - (d) failure of the Contracting Authority to fulfil his obligations under the contract;
 - (e) any suspension of the works which is not due to the Contractor's default;
 - (f) force majeure;
 - (g) any other causes referred to in these General Conditions which are not due to the Contractor's default.
- 35.2. The Contractor shall, within 15 days of becoming aware that delay may occur, notify the Supervisor of his intention to make a request for extension of the period of implementation of tasks to which he may consider himself entitled, and shall, unless otherwise agreed between the Contractor and the Supervisor, within 30 days from the notification deliver to the Supervisor full and detailed particulars of the request, in order that such request may be investigated at the time.
- 35.3. Within 30 days from receipt of the Contractor's detailed particulars of the request, the Supervisor shall, by written notice to the Contractor after due consultation with the Contracting Authority and, where appropriate, the Contractor, grant such extension of the period of implementation of tasks as may be justified, either prospectively or retrospectively, or inform the Contractor that he is not entitled to an extension.

Article 36: Delays in implementation of tasks

- 36.1. If the Contractor fails to complete the works within the time period(s) specified in the contract the Contracting Authority shall, without formal notice and without prejudice to his other remedies under the contract be entitled to liquidated damages for every day or part thereof which shall elapse between the end of the period specified for implementation of tasks or extended period of implementation of tasks under Article 35 and the actual date of completion, at the rate and up to the maximum amount specified in the Special Conditions. If the works have been the subject of partial acceptance in accordance with Article 59, the liquidated damages specified in the Special Conditions may be reduced in the proportion which the value of the accepted part bears to the value of the whole of the works.
- 36.2. If the Contracting Authority has become entitled to the maximum claim under Article 36.1 he may, after giving notice to the Contractor:
- (a) seize the performance guarantee; and /or
 - (b) terminate the contract; and
 - (c) enter into a contract with a third party at the Contractor's cost for the provision of the balance of the works.

Article 37: Modifications by administrative order

37.1. The Supervisor shall have power to order any modification to any part of the works necessary for the proper completion and /or functioning of the works. Such modifications may include additions, omissions, substitutions, changes in quality, quantity, form, character, kind, position, dimension, level or line and changes in the specified sequence, method or timing of execution of the works. No order for a modification shall have the effect of invalidating the contract, but the financial effect, if any, of all such modifications shall be valued in accordance with Articles 37.5 and 37.7.

37.2. All administrative order shall be issued in writing, it being understood that:

- (a) if for any reason, the Supervisor shall find it necessary to give an order orally, he shall as soon as possible thereafter confirm the order by an administrative order;
- (b) if the Contractor shall confirm in writing an oral order given for the purpose of Article 37.2 (a) and the confirmation shall not be contradicted in writing forthwith by the Supervisor, an administrative order shall be deemed to have been issued for the modification.

An administrative order for modification shall not be required for increase or decrease in the quantity of any work where such increase or decrease is the result of the quantity exceeding or being less than that stated in the bill of quantities or price schedule, as the result of measurement laid down in article 49.

37.3. Save as provided by Article 37.2 prior to any administrative order for modification, the Supervisor shall notify the Contractor of the nature and form of such modification. As soon as possible, after receiving such notice, the Contractor shall submit to the Supervisor a proposal containing:

- (a) a description of the tasks, if any, to be implemented or the measures to be taken and a programme for execution; and
- (b) any necessary modifications to the programme of implementation of tasks or to any of the Contractor's obligations under the contract; and
- (c) any adjustment to the contract price in accordance with the rules as set out in Article 37.

37.4. Following the receipt of the Contractor's submission referred to in Article 37.3, the Supervisor shall, after due consultation with the Contracting Authority and, where appropriate, the Contractor, decide as soon as possible whether or not the modification shall be carried out. If the Supervisor decides that the modification shall be carried out he shall issue the administrative order stating that the modification shall be carried out at the prices and under the conditions given in the Contractor's submission referred to in Article 37.3 or as modified by the Supervisor in accordance with Article 37.5.

37.5. The prices for all modifications ordered by the Supervisor in accordance with Article 37.2 and 37.4 shall be ascertained by the Supervisor in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) where work is of similar character and executed under similar conditions to work priced in the bill of quantities or price schedule it shall be valued at such rates and prices contained therein;
- (b) where work is not of a similar character or is not executed under similar conditions, the rates and prices in the contract shall be used as the basis for valuation so far as is reasonable, failing which, as fair valuation shall be made by the Supervisor;

- (c) if the nature or amount of any modification relative to the nature or amount of the whole of the contract or to any part thereof shall be such that in the opinion of the Supervisor any rate or price contained in the contract for any item of work is by reason of such modification rendered unreasonable, then the Supervisor shall fix such rate or price as in the circumstances he shall think reasonable and proper;
 - (d) where a modification is necessitated by default or breach of contract by the Contractor, any additional cost attributable to such modification shall be borne by the Contractor.
- 37.6. On receipt of the administrative order requesting the modification, the Contractor shall proceed to carry out the modification and be bound by these General Conditions in so doing as if such modification were stated in the contract. The works shall not be delayed pending the granting of any extension of time for completion or adjustment to the contract price. Where the order for a modification precedes the adjustment to the contract price, the Contractor shall keep records of the costs of undertaking the modification and of time expended thereon. Such records shall be open to inspection by the Supervisor at all reasonable times.
- 37.7. Where on provisional acceptance an increase or reduction in the total value of the works resulting from an administrative order, or from some other circumstance which is not caused by the Contractor's default, exceeds 15% of the initial contract price (or as modified by addendum), the Supervisor shall, after consultation with the Contracting Authority and the Contractor determine any additions to or reduction from the contract price as a consequence of the application of Article 37.5. The sum so determined shall be based on the amount by which the increase or decrease in value of the works exceeds 15%. The sum shall be notified by the Supervisor to the Contracting Authority and the Contractor and the contract price adjusted accordingly.
- 37.8. Contract modifications 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. All contract modifications have to respect the general principles defined in the *Practical Guide to contract procedures for EU external actions*.

Article 38: Suspension

- 38.1. The Contractor shall, on the order of the Supervisor, suspend the progress of the works or any part thereof for such time or times and in such manner as the Supervisor may consider necessary.
- 38.2. During the period of suspension, the Contractor shall take such protective measures as may be necessary to safeguard the works, plant, equipment and site against any deterioration, loss or damage. Additional expenses incurred in connection with such protective measures shall be added to the contract price, unless such suspension is:
- (a) otherwise provided for in the contract; or
 - (b) necessary by reason of some default of the Contractor; or
 - (c) necessary by reason of normal climatic conditions on site; or
 - (d) necessary for the safety or the proper execution of the works or any part thereof insofar as such necessity does not arise from any act or default by the Supervisor or the Contracting Authority or from any of the exceptional risks referred to in Article 21.

- 38.3. The Contractor shall not be entitled to such additions to the contract price unless he notifies the Supervisor, within 30 days after receipt of the order to suspend the works, of his intention to make a claim for them.
- 38.4. The Supervisor, after consultation with the Contracting Authority and the Contractor, shall determine such extra payment and/or extension of the period of performance to be made to the Contractor in respect of such claim as shall, in the opinion of the Supervisor, be fair and reasonable.
- 38.5. 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 Supervisor, request permission to proceed within 30 days or terminate the contract.
- 38.6. Where the award procedure or implementation of the contract is vitiated by substantial errors or irregularities or by suspected or proven fraud, the payments and/or implementation of the contract shall be suspended. 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 payments may also be suspended 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 39: Work register

- 39.1. A work register shall, unless otherwise provided by the Special Conditions, be kept on the site by the Supervisor, who shall enter in it at least the following information:
- (a) the weather conditions, interruptions of work owing to inclement weather, hours of work, number and type of workmen employed on the site, materials supplied, equipment in use, equipment not in working order, tests carried out *in situ*, samples dispatched, unforeseen circumstances, as well as orders given to the Contractor;
 - (b) detailed statements of all the quantitative and qualitative elements of the work done and the supplies delivered and used, capable of being checked on the site and relevant in calculating payments to be made to the Contractor.
- 39.2. The statements shall form an integral part of the work register but may, where appropriate, be recorded in separate documents. The technical rules for drawing up the statements shall be as set out in the Special Conditions.
- 39.3. The Contractor shall ensure that statements are drawn up, in good time and in accordance with the Special Conditions, in respect of work, services and supplies which cannot be measured or verified subsequently; failing this, he shall accept the decisions of the Supervisor, unless, at his own expense, he provides evidence to the contrary.

- 39.4. Entries made in the work register as work progresses shall be signed by the Supervisor and countersigned by the Contractor or his representative. If the Contractor objects, he shall communicate his views to the Supervisor within 15 days following the date on which the entry or the statements objected to are recorded. Should he fail to countersign or to submit his views within the period allowed, the Contractor shall be deemed to agree with the notes shown in the register. The Contractor may examine the work register at any time and may, without removing the document, make or receive a copy of entries which he considers necessary for his own information.
- 39.5. The Contractor shall, on request, provide the Supervisor with the information needed to keep the work register in good order.

Article 40: Origin and quality of works and materials

- 40.1. All goods purchased under the contract shall have their origin in any eligible source country as defined in the Invitation to Tender and the Special Conditions.
- 40.2. The works, components and materials shall conform to the specifications, drawings, surveys, models, samples, patterns and other requirements in the contract which shall be held at the disposal of the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor for the purposes of identification throughout the period of performance.
- 40.3. Any preliminary technical acceptance stipulated in the Special Conditions shall be the subject of a request sent by the Contractor to the Supervisor. The request shall indicate the reference to the contract, the lot number and the place where such acceptance is to take place, as appropriate. The components and materials specified in the request must be certified by the Supervisor as meeting the requirements for such acceptance prior to their incorporation in the works.
- 40.4. Even if materials or items to be incorporated in the works or in the manufacture of components have been technically accepted in this way, they may still be rejected and must be replaced immediately by the Contractor if a further examination reveals defects or faults. 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 works only if they have been repaired and made good to the satisfaction of the Supervisor.

Article 41: Inspection and testing

- 41.1. The Contractor shall ensure that the components and materials are delivered to the site in time to allow the Supervisor to proceed with acceptance of the components and materials. The Contractor is deemed to have fully appreciated the difficulties which he might encounter in this respect, and he shall not be permitted to advance any grounds for delay in fulfilling his obligations.
- 41.2. The Supervisor shall be entitled, either by himself or his agent, 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 on the site or at such other places as may be specified in the contract.
- 41.3. For the purposes of such tests and inspections, the Contractor shall:

- (a) provide to the Supervisor, temporarily and free of charge, such assistance, test samples, parts, machines, equipment, tools or materials and labour as are normally required for inspection and testing;
 - (b) agree, with the Supervisor, on the time and place for tests;
 - (c) provide access for the Supervisor at all reasonable times to the place where the tests are to be carried out.
- 41.4. If the Supervisor is not present on the date agreed for tests, the Contractor may, unless otherwise instructed by the Supervisor, proceed with the tests, which shall be deemed to have been made in the Supervisor's presence. The Contractor shall forthwith forward duly certified copies of the test results to the Supervisor, who shall, if he has not attended the test, be bound by the test results.
- 41.5. When components and materials have passed the tests referred to in Article 41, the Supervisor shall notify the Contractor or endorse the procedure's certificate to that effect.
- 41.6. If the Supervisor and the Contractor disagree on the test results, each shall give a statement of his views to the other within 15 days after such disagreement arises. The Supervisor 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 to be selected by common consent. All test reports shall be submitted to the Supervisor who shall communicate the results of these tests without delay to the Contractor. The results of the re-testing shall be conclusive. The cost of the re-testing shall be borne by the party whose views are proved wrong by the re-testing.
- 41.7. In the performance of his duties, the Supervisor and all persons authorized by him shall disclose only to those persons who are entitled to know of it information which he has obtained by reason of his inspection and testing of the methods of manufacture and operation of the undertaking.

Article 42: Rejection

- 42.1. Components and materials which are not of the specified quality shall be rejected. A special mark may be applied to the rejected components or materials. This shall not be such as to alter them or affect their commercial value. Rejected components and materials shall be removed by the Contractor from the site within a period which the Supervisor shall specify, failing which they shall be removed by the Supervisor as of right at the expense and risk of the Contractor. Any work incorporating rejected components or materials shall be rejected.
- 42.2. The Supervisor shall, during the progress of the works and before the works are taken over, have the power to order or decide:
- (a) the removal from the site, within such time limits as may be specified in the order, of any components or materials which, in the opinion of the Supervisor, are not in accordance with the contract;
 - (b) the substitution of proper and suitable components or materials; or
 - (c) the demolition and proper re-execution, or satisfactory repair, notwithstanding any previous test thereof or interim payment therefore, of any work which, in respect of components, materials, workmanship or design by the Contractor for which he is responsible, is not, in the opinion of the Supervisor, in accordance with the contract.
- 42.3. The Supervisor shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, give to the Contractor notice in writing of his decision specifying particulars of the alleged defects.

- 42.4. The Contractor shall with all speed and at his 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 same and all expenses consequent thereon or incidental thereto may be deducted by the Contracting Authority from any monies due or which may become due to the Contractor.
- 42.5. The provisions of Article 42 shall not affect the right of the Contracting Authority to claim under Articles 36 and 63.

Article 43: Ownership of plant and materials

- 43.1. All equipment, temporary works, plant and materials provided by the Contractor shall, when brought on the site, be deemed to be exclusively intended for the execution of the works and the Contractor shall not remove the same or any part thereof, except for the purpose of moving it from one part of the site to another, without the consent of the Supervisor. Such consent shall, however, not be required for vehicles engaged in transporting any staff, labour, equipment, temporary works, plant or materials to or from the site.
- 43.2. The Special Conditions may provide that all equipment, temporary works, plant and materials on site owned by the Contractor or by any company in which the Contractor has a controlling interest shall, for the duration of the execution of the works, be:
- (a) vested in the Contracting Authority; or
 - (b) made subject to a lien in favour of the Contracting Authority; or
 - (c) made subject to any other arrangement regarding priority interest or security.
- 43.3. In the event of termination of the contract in accordance with Article 63 due to the Contractor's breach of contract, the Contracting Authority shall be entitled to use the equipment, temporary works, plant and materials on site in order to complete the works.
- 43.4. Any agreement for the hire by the Contractor of equipment, temporary works, plant and materials brought onto the site, shall contain a provision that on request in writing made by the Contracting Authority within 7 days after the date on which the termination under Article 64 becomes effective, and on the Contracting Authority undertaking to pay all hire charges in respect thereof from such date, the owner thereof will hire such equipment, temporary works, plant or materials to the Contracting Authority on the same terms as they were hired by the Contractor, save that the Contracting Authority shall be entitled to permit the use thereof by any other Contractor employed by him for completing the works under the provisions of Article 64.3.
- 43.5. Upon termination of the contract before completion of the works, the Contractor shall deliver to the Contracting Authority any plant, temporary works, equipment or materials the property in which has vested in the Contracting Authority or been made subject to a lien by virtue of Article 43.2. If he fails to do so, the Contracting Authority may take such appropriate action as it deems fit in order to obtain possession of such plant, temporary works, equipment and materials and recover the cost of so doing from the Contractor.

PAYMENTS

Article 44: General principles

- 44.1. 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.
- 44.2. 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.
- 44.3. Payments to the Contractor of the amounts due under each of the interim payment certificates and the final statement of account issued by the Supervisor shall be made by the Contracting Authority within 90 days of such certificate of statement being delivered to the Contracting Authority. The date of payment shall be the date on which the paying institution's account is debited. The payment certificate shall not be admissible if one or more essential requirements are not met.
- 44.4. The period referred to in 44.3 may be suspended by notifying the Contractor that the payment certificate or the final statement of accounts cannot be fulfilled because the sum is not due, because appropriate substantiating documents have not been provided or because there is evidence that the expenditure might not be 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. Within 30 days of receipt of the clarification, the Supervisor shall decide and issue if need be a revised payment certificate or a final statement of account and the payment period shall continue to run from this date.
- 44.5. 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 three and a half 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 involved in the repayment of amounts due to the Contracting Authority shall be borne entirely by the Contractor.

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

Article 45: Provisional price contracts

- 45.1. In exceptional cases, where a provisional price contract has been awarded, the amounts payable under the contract shall be calculated as follows:
- (d) as for cost-plus contracts in Article 49.1 (c); or
 - (e) initially on the basis of provisional prices and, after the conditions for performing the contract are known, as for lump-sum contracts or unit price contracts in Article 49.1 (a) and (b) respectively, or as in a hybrid contract.
- 45.2. The Contractor shall supply such information as the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor may reasonably require in respect of any matter relating to the contract for the purpose of the calculation. Where agreement cannot be reached on the valuation of the works, the amounts payable shall be determined by the Supervisor.

Article 46: Pre-financing

- 46.1. If the Special Conditions so provide, pre-financing shall be granted to the Contractor, at his request, for operations connected with the implementation of the tasks, in the cases listed hereinafter:
- (a) as a lump-sum advance enabling him to meet expenditure resulting from the commencement of the contract;
 - (b) if he affords proof of the conclusion of a contract for the purchase or order of materials, plant, equipment, machines and tools, necessary for the execution of the contract, and of any other substantial prior expenses such as the acquisition of patents or study costs.
- 46.2. The Special Conditions shall state the amount of the pre-financing which shall not exceed 10% of the original contract price for the lump-sum referred to in Article 46.1 (a) and 20 % of the contract price for all other pre-financing referred to in Article 46.1 (b).
- 46.3. No pre-financing shall be granted until:
- (a) the conclusion of the contract;
 - (b) provision to the Contracting Authority by the procedure of the performance guarantee in accordance with Article 15; and by
 - (c) provision to the Contracting Authority by the Contractor of a separate directly liable guarantee, in the format provided for in the contract, for the full amount of the pre-financing, if this payment exceeds EUR 150.000, by the institutions referred to in Article 15.3, which shall remain effective until the pre-financing has been completely repaid by the Contractor out of interim payments under the contract. Where the Contractor is a public body the obligation for a separate directly liable guarantee may be waived depending on a risk assessment.

- 46.4. The Contractor shall use the pre-financing exclusively for operations connected with the implementation of the tasks. Should the Contractor misuse any portion of the pre-financing, it shall become due and repayable immediately and no further pre-financing payments will be made to him.
- 46.5. Should the pre-financing guarantee cease to be valid and the Contractor fail to re-validate it, either a deduction equal to the amount of the pre-financing may be made by the Contracting Authority from future payments due to the Contractor under the contract, or the Contracting Authority may apply the provisions of Article 15.6.
- 46.6. If the contract is terminated for any reason whatsoever, the guarantees 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.
- 46.7. The pre-financing guarantee provided for in Article 46 shall be released as and when pre-financing is repaid.
- 46.8. Further conditions and procedures for granting and repaying pre-financing shall be as laid down in the Special Conditions.

Article 47: Retention monies

- 47.1. The sum which shall be retained from interim payments by way of guarantee to meet the Contractor's obligations during the defects liability period, and the detailed rules governing that guarantee, shall be stipulated in the Special Conditions, provided that it shall, in no case, exceed 10% of the contract price.
- 47.2. Subject to the approval of the Contracting Authority, the Contractor may, if he so wishes, substitute, not later than the date fixed for the commencement of the works, these retention sums by a retention guarantee issued in accordance with Article 15.3.
- 47.3. The sum retained or the retention guarantee shall be released within 45 days of the issuing of the signed final statement of account referred to in Article 51.

Article 48: Revision of prices

- 48.1. Unless otherwise stipulated in the Special Conditions, and except as provided in Article 48.4 the contract shall be at fixed prices which shall not be revised.
- 48.2. Where prices may be revised under the contract, such revision shall take into account variations in the prices of significant local or external elements which serve as a basis for the calculation of the tender price, such as manpower, services, materials and supplies, as well as charges laid down by law or regulation. The detailed rules for the revision shall be as laid down in the Special Conditions.
- 48.3. Prices contained in the Contractor's tender shall be deemed:
- (a) to have been arrived at on the basis of the conditions in force 30 days prior to the latest date fixed for submission of tenders; or in the case of direct agreement contracts, on the date of the contract;
 - (b) to have taken account of the legislation and the relevant tax arrangements applicable at the reference date fixed in Article 48.3 (a).

- 48.4. In the event of changes to, or introduction of, any national or State statute, ordinance, decree or other law, or any regulation or by-law of any local or other public authority, after the date stated in Article 48.3 which causes a change in the contractual relationship between the parties to the contract, the Contracting Authority and the Contractor shall consult on how best to proceed further under the contract, and may as a result of such consultation decide:
- (a) to modify the contract; or
 - (b) on payment of compensation for the resulting imbalance by one party to the other; or
 - (c) to terminate the contract by mutual agreement.
- 48.5. In the event of a delay in the implementation of the tasks for which the Contractor is responsible, the indices to be considered for the revision of prices during the period of delay shall be the most advantageous to the Contracting Authority between those applied to the last interim certificate issued for tasks implemented during the period of implementation of tasks and those revised up to the provisional acceptance of the tasks.

Article 49: Measurement

49.1. The following methods shall apply to the valuation of works contracts:

- (a) For lump-sum contracts, the amount due under the contract shall be determined on the basis of the breakdown of the overall contract price, or on the basis of a breakdown expressed as a percentage of the contract price corresponding to completed stages of the works. Where items are accompanied by quantities, these shall be firm quantities for which the Contractor has submitted his all-in price, and shall be paid for irrespective of the quantities of work actually carried out.
- (b) For unit price contracts:
 - (i) the amount due under the contract shall be calculated by applying the unit rates to the quantities actually executed for the respective items, in accordance with the contract;
 - (ii) the quantities set out in the bill of quantities shall be the estimated quantities of the works, which shall not be taken as the actual and correct quantities of the works to be executed by the Contractor in fulfillment of his obligations under the contract;
 - (iii) the Supervisor shall determine by measurement the actual quantities of the works executed by the Contractor, and these shall be paid for in accordance with Article 50. Unless otherwise provided in the Special Conditions no additions shall be made to the items in the bill of quantities except as a result of a modification in accordance with Article 37 or another provision of the contract entitling the Contractor to additional payment;
 - (iv) the Supervisor shall, when he requires any parts of the works to be measured, give reasonable notice to the Contractor to attend, or to send a qualified agent to represent him. The Contractor or his agent shall assist the Supervisor in making such measurements and shall furnish all particulars required by the Supervisor. Should the Contractor not attend, or omit to send such agent, the measurement made by the Supervisor or approved by him shall be binding on the Contractor;
 - (v) the works shall be measured net, notwithstanding any general or local custom, except where otherwise provided for in the contract.

- (c) For cost-plus contracts, the amount due under the contract shall be determined on the basis of actual costs with an agreed addition for overheads and profit. The Special Conditions shall stipulate the information which the Contractor is required to submit to the Supervisor for the purpose of Article 49.1 (c) and the manner in which it should be submitted.
- 49.2. Where an item in the contract is indicated as 'provisional' the provisional sum set aside for it shall not be taken into account in calculating the percentages referred to in Article 37.

Article 50: Interim payments

- 50.1. Unless otherwise specified in the Special Conditions, the Contractor shall submit an application for interim payment to the Supervisor at the end of each period referred to in Article 50.7 in a form approved by the Supervisor. The application shall include the following items, as applicable:
- (a) the estimated contract value of the permanent works implemented up to the end of the period in question;
 - (b) an amount reflecting any revision of prices pursuant to Article 48;
 - (c) an amount to be withheld as retention sum under Article 47;
 - (d) any credit and/or debit for the period in question in respect of plant and materials on site intended for, but not yet incorporated in, the permanent works in the amount and under the conditions set out in Article 50.2;
 - (e) an amount to be deducted on account of the pre-financing repayment under the provisions of Article 46; and
 - (f) any other sum to which the Contractor may be entitled under the contract.
- 50.2. The Contractor shall be entitled to such sums as the Supervisor may consider proper in respect of plant and materials intended for, but not yet incorporated in, the permanent works provided that:
- (a) the plant and materials conform with the specifications for the permanent works and are set out in batches in a way that they may be recognized by the Supervisor;
 - (b) such plant and materials have been delivered to the site, and are properly stored and protected against loss or damage or deterioration to the satisfaction of the Supervisor;
 - (c) the Contractor's record of requirements, orders, receipts and use of plant and materials under the contract are kept in a form approved by the Supervisor and such records are available for inspection by the Supervisor;
 - (d) the Contractor submits with his statement, the estimated value of the plant and materials on site together with such documents as may be required by the Supervisor for the purpose of valuation of the plant and materials and providing evidence of ownership and payment therefor; and
 - (e) where the Special Conditions so provide, ownership of the plant and materials referred to in Article 43 shall be deemed to be vested in the Contracting Authority.

- 50.3. Approval by the Supervisor of any interim payment certified by him in respect of plant and materials pursuant to Article 50 shall be without prejudice to the exercise of any power of the Supervisor under the contract to reject any plant or materials which are not in accordance with the provisions of the contract.
- 50.4. The Contractor shall be responsible for any loss or damage to, and for the cost of storing and handling of, such plant and materials on site and shall effect such additional insurance as may be necessary to cover the risk of such loss or damage from any cause.
- 50.5. Within 30 days of receipt of the said application for interim payment, it shall be approved or amended in such manner that, in the Supervisor's opinion, the application reflects the amount due to the Contractor in accordance with the contract. In cases where there is a difference of opinion as to the value of an item, the Supervisor's view shall prevail. On determination of the amount due to the Contractor, the Supervisor shall, within the same 30 days deadline, issue and transmit to the Contracting Authority for payment and to the Contractor for information, an interim payment certificate for the amount due to the Contractor and shall inform the Contractor of the works for which payment is being made.
- 50.6. The Supervisor may, by an interim payment certificate, make any corrections or modifications to any previous certificate issued by him and shall have power to modify the valuation in or withhold the issue of, any interim payment certificate if the works or any part thereof is not being carried out to his satisfaction.
- 50.7. Unless the Special Conditions provide otherwise, the frequency shall be one interim payment per month.

Article 51: Final statement of account

- 51.1. Unless otherwise agreed in the Special Conditions, the Contractor shall not later than 90 days after the issue of the final acceptance certificate referred to in Article 62, submit to the Supervisor a draft final statement of account with supporting documents showing in detail the value of the work done in accordance with the contract, together with all further sums which the Contractor considers to be due to him under the contract in order to enable the Supervisor to prepare the final statement of account.
- 51.2. Within 90 days after receipt of the draft final statement of account and of all information reasonably required for its verification, the Supervisor shall prepare the final statement of account, which determines:
- (a) the amount which in his opinion is finally due under the contract; and
 - (b) after establishing the amounts previously paid by the Contracting Authority and all sums to which the Contracting Authority is entitled under the contract, the balance, if any, due from the Contracting Authority to the Contractor, or from the Contractor to the Contracting Authority, as the case may be.
- 51.3. The Supervisor shall issue to the Contracting Authority or to its duly authorized representative, and to the Contractor, the final statement of account showing the final amount to which the Contractor is entitled under the contract. The Contracting Authority or its duly authorized representative and the Contractor shall sign the final statement of account as an acknowledgement of the full and final value of the work implemented under the contract and shall promptly submit a signed copy to the Supervisor. However, the final statement of account shall not include amounts in dispute which are the subject of negotiations, conciliation, arbitration or litigation.

- 51.4. The final statement of account signed by the Contractor shall constitute a written discharge of the Contracting Authority confirming that the total in the final statement of account represents full and final settlement of all monies due to the Contractor under the contract, other than those amounts which are the subject of amicable settlement, arbitration or litigation. However, such discharge shall become effective only after any payment due in accordance with the final statement of account has been made and the performance guarantee referred to in Article 15 has been returned to the Contractor.
- 51.5. The Contracting Authority shall not be liable to the Contractor for any matter or thing whatsoever arising out of, or in accordance with, the contract or execution of the works, unless the Contractor shall have included a claim in respect thereof in his draft final statement of account.

Article 52: Direct payments to sub-contractors

- 52.1. When the Supervisor receives a claim from a sub-Contractor duly approved under Article 7 to the effect that the Contractor has not met his financial obligations so far as the sub-Contractor is concerned, the Supervisor shall give notice to the Contractor either to pay the sub-Contractor or to inform him of the reasons why payment should not be made. Should such payment not be made, or reasons not be given within the period of notice, the Supervisor may, after satisfying himself that the work has been carried out, certify, and the Contracting Authority shall meet the debt claimed by the sub-Contractor out of the sums remaining due to the Contractor. The Contractor shall remain entirely responsible for the work in respect of which direct payment has been made.
- 52.2. If the Contractor gives adequate reasons for refusing to meet all or part of the debt claimed by the sub-contractor, the Contracting Authority shall only pay to the sub-contractor such sums as are not in dispute. Sums claimed by the sub-Contractor in respect of which the Contractor has given adequate reasons for his refusal to pay shall be paid by the Contracting Authority only after the parties have come to an amicable settlement, or after the decision of an arbitrating authority or after a judgment of a court has been duly notified to the Supervisor.
- 52.3. Direct payments to sub-contractors shall not exceed the value at contract prices of the services performed by the sub-contractors for which they request payment; the value at contract prices shall be calculated or assessed on the basis of the bill of quantities, the price schedule or the breakdown of the lump sum price.
- 52.4. Direct payments to sub-contractors shall be made entirely in the national currency of the country in which the contract is performed, or partly in such national currency and partly in foreign currency, in accordance with the contract.
- 52.5. Where direct payments to sub-contractors are made in foreign currency, they shall be calculated in accordance with Article 56. They shall not result in any increase in the total amount payable in foreign currency, as stipulated in the contract.
- 52.6. The provisions of Article 52 shall apply subject to the requirements of the law applicable by virtue of Article 54 concerning the right to payment of creditors who are beneficiaries of an assignment of credit or of a collateral security.

