



Brussels, 1.9.2015
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 1.9.2015

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries to be
financed from the general budget of the European Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU)232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument¹,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action², and in particular Article 2(1) and 3(3) 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 1605/2002³, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the ENI Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multinannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)⁴ which set the following priorities: (i) building a partnership for liberty, democracy and security; (ii) building a partnership for inclusive and sustainable economic development; (iii) building a partnership with the people; (iv) support to regional and subregional institutional cooperation.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme, including a Support Measure, to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument are to: reinforce Human rights, rule of law and democracy in southern Mediterranean countries; develop a Euro-Mediterranean area of effective coordination and cooperation on justice, security and migration-related matters; foster policy dialogue and the exchanges of best practices on topics relevant for Euro-Mediterranean policy dialogue; establish an adequate regulatory framework for all transport modes; address common environmental challenges; promote understanding, mutual respect and intercultural dialogue between the peoples of the Euro-Mediterranean; continue developing a Common Knowledge and Innovation Space between EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries; support the functioning of the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean and finally, ensure a swift preparation of actions and projects.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument, OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 27.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

⁴ C(2014) 5242 of 30.07.2014.

- (3) The first action entitled “Community Resilience Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection Programme in the North of Africa” will specifically contribute to enhance self-resilience of communities hosting refugees in the targeted areas; to facilitate voluntary return and reintegration of refugees, IDPs and migrants in their communities of origin; to foresee alternative solutions for those refugees who do not want to or cannot return.
- (4) The second action entitled “Enhancing Investment, Innovation and Growth in South Neighbourhood” will support countries in the region in implementing inclusive policies and initiatives that will improve economic governance, innovation and the business climate. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (procurement).
- (5) The third action entitled “Support to the Regional Transport Action Plan (Maritime and Rail)” will provide technical assistance and capacity building to the competent relevant authorities of the partner countries in key transport sectors (including maritime, rail and multimodal), in order to align their national standards and practices with those of the European Union with the aim of promoting a harmonised approach as regards transport safety, security and environmental protection.
- (6) The fourth action entitled “Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015” aims at strengthening the action of civil society to promote and strive for reforms, rule of law and democracy, and considers civil society organisations not as a mere service provider but as real actors of political and democratisation processes. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (procurement and grants awarded through a call for proposals).
- (7) The fifth action entitled “EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2015” aims at supporting and promoting the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict through the positive engagement of civil society and citizens. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (procurement and grant directly awarded).
- (8) The sixth action entitled “MedFilm Regional Programme” aims at contributing to cultural diversity and development, especially human development by promoting equality, namely gender equality, in the southern Mediterranean region through a support to the film industry. More specifically, it will open the space for the less heard voices of society, such as women and youth; fight stereotypes through fostering the exchange of films across the Mediterranean; and promote freedom of expression by allowing film makers to tackle sensitive issues on a regional level – thus combatting traditional or new forms of censorship. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (procurement and grants awarded through a call for proposals).
- (9) The seventh action entitled “EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2016” aims to support the UfM Secretariat in executing its mandate through an operating grant (direct management) with co-funding from the members of the UfM.
- (10) The eighth action entitled “Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2015-2016-2017” is a Support Measure. It aims at ensuring a swift preparation of actions and projects, while enabling the European Commission to act with flexibility by means of an instrument which is capable of adapting itself to evolving circumstances and/or dealing with unforeseen situations. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (procurement and grants through calls for proposals).

- (11) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (12) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the annexes 2 (section 5.3.1) and 3 (section 5.3.1).
- (13) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (14) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (15) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (16) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by Article 15 of the ENI Regulation,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the ENI South countries, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Community Resilience Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection Programme in the North of Africa;
- Annex 2: Enhancing Investment, Innovation and Growth in South Neighbourhood;
- Annex 3: Support to the Regional Transport Action Plan (Maritime and Rail);
- Annex 4: Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2015;
- Annex 5: EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2015;
- Annex 6: MedFilm Regional Programme;
- Annex 7: EU support to the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean in 2016;
- Annex 8: Southern Neighbourhood global allocation for 2015-2017.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the Annual Action Programme 2015 is set at EUR 73,71 million (including EUR 35 million for a Support

Measure) to be financed from the following budget lines of the general budget of the European Union:

- budget line 21.03.01.01 for an amount of:
 - EUR 4 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2015;
 - EUR 3.5 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2016;
- budget line 21.03.01.02 for an amount of:
 - EUR 17 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2015;
 - EUR 5 million from the budget of the European Union for 2016;
- budget line 21.03.01.03 for an amount of:
 - EUR 5 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2015;
- budget line 21.03.03.03 for an amount of:
 - EUR 14.21 million from the budget of the European Union for 2015;
 - EUR 12 million from the budget of the European Union for 2016;
 - EUR 13 million from the budget of the European Union for 2017.

The financial contribution provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations following the adoption of the general budget of the European Union of 2016 and 2017 or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section “Implementation” of the Annexes to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2 (except the contribution for a Support Measure), or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions (except the allocation for a Support Measure) not exceeding 20 % of that contribution as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20 % of the contribution for a Support Measure set by first paragraph of Article 2, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 1.9.2015

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission