



Brussels, 10.12.2012
C(2012) 9270 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 10.12.2012

**on special measures in favour of the Republic of Lebanon under the SPRING
programme to be financed from the general budget of the European Union**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 10.12.2012

on special measures in favour of the Republic of Lebanon under the SPRING programme to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to the Regulation (EC) n°1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)¹, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) As a strategic response to the unforeseen events of the Arab Spring, the Joint Communication of the European Commission and of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy "A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean"² set the following priorities: (a) democratic transformation and institution-building, (b) partnership with the people (c) sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development.
- (2) The Commission has adopted Financing Decision C(2011)6828 of 26 September 2011 for the SPRING scheme ("Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth") in favour of the southern Neighbourhood region, to be financed under Article 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Union.
- (3) The objectives of the SPRING scheme are to respond to the pressing socio-economic challenges that partner countries of the southern Mediterranean region are facing, and to support them in their transition phase towards democracy. SPRING focuses specifically on support related to democratic transformation and institution-building, and for sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development. It is a multi-country programme with an umbrella approach that provides the flexibility for modulating assistance on the basis of progress by individual countries towards deep and sustainable democracy and inclusive socio-economic development, applying the "more-for-more" principle.
- (4) The special measure 2012 in favour of the Republic of Lebanon under the SPRING programme is in line with these objectives and with the Strategy Paper for Lebanon and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2011-2013.

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1-14.

² COM(2011)200 of 08.03.2011.

- (5) The objectives pursued by the special measure 2012 in favour of the Republic of Lebanon under the SPRING programme are to reinforce the protection of human rights and democracy by supporting the civil society and the public administration in their efforts to improve the human rights record in Lebanon and to serve as effective vectors of democratic and socio- economic reforms.
- (6) The present Decision elaborates on the contribution of SPRING to the specific actions "Improving living conditions in Palestinian camps in Lebanon", "Support to electoral reform and democratic participation" and "Reinforcing human rights and democracy" and their implementation modalities, since the financing of the overall SPRING programme has been decided by Financing Decision C(2011)6828 adopted on 26 September 2011 for a total amount EUR 350 million, of which EUR 65 million allocated for 2011 and EUR 285 million for 2012.
- (7) The measures provided for in this Decision do not fall in the categories of measures for which the the opinion of the ENPI Committee established by Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 is required. Member States and the European Parliament will be informed of this Decision within one month of its adoption, as per article 13, paragraph 4, of that regulation.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The special measures in favour of the Republic of Lebanon under the SPRING programme, constituted by the actions "Improving living conditions in Palestinian camps in Lebanon", "Support to electoral reform and democratic participation" and "Reinforcing human rights and democracy", the text of which is set out in the attached Annexes, are approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the European Union to these measures is set at EUR 22 million to be financed from the SPRING programme allocation for 2012 adopted by Commission Decision C(2011)6828 of 26 September 2011.

Done at Brussels, 10.12.2012

For the Commission
Štefan FÜLE
Member of the Commission

ANNEXES

Annex 1: "Improving living conditions in Palestinian camps in Lebanon"

Annex 2: "Support to electoral reform and democratic participation"

Annex 3: "Reinforcing human rights and democracy"