



Brussels, 29.7.2008
C(2008) 3956 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 29.7.2008

**approving the Annual Action Programme 2008 in favour of Syria to be financed under
Article 19 08 01 of the general budget of the European Communities**

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THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Regulation (EC) n°1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provision establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)¹, and in particular Article 12 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities², in particular Article 56 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Country Strategy Paper for Syria and the Multi-annual Indicative Programme for the period 2007-2010³, point 3 of which mentions support to economic reform and point 5 of which mentions support for social reform.
- (2) The main objectives pursued by the 2008 Annual Action Programme are the development of efficient, transparent and accountable budget management systems and institutions in Syria as well as to reform and upgrade Syria's secondary education, in response to the needs of the Syrian economy.
- (3) This decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N°1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities and of Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2432/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁴.
- (4) It is appropriate to define the term "substantial change" in the meaning of Article 90 (4) Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 for the application of this decision.
- (5) The measures provided for in this decision are in accordance with the opinion of the ENPI Committee set up under Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006,

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1.

² Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1605/2002 (OJ L 248, 16.09.2002) as last amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006) and by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p.9.).

³ C(2007)672

⁴ Commission Regulation (EC Euratom) N° 2342/2002 (OJ L 357, 31.12.2002) as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC Euratom) N° 478/2007 du 23/04/2007 (OJ L 111, 28.04.2007).

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The actions "Public Finance Reform Programme" and "Support to Secondary Education Reform", which constitute the Annual Action Programme in favour of the Arab Republic of Syria, the text of which is set out in the Annex, are approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the Community is set at EUR 20 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Communities for 2008.

Article 3

Within the maximum indicative budget of all the specific actions, cumulated changes not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the Community, are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the Annual Action Programme.

The authorising officer may adopt such changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels, 29.7.2008

For the Commission
Benita FERRERO-WALDNER
Member of the Commission