Article 53: Delayed payments

- 53.1. Once the time-limit referred to in Article 44.3 of the General Conditions has expired, the Contractor – unless the Contractor is a government department or public body in a

European Union Member State – shall upon demand, submitted within two months of receiving late payment, be entitled to late-payment 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 three and a half 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. .

- 53.2. Any default in payment of more than 120 days from the expiry of the period laid down in Article 53.1 shall entitle the Contractor either not to perform the contract or to terminate it.

Article 54: Payments to third parties

- 54.1. All orders for payments to third parties may be carried out only after an assignment made in accordance with Article 6. The assignment shall be notified to the Contracting Authority.
- 54.2. Notification of beneficiaries of the assignment shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor.
- 54.3. In the event of a legally binding attachment of the property of the Contractor affecting payments due to him under the contract, without prejudice to the time limit laid down in Article 53, the Contracting Authority shall have 30 days, starting from the day when it receives notification of the definitive lifting of the obstacle to payment, to resume payments to the Contractor.

Article 55: Claims for additional payment

- 55.1. If under the contract there are circumstances which the Contractor considers entitle him to additional payment, the Contractor shall:
- (a) if he intends to make any claim for additional payment, give to the Supervisor notice of his intention or make such claim within 15 days after the said circumstances become known to the Contractor, stating the reason for his claim; and
 - (b) submit full and detailed particulars of his claim as soon as it is reasonably practicable, but no later than 60 days after the date of such notice, unless otherwise agreed by the Supervisor. In case the Supervisor agrees to another deadline than the said 60 days, the agreed upon deadline will in any event, require that such particulars shall be submitted no later than the date of submission of the draft final statement of account. The Contractor shall thereafter promptly submit such further particulars as the Supervisor may reasonably require assessing the validity of the claim.

- 55.2. When the Supervisor has received the full and detailed particulars of the Contractor's claim that he requires, he shall, without prejudice to Article 21.4, after due consultation with the Contracting Authority and, where appropriate, the Contractor, determine whether the Contractor is entitled to additional payment and notify the parties accordingly.
- 55.3. The Supervisor may reject any claim for additional payment which does not comply with the requirements of Article 55.

Article 56: End date

The payment obligations of the EC under this Contract shall cease at most 18 months after the end of the period of implementation of tasks, unless the contract is terminated in accordance with these General Conditions. In the event of co-financing, this date shall be laid down in the Special Conditions.

ACCEPTANCE AND DEFECTS LIABILITY

Article 57: General principles

- 57.1. Verification of the works by the Supervisor with a view to provisional or final acceptance shall take place in the presence of the Contractor. The absence of the Contractor shall not be a bar to verification on condition that the Contractor has been summoned in due form at least 30 days prior to the date of verification.
- 57.2. Should exceptional circumstances make it impossible to ascertain the state of the works or otherwise proceed with their acceptance during the period fixed for provisional or final acceptance, a statement certifying such impossibility shall be drawn up by the Supervisor after consultation, where possible, with the Contractor. The verification shall take place and a statement of acceptance or rejection shall be drawn up by the Supervisor within 30 days following the date on which such impossibility ceases to exist. The Contractor shall not invoke these circumstances in order to avoid his obligation to present the works in a state suitable for acceptance.

Article 58: Tests on completion

- 58.1. The works shall not be accepted until the prescribed verifications and tests have been carried out at the expense of the Contractor. The Contractor shall notify the Supervisor of the date on which such verification and tests may commence.
- 58.2. Works which do not satisfy the terms and conditions of the contract, or in the absence of such terms and conditions, which are not carried out in accordance with trade practices in the State where the works are located, shall, if required, be demolished and rebuilt by the Contractor or repaired to the satisfaction of the Supervisor, otherwise this shall be done as of right after due notice at the expense of the Contractor, by order of the Supervisor. The Supervisor may also require the demolition and reconstruction by the Contractor, or repair to the satisfaction of the Supervisor, under the same conditions of work, in which unacceptable materials have been used, or carried out in the periods of suspension provided for in Article 38.

Article 59: Partial acceptance

- 59.1. The Contracting Authority may make use of the various structures, parts of structures or sections of the works forming part of the contract as and when they are completed. Any taking over of the structures, parts of structures or sections of the works by the Contracting Authority shall be preceded by their partial provisional acceptance. However, works may in cases of urgency be taken over prior to acceptance provided an inventory of outstanding work is drawn up by the Supervisor and agreed to by the Contractor and the Supervisor beforehand. Once the Contracting Authority has taken possession of a structure, a part thereof or section of the works, the Contractor shall no longer be required to make good any damage resulting otherwise than from faulty construction or workmanship.
- 59.2. The Supervisor may, at the request of the Contractor and if the nature of the works so permits, proceed with partial provisional acceptance, provided that the structures, parts of structures or sections of the works are completed and suited to the use as described in the contract.
- 59.3. In the cases of partial provisional acceptance referred to in Article 59.1 and 59.2 the defects liability period provided for in Article 62 shall, unless the Special Conditions provide otherwise, run as from the date of such partial provisional acceptance.

Article 60: Provisional acceptance

- 60.1. The works shall be taken over by the Contracting Authority when they have satisfactorily passed the tests on completion and a certificate of provisional acceptance has been issued or is deemed to have been issued.
- 60.2. The Contractor may apply, by notice to the Supervisor, for a certificate of provisional acceptance not earlier than 15 days before the works, in the Contractor's opinion, are complete and ready for provisional acceptance. The Supervisor shall within 30 days after the receipt of the Contractor's application either:
- (a) 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 works were completed in accordance with the contract and ready for provisional acceptance; or
 - (b) 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.
- 60.3. If the Supervisor fails either to issue the certificate of provisional acceptance or to reject the Contractor's application within the period of 30 days, he shall be deemed to have issued the certificate on the last day of that period. The certificate of provisional acceptance shall not be deemed to be an admission that the works have been completed in every respect. If the works are divided by the contract into sections, the Contractor shall be entitled to apply for separate certificates for each of the sections.
- 60.4. Upon provisional acceptance of the works, the Contractor shall dismantle and remove temporary structures as well as materials no longer required for use in connection with the performance of the contract. He shall also remove any litter or obstruction and redress any change in the condition of the site as required by the contract.

