



Brussels, 23.5.2017
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 23.5.2017

**on the support measure on monitoring, evaluation, audit and communication of the
Facility for Refugees in Turkey**

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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) 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 1605/2002¹, and in particular Article 84(2) 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 3(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)³ lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (2) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014⁴ and in particular Articles 20, 21, 24 and 25 lay down the rules for the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) relating to its monitoring, evaluation, transparency and visibility.
- (3) The Union and Turkey are committed to tackling the migration challenges in a concerted manner. In the EU-Turkey statement of 29 November 2015, the Union declared that it decided to increase its political and financial engagement to support Turkey in hosting more than 2.7 million refugees. In response, the Commission has established the Facility for Refugees in Turkey ('the Facility')⁵. The overall objective of the Facility is to coordinate and streamline actions financed from the Union's budget and bilateral contributions from Member States in order to enhance the efficiency and complementarity of support provided to refugees and host communities in Turkey. The Facility was established as of 1 January 2016 to coordinate the financial contributions under the budgetary years 2016 and 2017.

¹ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

² OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

³ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 11).

⁴ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 of 2 May 2014 on the specific rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 132, 3.5.2014, p. 32).

⁵ Commission Decision C(2015)9500 final of 24 November 2015 on the coordination of the actions of the Union and of the Member States through a coordination mechanism — the Refugee Facility for Turkey (2015/C 407/07)(OJ C 407, 8.12.2015, p. 8).

- (4) Funding mobilised under the Facility includes Union humanitarian assistance⁶, the IPA II and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace⁷
- (5) The Commission decision establishing the Facility also foresees Steering Committee in accordance with its Article 5. At the 4th Steering Committee of the Facility in October 2016, Member States agreed that activities financed under the Facility should benefit from timely and quality monitoring, evaluation, audit and communication. The urgency for a comprehensive communication strategy for the Facility was also agreed upon during this Steering Committee in order to provide feedback concerning the results and progress on the implementation to the relevant parties as well as to the European public.
- (6) 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 1268/2012⁸.
- (7) It is necessary to allow for 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.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, any substantial change to a financing decision that has already been adopted should follow the same procedure as the initial decision. It is therefore appropriate that the Commission defines the changes to this Decision that are considered non-substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (9) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA II Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The support measure on the monitoring, evaluation, audit and communication of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance established by Regulation (EU) No 231/2014, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the support measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 14 300 000 and shall be financed from budget line 22.020302 of the general budget of the Union for 2017.

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

⁶ Council Regulation (EC) No 1257 concerning humanitarian aid (HUMA), OJ L163, 2.7.1996, p. 1.

⁷ Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 1.

⁸ 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 (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

Article 3

Methods of implementation

The support measure referred to in Article 1 shall be implemented by direct management.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

The following changes 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:

- (a) increases or decreases not exceeding 20 % of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 and which do not cause the total contribution to exceed EUR 10 million;
- (b) cumulated reassignments of funds between specific actions not exceeding 20 % of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2;
- (c) extensions of the implementation and closure period;
- (d) within the limits of 20 % referred to in points (a) and (b), up to 5 % of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2 may serve to finance actions which were not provided for at the time of adoption of this decision, provided that those actions are necessary to implement the objectives and the results set out in the measure.

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

Done at Brussels, 23.5.2017

For the Commission

Johannes HAHN

Member of the Commission