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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 22.11.2013**

**on the socio-economic development and civil society support programme in Egypt under the SPRING programme, to be financed from the general budget of the European Union**

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**on the socio-economic development and civil society support programme in Egypt under the SPRING programme, to be financed from the general budget of the European Union**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Regulation (EC) n°1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter referred to as 'the Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

- (1) The Joint Communication of the European Commission and of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy "A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean"<sup>3</sup> set the following priorities: (a) democratic transformation and institution-building, (b) partnership with the people (c) sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development.
- (2) The Commission has adopted Financing Decision C(2011)6828 of 26 September 2011 for the SPRING scheme ("Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth") in favour of the southern Neighbourhood region, to be financed under Article 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Union.
- (3) The objectives of the SPRING scheme are to respond to the pressing socio-economic challenges that partner countries of the southern Mediterranean region are facing, and to support them in their transition phase towards democracy. SPRING focuses specifically on support related to democratic transformation and institution-building, and for sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development. It is a multi-country programme with an umbrella approach that provides the flexibility for modulating assistance on the basis of progress by individual countries towards deep and sustainable democracy and inclusive socio-economic development, applying the "more-for-more" principle.
- (4) The proposed Action is in line with the SPRING objectives and the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 21 August 2013. It aims at improving the socio-economic conditions of the most vulnerable groups, in particular children affected by child labour, women-headed households and the poorest segments of the population located in upper rural Egypt and in the Greater Cairo Region. It will also aim at strengthening

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1-14.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2011)200 of 8 March 2011.

the capacity of the civil society to support socio-economic development in rural and marginalized communities.

- (5) The present Decision elaborates on the contribution of SPRING to the specific socio-economic development and civil society support programme and its implementation modality, since the financing of the overall SPRING programme has been decided by Financing Decision C(2011)6828 adopted on 26 September 2011 for a total amount EUR 350 million, of which EUR 65 million allocated for 2011 and EUR 285 million for 2012. This Financing Decision was topped up with an additional amount of EUR 40 million in 2012.
- (6) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union<sup>4</sup> (hereinafter referred to as 'the Rules of Application').
- (7) The Commission may entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect centralised management (indirect management with a Member State or EU agency) to the entities identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. The responsible authorising officer has accordingly ensured that these entities comply with the conditions of Article 56(1) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities<sup>5</sup> (hereinafter referred to as 'the Financial Regulation 1605/2002') and of Article 35 of its Implementing Rules<sup>6</sup>.
- (8) The Commission may entrust budget-implementation tasks under joint management (indirect management with an international organisation) to the entities identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a contribution agreement. The responsible authorising officer has ensured that these entities comply with the conditions of Article 53d of the Financial Regulation 1605/2002 and of Articles 35 and 43 of its Implementing Rules.
- (9) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall in the categories of measures for which the opinion of the ENPI Committee is required. Member States and the European Parliament will be informed of this decision within one month of its adoption, as per Article 13(4) of the basic act.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

### *Article 1*

#### **Adoption of the programme**

The socio-economic development and civil society support programme in Egypt, constituted by the action identified in the second paragraph, is approved.

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<sup>4</sup> OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p.1.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1. These provisions remain applicable until 31 December 2013 according to Article 212 of the Financial Regulation.

<sup>6</sup> Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities. OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1. These provisions remain applicable until 31 December 2013 according to Article 212 of the Financial Regulation.

The action, the description of which is set out in the attached Annex shall be:

- Socio-economic development and civil society support programme in Egypt.

*Article 2*

**Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union to this measure is set at EUR 90 million to be financed from the SPRING programme allocation for 2012 adopted by Commission Decision C(2011)6828 of 26 September 2011 and topped up with an additional amount of EUR 40 million in 2012.

*Article 3*

**Implementation modalities**

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect centralised and joint management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the attached Annex, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

Section 4 of the Annex referred to in the second paragraph of Article 1 sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of the Rules of Application.

Done at Brussels, 22.11.2013

*For the Commission*

*Štefan FÜLE*

*Member of the Commission*