



EUROPEAN  
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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 2.10.2014**

**on the Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of Belarus to be financed from the  
general budget of the European Union**

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### on the Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of Belarus 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 the 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 action<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 2 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 the Country Strategy Paper for Belarus and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2014-2017<sup>3</sup>, points 3.1 and 4 of which provide for the following priorities: social inclusion and complementary support to civil society.
- (2) The objective pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument<sup>4</sup> is to contribute to social inclusion and human capital development by widening the education system's offer, while continuing efforts to improve democracy and human rights respect in Belarus.
- (3) The first action entitled 'ENI support to Civil Society and Independent Media working for Belarus' aims at strengthening and building capacity of civil society and independent media working for Belarus to provide a contribution to the realisation of civil and political rights in Belarus. The action will be implemented through grant contracts.
- (4) The second action entitled 'Support to the European Humanities University Trust Fund' aims at boosting democratic development in Belarus by giving young Belarusians access to independent higher education. The action will be implemented through indirect management with an international organisation.
- (5) The third action entitled 'Employment and Vocational Education and Training in Belarus' aims at enhancing the employment prospects of youth and adults by ensuring greater synergy between the vocational education and training system supply and the needs of the modern labour market, and improving the quality and attractiveness of the

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

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

<sup>3</sup> Decision C(2014)5097, 23.07.2014

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 27.

vocational education and training system. The action will be implemented through service and supply contracts.

- (6) 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>.
- (7) The Commission may entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entity identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. However, this entity (the Nordic Council of Ministers) is currently undergoing the ex ante assessment. In anticipation of the results of this review, the responsible authorising officer deems that, based on a preliminary evaluation and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to this entity.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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').
- (10) 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 Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

##### **Adoption of the measure**

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

Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of Belarus.

The actions constituting this measure are:

- Annex 1: ENI support to Civil Society and Independent Media working for Belarus;
- Annex 2: Support to the European Humanities University Trust Fund;
- Annex 3: Employment and Vocation Education and Training in Belarus.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this programme is set at EUR 19 million to be financed from the following budget lines of the general budget of the European Union for 2014:

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

- budget line 21 03 02 01: EUR 5 500 000;
- budget line 21 03 02 02: EUR 13 500 000.

### *Article 3*

#### **Implementation modalities**

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

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 use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling referred to in this Article.

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

Done at Brussels, 2.10.2014

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