



Brussels, 23.4.2015
C(2015) 2565 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 23.4.2015

**on the 2015 special measure in favour of the European Neighbourhood South countries
to be financed from the general budget of the European Union**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 23.4.2015

on the 2015 special measure in favour of the European Neighbourhood South countries 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 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 Council conclusions on counter-terrorism of the Foreign Affairs Council in Brussels, 9 February 2015³, call for accelerated implementation of the EU strategy on Syria/Iraq: Counter-Terrorism/ Foreign Fighters adopted on 20 October 2014. The conclusions recommend launching further projects of cooperation with key partners on counter-terrorism, including helping address the foreign fighter threat and address the radicalisation, through our external aid instruments. They also recommend continuing supporting cooperation with the UN on counter-terrorism capacity-building initiatives in the MENA region.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the special measure to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument set up by Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ are to counter radicalisation in the Sahel-Maghreb region and Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) and the Balkans.
- (3) The action entitled “Countering radicalisation and Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF)”⁵ is twofold. The FTF part aims to strengthen the framework of legal rules against Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Middle East, North Africa and the Balkans. This part should be implemented in indirect management by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Terrorism Prevention Branch in cooperation with the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IJ) in Malta and the United

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/02/150209-council-conclusions-counter-terrorism/>.

⁴ 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).

⁵ Annex of this Commission implementing Decision.

Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED). Turkey, Iraq, the Union and EU Member States will be associated with regard to regional activities. The League of Arab States, and its members, will also be associated at regional level. The part on countering radicalisation aims to launch, implement and evaluate innovative Countering Radicalisation and Violent Extremism (CRVE) projects in some countries of the Sahel-Maghreb region and disseminate lessons learned and best practices. Implementation through civil society and non-state actors should be the main focus and the project should promote south-south cooperation in order to benefit from the in-depth experience gained in some of the countries. This part should be implemented in indirect management by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) in cooperation with Hedayah and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) working groups.

- (4) In order to ensure implementation of the special measure, 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 1268/2012⁶.
- (5) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that those entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. UNODC and UNICRI are currently undergoing the assessment under Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of the review, the authorising officer responsible should deem that, based on the entities' positive assessment under Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁷ and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with them, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to those entities.
- (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) Changes to this Decision which are not substantial should be defined in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (8) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee is required⁸. The European Parliament and the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in Recital 2 should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption,

⁶ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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).

⁷ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1).

⁸ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95. Article 2 (3b).

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The 2015 special measure in favour of the European Neighbourhood South countries, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the action on countering radicalisation and Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF).

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 shall be EUR 10 million and shall be financed from budget line 21 03 01 03 of the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2015.

That maximum contribution may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the Annex, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

Section 5 on “Implementation” of the Annex sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set by the first paragraph of Article 2, 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, where they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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

Done at Brussels, 23.4.2015

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission