



Brussels, 7.10.2015
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 7.10.2015

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 Part II in favour of the Republic of Lebanon 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 establishing common implementing rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for 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 the Republic of Lebanon for the period 2014-2016³, point 3 of which provides for the following priorities: Justice and Security System Reform, reinforcing social cohesion, promoting economic development and protecting vulnerable groups, and promotion of sustainable and transparent management of energy and natural resources.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme part II to be financed under Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁴ are to increase micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) competitiveness and participation in the economy, to contribute to the modernisation, stabilisation and good governance of public administration as well as to promote increased engagement of civil society organisations both at policy and local development levels.
- (3) The action entitled “Supporting the private sector development in Lebanon” programme’s aim is to provide integrated non-financial and financial intermediation services to groups of MSMEs in the agribusiness and wood processing sectors through establishment, management and operation of market-oriented value chains and clusters with special focus on enhancement of productivity and competitiveness.
- (4) The action entitled “Technical Assistance for the Government of Lebanon” programme’s aim is to improve good governance and strengthen the capacities for administrative and institutional reform, and to contribute to achieving the objectives of the EU-Lebanon Partnership and Cooperation Action Plan 2013-2015.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2014) 5132, 24.7.2014.

⁴ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27.

- (5) The action entitled “Civil Society Support to Reform and Local Development in Lebanon” programme aims at enhancing the participation of civil society in the policy dialogue/policy making process and at improving public accountability as well as increasing civil society organisations engagement in local development process to address basic needs of vulnerable population.
- (6) 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 1268/2012 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.
- (7) 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. France Expertise 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) 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 3 (section 5.3.1) of this Decision.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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 Annual Action Programme 2015 part II in favour of the Republic of Lebanon, as set out in the Annexes, is approved:

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: “Supporting the private sector development in Lebanon”
- Annex 2: “Technical Assistance for the Government of Lebanon”
- Annex 3: “Civil Society Support to Reform and Local Development in Lebanon”

⁵ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 25 million and shall be financed from budget lines 21.030101 (EUR 5 million) and 21.030102 (EUR 20 million) of the general budget of the European Union for 2015.

The financial contribution referred to 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, 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.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution referred to in 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, 7.10.2015

For the Commission

Johannes HAHN

Member of the Commission