



Brussels, 18.7.2013
C(2013) 4452 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 18.7.2013

on the special measure, support for Partnership, Reform and Inclusive Growth (SPRING) 2013 in favour of the southern Neighbourhood region 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) n°1638/2006 of the 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,

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 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 84 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission adopted the Joint Communication of 25 May 2011³ 'A new response to a changing Neighbourhood' which set the following priorities: (a) democratic transformation and institution building, (b) partnership with people and (c) sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development.
- (2) Similar to SPRING 2011-2012⁴ the objectives pursued by the SPRING 2013 programme are to respond to the pressing socio-economic challenges that partner countries of the southern Mediterranean region are facing and to support them in their transition phase towards democracy. The SPRING 2013 programme will focus specifically on support related to democratic transformation and institution-building, and for sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development. It is a multi-country programme with an umbrella approach that provides the flexibility for modulating assistance on the basis of progress by individual countries towards deep and sustainable democracy and inclusive socio-economic development, applying the "more-for-more" principle.
- (3) 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 Union⁵ (hereinafter referred to as 'the Rules of Application').

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1-14.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1.

³ COM(2011)303.

⁴ C(2011)6828 of 26 September 2011.

⁵ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

- (4) 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 the Financial Regulation and Article 111(4) of the Rules of Application.
- (5) The Commission is required to define the term “non-substantial change” in the meaning of Article 94(4) of the Rules of Application 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’).
- (6) The measure provided for in this Decision is 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

Adoption of the special measure

The special measure in favour of the southern Neighbourhood countries, constituted by the action "Support for Partnership, Reform and Inclusive Growth (SPRING) 2013" the text of which is set out in the attached Annex, is approved.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this special measure is set at EUR 110,000,000 to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2013.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

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

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Cumulated changes of the allocations to the special measure not exceeding 20% of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2, shall not be considered substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the special measure. This may include an increase of this contribution by up to 20%.

The responsible authorising officer may amend this Decision to introduce non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 18.7.2013

For the Commission

Štefan FÜLE

Member of the Commission

ANNEX 1

Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth (SPRING) 2013

Action Fiche