



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 20.8.2014  
C(2014) 5750 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 20.8.2014**

**on the European Neighbourhood wide Action Programme 2014 to be financed from the  
general budget of the European Union**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.8.2014

### on the European Neighbourhood wide Action Programme 2014 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 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) No 236/2014 establishing common implementing rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action<sup>1</sup>, 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 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted an *European Neighbourhood – wide measures'* Priorities (2014-2020)<sup>3</sup> and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017) which indicates as priority 1 “Building a partnership for inclusive economic development and integration” that includes support to investment and social and private sector development and makes reference to the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF); and as priority 3 "Targeted capacity building" that includes supporting the approximation of the regulatory framework to EU norms and standards and enhancing public governance systems and makes reference to multi-country programmes such as Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) and Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA) to support approximation and public governance systems. The objectives pursued by the Action Programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument<sup>4</sup> are 1) TAIEX: to provide EU expertise to European Neighbourhood partner countries to achieve their “progressive integration into the Union internal market and enhanced sector and cross-sectoral co-operation including through legislative approximation and regulatory convergence towards Union and other relevant international standards and related institutional building; 2) SIGMA: to support European Neighbourhood partner countries to make significant progress in their public governance reforms by enhancing the capacity of the public administration and transfer of know-how and best-practices to reinforce horizontal systems of public governance through provision of high level European public expertise; 3) NIF: to facilitate additional investments in infrastructure in transport, energy, environment, with a particular focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to support social and private sector development in the European Neighbourhood Partner Countries.

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Decision C(2014) 5196

<sup>4</sup> Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument, OJ L 77/27, 15.3.2014.

- (2) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down in Article 94 of 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<sup>5</sup>.
- (3) The Commission may entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. The responsible authorising officer has accordingly ensured that these entities comply with the conditions of points (a) to (d) of the second subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. Some of the possible entrusted entities are International Organisations (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB), Nordic Investment Bank (NIB), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)) that are currently undergoing the ex ante assessment in accordance with Article 61(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. Other possible entrusted entities are public bodies or bodies governed by private law with a public service mission (Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Italian Società Italiana per le Imprese all'Estero (SIMEST)) will undergo the ex ante assessment in accordance with Article 61(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 related to financial instruments. In both cases and in anticipation of the results of such assessments the responsible authorising officer deems that, based on a preliminary evaluation and on the longstanding and problem free cooperation with these entities, they can be trusted with budget implementation tasks under indirect management.
- (4) The Commission may entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the partner country identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a financing agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the responsible authorising officer has ensured that measures have been taken to supervise and support the implementation of the entrusted tasks to the partner country. A description of these measures and the entrusted tasks are laid down in the Annexes to this Decision.
- (5) 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.
- (6) The Commission is required to define the term "non-substantial change" in the sense of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation, or under his or her responsibility, by sub-delegation (hereinafter referred to as the 'responsible authorising officer').
- (7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by the basic act referred to in Recital 1<sup>6</sup>.

---

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> OJ L 247, 9.9.2006, p. 32.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

**Adoption of the measure**

The following Action Programme, constituted by the actions identified in the second paragraph and attached as annexes, is approved:

The actions constituting this measure are:

- Annex 1: "Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX)";
- Annex 2: "Support for Improvement in Governance and Management (SIGMA)";
- Annex 3: "Contribution to the Neighbourhood Investment Facility (NIF)".

*Article 2*

**Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this Action programme is set at EUR 374.7 million to be financed from budget lines 21.03.01.02 (EUR 259.8 million), 21.03.02.02 (EUR 104.9 million) and 21.03.03.03 (EUR 10 million) of the general budget of the European Union for 2014.

*Article 3*

**Implementation modalities**

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

Section 4 of the Annexes referred to in the second paragraph of Article 1 sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

The financial contribution referred to in Article 2 shall also cover any possible interests due for late payment.

*Article 4*

**Non-substantial changes**

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20 % of that contribution shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions. The responsible authorising officer may adopt these non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 20.8.2014

*For the Commission*  
*Štefan FÜLE*  
*Member of the Commission*