



Brussels, 30.6.2015
C(2015) 4603 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.6.2015

on the Individual Measure 2015 in favour of the European Neighbourhood region for the Support to the European Endowment for Democracy for the period 2015 - 2018, 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) 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 action¹, and in particular Article 2(1) 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 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the ENI Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multi-annual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)³, which provide for the following priority: Objective 3 : Building a partnership with the people. The Commission has also adopted the ENI Regional East Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multi-annual Indicative Programme (2014-2017) which provide for the following priority: Objective 3: Enhance civil society's role as a vector for reform.⁴
- (2) The objectives pursued by the measure to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁵ are to contribute to the democratisation and to the social and economic development of partner countries by supporting pro-democratic activists. The Commission aims to enable this support by providing funding for the functioning of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED).
- (3) The measure aims at providing funding for the functioning of the EED. The action will be implemented under direct management through a grant contract.
- (4) 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 1268/2012⁶.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2014) 5242 of 30.7.2014.

⁴ C(2014) 5200 of 28.7.2014.

⁵ 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, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

⁶ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

- (5) In the case of recurrent actions, the Commission may adopt multiannual action programmes for a period of up to three years on the basis of Article 6(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.
- (6) 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 Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the Annex, section 5.3.
- (7) 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 Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (8) 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 Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of 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.
- (10) The measure provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in Recital 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Individual Measure 2015 on the Support to the European Endowment for Democracy for the period 2015 – 2018, as set out in the Annex, is approved.

The measure shall include the following action:

- Annex : Action Document for the Support to the European Endowment for Democracy for the period 2015 – 2018

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 12 million and shall be financed for an amount of:

- EUR 2 million from budget line 21.03.01.01 and EUR 2 million from budget line 21.03.02.01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015,
- EUR 2 million from budget line 21.03.01.01 and EUR 2 million from budget line 21.03.02.01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2016,
- EUR 2 million from budget line 21.03.01.01 and EUR 2 million from budget line 21.03.02.01 of the general 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 provided for in the draft budget for 2016 and 2017 after the adoption of the budget for those financial years or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section “Implementation” of the Annex to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of 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 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 set by the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, 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 use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

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

Done at Brussels, 30.6.2015

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission