



Brussels, 13.7.2016
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.7.2016

**on the Annual Action Programme 2016 (Part I) in favour of Egypt 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 (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 Commission has adopted the Single Support Framework in favour of Egypt for the period 2014-2016³, point 3 of which provides for the following priorities:
 - Governance, Transparency and Business Environment (including Complementary support in favour of civil society and of EU Agreements);
 - Poverty Alleviation, Local socio-economic development and Social Protection;
 - Quality of life and environment.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2016 (Part 1) in favour of Egypt to be financed under Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument⁴ are to support Egypt's inclusive economic growth and the creation of decent jobs, as well as to encourage and support Egypt's process towards good governance and social justice.
- (3) The action entitled “Advancing Women’s Rights in Egypt” will contribute to support efforts towards abandoning female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and to strengthen women's access to justice and enforcement of laws. It is articulated around two components: 1) Support to the implementation of the National Action Plan for FGM/C abandonment and family empowerment (2015-2020); and 2) Support women’s access to justice and legal empowerment through the expansion of legal aid offices in Family Courts and women support offices in Primary Courts.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2015) 9121 of 17.12.2015.

⁴ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27.

- (4) The action entitled “National Drainage Programme III in the framework of the Joint Integrated Sector Approach in the irrigation sector” will contribute to increasing Egypt's agricultural production by providing adequate drainage infrastructure, and enhancing the capacities of different stakeholders to rehabilitate and extend subsurface drainage network.
- (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) 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 5.3.1).
- (7) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entity 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 this entity guarantees a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. This entity complies 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.
- (8) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the partner country specified 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 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 1 to this Decision.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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,

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).

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2016 (Part I) in favour of Egypt, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Advancing Women’s Rights in Egypt
- Annex 2: National Drainage Programme III in the framework of the Joint Integrated Sector Approach in the irrigation sector

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 50 million and shall be financed from the following budget lines of the general budget of the European Union for 2016:

- budget line 22.04.01.01 for an amount of EUR 10 million, and
- budget line 22.04.01.02 for an amount of EUR 40 million.

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 entity identified in the attached Annexes 1 and 2, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement.

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 use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

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

Done at Brussels, 13.7.2016

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission