



Brussels, 4.12.2015
C(2015) 8541 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 4.12.2015

**on the 2015 special measure for the Syrian population to be financed from the general
budget of the European Union**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 4.12.2015

on the 2015 special measure for the Syrian population 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) In light of the ongoing repression and restrictive measures taken by the Council of the European Union, the Commission has suspended its cooperation with the Syrian Government since May 2011. Since then, normal programming for Syria has not been possible due to the ongoing conflict but direct support to the affected population in Syria and in the neighbouring countries affected has been maintained under the European Neighbourhood Instrument³ (ENI) through various special measures in complementarity to humanitarian assistance in sectors such as education and early recovery. This will be revised should the situation evolve towards a post-crisis state-building and reconstruction scenario.
- (2) The objective pursued by this measure to be financed under the ENI is to help the Syrian population to cope with the effects of the crisis and prepare for recovery. This special measure is made necessary by the dramatic worsening of the Syrian crisis and its spill-over effects in the region.
- (3) The action entitled “Restoration and stabilisation of livelihoods of affected Syrian populations inside Syria” will contribute to help people in Syria cope with effects of the crisis, support their livelihoods inside Syria and avoid inflating the millions of refugees that have fled to the neighbouring countries. It will be implemented through grants to consortia of Non Governmental Organisations.
- (4) The action entitled “Joint comprehensive EU framework for cross-border operations in Syria from Turkey” will contribute to provide basic services to the Syrian population and to strengthen local governance through the implementation of flexible and short-term delivery projects in Syria with local civil partners, notably in the health sector. It will be implemented by *Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ).

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.

- (5) The action entitled “Strengthening the resilience of Palestine refugees communities in Syria” will contribute to improve the resilience of Palestine refugees in Syria through supporting access to basic services (Education, Health) and to livelihoods opportunities. It will be implemented through UNRWA.
- (6) The Commission has adopted a These actions fall under the joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council “Elements for an EU regional strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the Da'esh threat”.⁴
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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. The work programme is constituted by the Annex 1 (section 5.3).
- (9) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified 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 these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. These entities comply with the conditions of points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and the supervisory and support measures are in place as necessary.
- (10) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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.
- (13) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Commission Decision on the 2015 special measure for the Syrian population, as set out in the annexes, is approved.

⁴ Joint communication of the European Commission and the High Representative to the European Parliament and the Council “Elements for an EU regional strategy for Syria, Iraq, as well as the da’esh threat”. JOIN (2015)2 of 06/02/2015.

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).

The measure shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Restoration and stabilisation of livelihoods of affected Syrian populations inside Syria;
- Annex 2: Joint comprehensive EU framework for cross-border operations in Syria from Turkey ;
- Annex 3: Strengthening the resilience of Palestine refugees communities in Syria.

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 40,000,000 and shall be financed from budget line 21 03 01 03 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

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the attached annexes 2 and 3, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

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

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 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, 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.

Done at Brussels, 4.12.2015

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission