



Brussels, 31.5.2011
C(2011) 3674 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 31.5.2011

**on the Special Measure: Open Europe Scholarship Scheme in favour of Belarus to be
financed under Article 19 08 01 03 of 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 (EC) No 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) The Council Conclusions of 31 January 2011 following the post electoral crisis in Belarus reiterates the European Union commitment to strengthening its engagement with the Belarusian people and civil society, targeting in particular non-governmental organisations and students.
- (2) The objective pursued by this special measure, as set out in the attached Annex, is to contribute to a democratic and prosperous development in Belarus by giving young Belarusians access to higher education without ideological bias and according to internationally accepted academic standards.
- (3) The present Decision constitutes a Financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget² (hereafter 'the Financial Regulation') and Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget³ (hereafter 'the Implementing Rules').
- (4) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by the present Decision should cover any possible claims for interest due for late payment on the basis of articles 83 of the Financial Regulation and 106(5) of its Implementing Rules.
- (5) The Commission is required to define the term "substantial change" in the meaning of Article 90 (4) of the Implementing Rules to ensure that any substantial change in this Decision shall follow the same procedure as the initial Decision.

¹ OJEU L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1

² OJ L 248 of 16.09.2002 p. 1.

³ OJ L 357 of 31.12 2002, p.1.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Special Measure for Belarus: Open Europe Scholarship Scheme, the text of which is set out in the attached Annex, is approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the European Union to this Special Measure is set at EUR 4 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 03 of the general budget of the European Union for 2011.

This maximum contribution shall also cover any possible interests due for late payment.

Article 3

Cumulated changes of the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the European Union shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the special measure. This may include an increase of the maximum contribution of the European Union up to 20%.

The relevant authorising officer may amend the present Decision to introduce non substantial changes to the special measure in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels, 31.5.2011

For the Commission
Štefan Füle
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Special Measure for Belarus: Open Europe Scholarship Scheme