- 60.5. Immediately after provisional acceptance, the Contracting Authority may make use of all the works as completed.

Article 61: Defects liability

- 61.1. The Contractor shall be responsible for making good any defect in, or damage to, any part of the works which may appear or occur during the defects liability period and which arises either from:
- (a) the use of defective plant or materials or faulty workmanship or design of the Contractor; and/or
 - (b) any act or omission of the Contractor during the defects liability period.
- 61.2. The Contractor shall at his own cost make good the defect or damage as soon as practicable. The defects liability period for all items replaced or renewed shall recommence from the date when the replacement or renewal was made to the satisfaction of the Supervisor. If the contract provides for partial acceptance, the defects liability period shall be extended only for the part of the works affected by the replacement or renewal.
- 61.3. If any such defect appears or such damage occurs, during the period referred to in Article 61.1, the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor 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) carry out the works himself, or employ someone else to carry out the works, 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 from guarantees held against the Contractor or from both; or
 - (b) terminate the contract.
- 61.4. If the defect or damage is such that the Contracting Authority has been deprived substantially of the whole or a part of the benefit of the works, the Contracting Authority shall, without prejudice to any other remedy, be entitled to recover all sums paid in respect of the parts of the works concerned together with the cost of dismantling such parts and clearing the site.
- 61.5. In case of emergency, where the Contractor cannot be reached immediately or, having been reached, is unable to take the measures required, the Contracting Authority or the Supervisor may have the work carried out at the expense of the Contractor. The Contracting Authority or the Supervisor shall as soon as practicable inform the Contractor of the action taken.
- 61.6. Where the Special Conditions stipulate that the maintenance work, necessitated by normal wear and tear, shall be carried out by the Contractor, such work shall be paid for from a provisional sum. Deterioration resulting from the circumstances provided for in Article 21 or from abnormal use shall be excluded from this obligation unless it reveals a fault or defect justifying the request for repair or replacement under Article 61.
- 61.7. The defects liability shall be stipulated in the Special Conditions and technical specifications. If the duration of the defects liability period is not specified, it shall be 365 days. The defects liability period shall commence on the date of provisional acceptance.

- 61.8. After provisional acceptance and without prejudice to the defects liability referred to in Article 61, the Contractor shall no longer be responsible for risks which may affect the works and which result from causes not attributable to him. However, the Contractor shall be responsible as from the date of provisional acceptance for the soundness of the construction, as laid down in the law of the state of the Contracting Authority.

Article 62: Final acceptance

- 62.1. Upon the expiry of the defects liability period, or where there is more than one such period, upon the expiry of the latest period, and when all defects or damage have been rectified, the Supervisor shall issue to the Contractor a final acceptance certificate and a copy thereof to the Contracting Authority stating the date on which the Contractor completed his obligations under the contract to the Supervisor's satisfaction. The final acceptance certificate shall be given by the Supervisor within 30 days after the expiration of the above stated period, or as soon as any works ordered under Article 61 have been completed to the satisfaction of the Supervisor.
- 62.2. The works shall not be considered as completed until the final acceptance certificate has been signed by the Supervisor and delivered to the Contracting Authority, with a copy to the Contractor.
- 62.3. Notwithstanding the issue of the final acceptance certificate, the Contractor and the Contracting Authority shall remain liable for the fulfillment of any obligation incurred under the contract prior to the issue of the final acceptance certificate, which remains unperformed at the time such 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 63: Breach of contract

- 63.1. Either party commits a breach of contract where he fails to discharge any of his obligations under the contract.
- 63.2. Where a breach of contract occurs, the party injured by the breach shall be entitled to the following remedies:
- (a) damages; and/or
 - (b) termination of the contract.
- 63.3. Damages may be either:
- (a) general damages; or
 - (b) liquidated damages.
- 63.4. 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 64: Termination by the Contracting Authority

- 64.1. The Contracting Authority may, at any time and with immediate effect, terminate the contract, except as provided for under Article 64.2.

64.2. Except as otherwise provided in these General Conditions, the Contracting Authority may, after giving seven days notice to the Contractor, terminate the contract and expel the Contractor from the site in any of the cases where:

- (a) the Contractor fails to carry out the works substantially in accordance with the provisions of the contract;
- (b) the Contractor fails to comply within a reasonable time with a notice given by the Supervisor requiring him to make good any neglect or failure to perform his obligations under the contract which seriously affects the proper and timely performance of the works;
- (c) the Contractor refuses or neglects to carry out administrative orders given by the Supervisor;
- (d) the Contractor assigns the contract or sub-contracts without the authorization of the Contracting Authority;
- (e) the Contractor becomes bankrupt or insolvent, or has a receiving order made against him, or compounds with his creditors, or carries on business under a receiver, trustee or manager for the benefit of his creditors, or goes into liquidation;
- (f) a judgment which has the force of res judicata is made in respect of an offence relating to the professional conduct of the Contractor;
- (g) any other legal disability hindering performance of the contract occurs;
- (h) any organizational modification occurs involving a change in the legal personality, nature or control of the Contractor, unless such modification is recorded in an endorsement to the contract;
- (i) the Contractor fails to provide the required guarantee or insurance, or if the person providing the earlier guarantee or insurance is not able to abide by his commitments;
- (j) the Contractor has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the Contracting Authority can justify;
- (k) 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;
- (l) the Contractor, following another procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the EU budget/EDF, has been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to perform its contractual obligations;
- (m) 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.

