



Brussels, 29.11.2017
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 29.11.2017

adopting an Annual Action Programme for Turkey under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) for the year 2017

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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 of 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 1605/2012² and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014³ lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (2) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 the assistance should be implemented through annual or multi-annual, country-specific or multi-country programmes. These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the framework for assistance referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 and the relevant country or multi-country indicative strategy papers referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.
- (3) The Council established an Accession Partnership or a European Partnership for all beneficiaries listed in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014. The Commission adopted an Indicative Strategy Paper for Turkey for 2014 - 2020 on 26 August 2014⁴ which provides indicative allocations for the sectors for pre-accession assistance.
- (4) Considering the proposals for action submitted by the beneficiaries concerned, the Annual Action Programme for Turkey for the year 2017 aims at co-financing for Turkish participation into Union Programmes and Agencies and at providing assistance for actions in the the sub-sector Fundamental Rights.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1

³ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p.11).

⁴ The Indicative Strategy Paper for Turkey for 2014 – 2020 is publicly available: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/pdf/key_documents/2014/20140919-csp-turkey.pdf

- (5) 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 1268/2012⁵.
- (6) The Commission should be able to entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the IPA II beneficiary specified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a Financing Agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and first subparagraph of Article 14(3) of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014⁶ the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that the entrusted entity guarantees a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, when the Commission manages Union funds.
- (7) The entrusted entity is currently undergoing a complementary assessment of its systems and procedures. In anticipation of the results of this review, the authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the entity's positive assessment under Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁷ and Commission Regulation (EC) No 718/2007⁸ and the entity's present compliance with the requirements of points (a) to (d) of Article 60 (2) of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, budget implementation tasks can be entrusted to this entity. In accordance with Article 60(1)(c) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that measures are taken to supervise and support the implementation of the entrusted tasks. A description of these measures and the entrusted tasks are laid down in the Annex to this Decision.
- (8) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) The Action Programme provided for by this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA II Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the programme

The Annual Action Programme for Turkey under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) for the year 2017 as set out in the Annex, is hereby approved.

⁵ 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 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 of 2 May 2014 on the specific rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 132, 3.5.2014, p.32)

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum amount of the European Union contribution for the implementation of the Programme referred to in Article 1 is set at 123 100 000 EUR and shall be financed as follows:

EUR 123 100 000 from the budget line 22.02.03.01 of the general budget of the EU for year 2017.

The financial contribution(s) referred to in the first sub-paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

This programme shall be implemented by *indirect and direct management*.

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

A Financing Agreement shall be concluded between the Commission and the Government of Turkey in conformity with the Framework Agreement which entered into force on 22 June 2015.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

The following changes shall not be considered substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions:

- (a) increases or decreases for not more than 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, and not exceeding EUR 10 million;
- (b) cumulated reassignments of funds between specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2;
- (c) extensions of the implementation and closure period;
- (d) within the limits of 20% referred to in points (a) and (b) above, up to 5% of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this financing decision may serve to finance actions which were not foreseeable at the time the present financing decision was adopted, provided that those actions are necessary to implement the objectives and the results set out in the programme.

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

Done at Brussels, 29.11.2017

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission