



Brussels, 10.12.2015
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 10.12.2015

**on the special measure 2015 in favour of Israel 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 (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 action¹ and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

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 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The EU and Israel agreed on an Action Plan in April 2005 with the purpose of building a strong partnership and gradually integrating Israel into European policies and programmes. In the absence of a multi-annual programming document this action is proposed as a special measure on the basis of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.
- (2) The objective pursued by this special measure, to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument³, is to develop a closer relationship between the EU and Israel, aiming at achieving a significant level of economic integration and deepening political co-operation.
- (3) The institutional twinning projects to be financed under this measure will promote legislative approximation (including with regard to participation in European Union programmes) and strengthen the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political and administrative levels.
- (4) 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 1268/2012⁴.
- (5) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27.

⁴ 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).

- (6) It is necessary to allow 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.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (8) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall in the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The European Parliament and the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by Article 15 of the financing instrument established by Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The special measure 2015 in favour of Israel, "as set out in the attached Annex, is approved.

The measure shall include the following action:

- Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 2 million and shall be financed from budget line 21 03 01 02 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015.

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

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section "Implementation" of the annex to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20% of the contribution set by the first paragraph of Article 2 while not bringing that contribution above EUR 10 million, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period 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.

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

Article 5

This Decision will be implemented in conformity with the European Union's position that the territories which came under Israeli administration in June 1967 are not part of the territory of the State of Israel.

Done at Brussels, 10.12.2015

For the Commission

Johannes HAHN

Member of the Commission