- 64.3. Termination shall be without prejudice to any other rights or powers under the contract of the Contracting Authority and the Contractor. The Contracting Authority may, thereafter, complete the works himself or 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 when the Contracting Authority expels him from the site without prejudice to any liability thereunder that may have already occurred.
- 64.4. The Supervisor shall, upon the issue of the notice of termination of the contract, instruct the Contractor to take immediate steps to bring the works to a close in a prompt and orderly manner and to reduce expenditure to a minimum.
- 64.5. The Supervisor shall, as soon as is possible after termination, certify the value of the works and all sums due to the Contractor as at the date of termination.
- 64.6. In the event of termination:
- (a) a report of work performed by the Contractor shall be drawn up by the Supervisor as soon as possible after inspection of the works, and inventory taken of temporary structures, materials, plant and equipment. The Contractor shall be summoned to be present during the inspection and the taking of the inventory. The Supervisor shall also draw up statements of emoluments still owed by the Contractor to workers employed by him in relation to the contract and of sums owed by the Contractor to the Contracting Authority;
 - (b) the Contracting Authority shall have the option of acquiring in whole or in part temporary structures which have been approved by the Supervisor, plant and materials specifically supplied or manufactured in connection with the execution of work under the contract;
 - (c) the purchase price of the temporary structures, equipment, plant and materials referred to above shall not exceed the unpaid portion of the expenditure incurred by the Contractor, such expenditure being limited to that required for the performance of the contract under normal conditions;
 - (d) the Contracting Authority may purchase, at market prices, the materials and items supplied or ordered by the Contractor and not already paid for by the Contracting Authority on such conditions as the Supervisor considers appropriate.
- 64.7. The Contracting Authority shall not be obliged to make any further payments to the Contractor until the works are completed, whereupon the Contracting Authority shall be entitled to recover from the Contractor the extra costs, if any, of completing the works, or pay any balance due to the Contractor prior to the termination of the contract.
- 64.8. If the Contracting Authority terminates the contract, it shall be entitled, in addition to the extra costs for completion of the works, to recover from the Contractor any loss it has suffered up to 10% of the contract price.
- 64.9. 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 him for work already performed, an indemnity for loss suffered.
- 64.10. This contract shall be automatically terminated if it has given risen to no payment in the three years following its signing.

Article 65: Termination by the Contractor

- 65.1. The Contractor may, after giving 14 days notice to the Contracting Authority, terminate the contract if the Contracting Authority:
- (a) fails to pay the Contractor the amounts due under any certificate issued by the Supervisor after the expiry of the time limit stated in Article 53.2; or
 - (b) consistently fails to meet his obligations after repeated reminders; or
 - (c) suspends the progress of the works or any part thereof for more than 180 days, for reasons not specified in the contract, or not due to the Contractor's default.
- 65.2. Such termination shall be without prejudice to any other rights of the Contracting Authority or the Contractor under the contract. Upon such termination, the Contractor shall, subject to the law of the State of the Contracting Authority, be entitled to immediately remove his equipment from the site.
- 65.3. In the event of such termination, the Contracting Authority shall pay the Contractor for any loss or damage the Contractor may have suffered. The maximum amount shall be 10% of the contract price.

Article 66: Force majeure

- 66.1. Neither party shall be considered to be in default or in breach of his obligations under the contract if the performance of such obligations is prevented by any circumstances of *force majeure* which arises after the date of notification of award or the date when the contract becomes effective.
- 66.2. The term *force majeure*, as used herein shall mean 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, not within the control of either party and which by the exercise of due diligence neither party is able to overcome.
- 66.3. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 36 and 64, 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 performance or other failure to perform his obligations under the contract is the result of an event of *force majeure*. The Contracting Authority shall similarly not be liable, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 53 and 65, to payment of interest on delayed payments, for non-performance 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*.
- 66.4. If either party considers that any circumstances of *force majeure* have occurred which may affect performance of his obligations, he shall promptly notify the other party and the Supervisor, giving details of the nature, the probable duration and the likely effect of the circumstances. Unless otherwise directed by the Supervisor in writing, the Contractor shall continue to perform his obligations under the contract as far as is reasonably practicable, and shall seek all reasonable alternative means for performance of his obligations which are not prevented by the *force majeure* event. The Contractor shall not put into effect such alternative means unless directed so to do by the Supervisor.

- 66.5. If the Contractor incurs additional costs in complying with the Supervisor's directions or using alternative means under Article 66.4, the amount thereof shall be certified by the Supervisor.
- 66.6. 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 works that the Contractor may be reason thereof have been granted, either party shall be entitled to serve upon the other 30 days' notice to terminate the contract. If, at the expiry of the period of 30 days, *force majeure* still continues, the contract shall terminate and, in consequence thereof under the law governing the contract, the parties shall be released from further performance of the contract.

Article 67: Decease

- 67.1. 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.
- 67.2. Where the Contractor consists of natural persons and one or more of them die, a report shall be agreed between the parties on the progress of the works 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.
- 67.3. In the cases provided for in Article 67.1 and 67.2, persons offering to continue to perform the contract shall notify the Contracting Authority thereof within 15 days of the date of decease.
- 67.4. Such persons shall be jointly and severally liable, or as otherwise stated in the Special Conditions, for the proper performance of the contract to the same extent as the deceased Contractor. Continuation of the contract shall be subject to the rules relating to establishment of the guarantee provided for in Article 15.

SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Article 68: Settlement of disputes

- 68.1. The Parties shall make every effort to settle amicably disputes relating to the contract which may arise between them, or between the Supervisor and the Contractor.
- 68.2. 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 notification requesting such a procedure. Should a Party not agree to the other Party's request for an 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.

- 68.3. 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 this request for 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.
- 68.4. If the 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 the Special Conditions.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 69: Ethics clauses

- 69.1. 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.
- 69.2. 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.
- 69.3. 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.
- 69.4. When putting forward a candidacy or tender, the candidate or tenderer shall declare that it is affected by no 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.
- 69.5. 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.
- 69.6. 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.
- 69.7. 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.
- 69.8. 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.

- 69.9. 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.
- 69.10. 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.
- 69.11. 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.
- 69.12. 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.
- 69.13. 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 70: Administrative and financial penalties

- 70.1. 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 budget/EDF 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.
- 70.2. If the Contractor is found to have seriously failed to meet its contractual obligations, other than foreseen in Article 36, it shall be subject to financial penalties representing 2-10% of the total value of the contract in question. That rate may be increased to 4-20% in the event of a repeat offence within five years of the first infringement.
- 70.3. 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 71: Checks and audits by European Union bodies

- 71.1. 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 tasks 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.
- 71.2. 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.
- 71.3. 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.
- 71.4. 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/EDF funds.

* * *