



Brussels, 5.11.2019
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 5.11.2019

**on the annual action programme in favour of ENI East and South countries for a
Regional Communication Programme Phase III to be financed from the 2019 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, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

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) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the EU Neighbourhood Communication Programme (Regional Communication Programme phase III) it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme for 2019. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) East Regional Strategy Paper⁴ for the period 2014-2020 and the Multiannual Indicative Programme⁵ for the period 2017-2020, which provide for the following priorities: (1) economic development and market opportunities; (2) strengthening institutions and good governance; (3) connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change; (4) mobility and people-to-people contacts.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the ENI Regional South Strategy Paper⁶ for the period 2014-2020 and Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2017-2020, which

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

⁴ Decision C(2014)5200 of 28.7.2014.

⁵ Decision C(2017)5408 of 4.8.2017.

⁶ <http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/enp/pdf/financing-the->

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 sub-regional institutional co-operation.

- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁷ are to contribute to increasing understanding and awareness of the EU and its policies, and improve public perceptions in the EU's Neighbourhood partner countries in the framework of the revised European Neighbourhood Policy.
- (6) The action entitled 'EU Neighbourhood Communication Programme (Regional Communication Programme Phase III)' aims to improve understanding of the EU and its cooperation actions, with special emphasis on facts about the impact of the EU's work and human-interest stories; to stimulate a positive public debate about the EU, in particular by building a strong network of young multipliers and by working with the local media with a view to maximise outreach to the general public; to contribute to addressing issues related to disinformation, including by raising awareness of disinformation across the region
- (7) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (8) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (9) The action provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 5.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The programme

The Annual Action Programme in favour of ENI East and South countries for a Regional Communication Programme Phase III, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following action:

- EU Neighbourhood Communication Programme (Regional Communication Programme Phase III).

enp/regional_south_strategy_paper_2014_2020_and_multiannual_indicative_programme_2014_2017_en.pdf.

⁷ 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).

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme is set at EUR 17 million, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

(1) 22.040304: EUR 17 million.

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

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 5.11.2019

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission