



Brussels, 18.3.2013
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 18.3.2013

**on the 2013 Special Measures in favour of Belarus to be financed from 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 these special measures, as set out in the attached Annexes, is to contribute to a democratic and prosperous development in Belarus by supporting civil society, students and people-to-people contacts as a way to reach out to the Belarusian public at large and strengthen the awareness of Belarusian citizens with regard to European societies and values.
- (3) The present Decision constitutes a Financing Decision within the meaning of Article 84 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget² and Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the Rules of Application of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council³.
- (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 92 of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council) and 111 of its Rules of Application (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012).
- (5) The Commission is required to define the term “substantial change” in the meaning of Article 94(4) of the Rules of Application (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012) to ensure that any substantial change in this Decision shall follow the same procedure as the initial Decision.
- (6) The Commission has ensured that the management system set up by the entity to which the Commission will entrust implementation of EU funds for the actions set out in Annex 2 and Annex 3 complies with the conditions for the delegation of tasks under

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1

² OJ L 298 of 26.10.2012 p. 1.

³ OJ L 362 of 31.12.2012, p.1.

joint management, as provided for in Article 53d of the Council Regulation (EC Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget and Article 43 of its Implementing Rules - 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 budget .

- (7) 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.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The 2013 Special Measures for Belarus, the text of which is set out in the attached Annexes, is approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the European Union to these Special Measures is set at EUR 12.2 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 03 of the general budget of the European Union for 2013.

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

Article 3

The management system set up by the entity to which the Commission will entrust implementation of EU funds for the actions set out in Annex 2 and in Annex 3 complies with the conditions for the delegation of tasks under joint management. The financial implementation of tasks related to these actions can thus be entrusted to this entity.

Article 4

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 Measures. 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 Measures in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels, 18.3.2013

For the Commission
Štefan FÜLE
Member of the Commission

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Special Measure: Support to Civil Society in Belarus

Annex 2: Special Measure: Contribution to the European Humanities University Trust Fund

Annex 3: Special Measure: Open Europe Scholarship Scheme – Phase II

Annex 4: Special Measure: Support to the European Dialogue on Modernisation in Belarus