



Brussels, 15.12.2020
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 15.12.2020

**on the second special measure for the ENI 2020 contribution to the European Union
Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, to be financed from the general
budget of the 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 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012², and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By its Decision C(2014)9615 of 10.12.2014 the Commission established the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the ‘Madad Fund’, (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Trust Fund’), for a duration of 60 months.
- (2) By its Decision C(2015)9691 of 21.12.2015³ the Commission amended the above Decision C(2014)9615 in order to widen the scope of the Trust Fund.
- (3) By its Decision C(2019)7621 of 31.10.2019⁴ the Commission amended Decision C(2014)9615 for the second time to extend the duration of the Trust Fund to 72 months up to 14 December 2020.
- (4) The objectives pursued by this Trust Fund are to provide a coherent and reinforced aid response to the Syrian and Iraqi crises and the massive displacement resulting from them on a multi-country scale. In pursuit of this objective, the Trust Fund addresses the needs of three groups: refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees, while also providing assistance to the communities and the administrations in which those groups find themselves, as regards resilience and early recovery. Assistance under the Trust Fund should be complementary to Union humanitarian assistance.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

³ Commission Decision C(2015)9691 of 21.12.2015 amending Decision C(2014)9615 of 10.12.2014 on the establishment of a European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, “the Madad fund”.

⁴ Commission Decision C(2019)7621 of 31.10.2019 amending Decision C(2014)9615 of 10.12.2014 on the establishment of a European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, “the Madad fund”.

- (5) Since the establishment of the Trust Fund, the Union adopted Council conclusions on the Joint Communication “Elements for an EU regional strategy for Syria and Iraq as well as the ISIL/Da'esh threat”⁵, guiding the Trust Fund's first years of operations, as referenced in the strategic orientation document for the Trust Fund adopted by the first Trust Fund Board held on 29 May 2015. A Joint Communication on elements for an EU strategy for Syria was adopted on 14 March 2017 and the EU adopted Council conclusions on 3 April 2017⁶. A Joint Communication on elements for an EU strategy for Iraq was adopted on 8 January 2018 and the EU adopted the Council conclusions on the strategy on 22 January 2018⁷ as well as the most recent Council conclusions on Iraq on 15 July 2019⁸. At the fourth international Brussels conference on Supporting the future of Syria and the region on 30 June 2020, the Commission pledged EUR 560 million in additional support from the Union budget to Syrians in Jordan, Lebanon and inside Syria and to their host communities.⁹ The majority of the non-humanitarian part of this pledge to support Syrians in Lebanon and Jordan should be mobilised under the European Neighbourhood Instrument and implemented by the Trust Fund. As of 10 September 2020, there are still 5.6 million Syrian refugees registered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in the region, including 880 714 in Lebanon and 658 756 in Jordan.¹⁰ An explosion took place at the port of Beirut, Lebanon, on 04 August 2020. Physical damages amount to USD 3.8-4.6 billion while losses in economic flows are estimated to USD 2.9-3.5 billion. The EU already mobilised EUR 64 million for first emergency needs, medical support and protection of critical infrastructure.
- (6) The objectives pursued by this Decision are therefore to meet the Commission pledge and enable the Trust Fund to propose new programmes for approval by its Operational Board responding to priority needs, especially in the field of livelihoods and social services for Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and their host communities. The expected results include *inter alia* the continued needs of Syrian refugee and local communities in Jordan and in Lebanon, facing increasing vulnerabilities following COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut port blast in August 2020. Out of the overall EUR 164 510 800 an amount of EUR 64 510 800 is earmarked in this second Special Measure to finance the EU response to the explosion that took place in Beirut on 04 August 2020, to support most vulnerable groups in Lebanon, both Lebanese and refugees, in sectors such as social protection, health and livelihoods.
- (7) The Decision will contribute to the implementation of the core principles of the Global Compact on Refugees, the Agenda 2030 and the rollout of the EU policy framework on forced displacement - ‘Lives in Dignity – from Aid-dependance to Self-reliance’ (COM(2016)234). It will also reinforce the EU’s commitment to responsibility sharing with countries hosting large numbers of refugees, in the Syria crisis region.
- (8) The Trust Fund is financed by the Union budget as well as from other donors. Over its duration it has pooled EUR 2.2 billion, of which EUR 1.9 billion from the general budget of the Union and EUR 240 million from other donors. Projects focusing on *inter alia* access to and quality of education, livelihoods and social inclusion, water

⁵ Council Conclusions 9105/16 of 23 May 2016 and joint communication JOIN(2015) 2 final.

⁶ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/04/03/fac-conclusions-syria/pdf> and joint communication JOIN/2017/0011.

⁷ Council Conclusions 5285/18 of 22 January 2018 and joint communication JOIN (2018) 1 final.

⁸ https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/40357/st11026-en19.pdf?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Iraq%3a+Council+adopts+conclusions

⁹ https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44897/syria-2020-pledging-statement_v03072020.pdf

¹⁰ <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria>.

and sanitation, health care, social assistance and protection for both refugees and local communities. The total available amount has already been committed by the Trust Fund, out of which EUR 1.7 billion have been contracted to the Trust Fund's implementing partners on the ground. The Trust Fund's interventions are already reaching more than 7 million beneficiaries and its impact on the ground ensures clear political visibility for the Union.

- (9) Therefore, it is necessary to adopt a financing Decision, which complies with the conditions of Article 110 of the Financial Regulation.
- (10) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU¹¹.
- (11) For the implementation of this Decision, it is appropriate to define the changes that should be considered as not "substantial" within the meaning of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation.
- (12) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The measure

A special measure for the ENI 2020 contribution to the European Union Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad Fund', to be financed from the general budget of the Union, is approved.

Article 2

Union contribution

The financial contribution of the European Union to the Trust Fund in 2020 is set at a maximum of EUR 164 510 800, to be financed from budget line 22.040103 of the general budget of the Union for 2020.

The implementation of the additional support to Lebanon following the Beirut explosion is subject to the extension of the duration of the Trust Fund to 84 months up to 14 December 2021.

Article 3

Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The financial contribution to the Trust Fund shall be implemented:

¹¹ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website, it is the OJ version that prevails.

- directly (i) by the Commission’s departments, including its staff in the Union Delegations under the authority of their respective Head of Delegation, (ii) or through executive agencies;
- indirectly with third countries or the bodies they have designated, international organisations or their agencies, the European Investment Bank or the European Investment Fund or both of them acting as a group, public law bodies or bodies governed by private law with a public service mission to the extent that the latter provide adequate financial guarantees.

The Constitutive Agreement signed with the donors defines the rules and procedures applying to the management and governance of the Trust Fund.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million of the contribution of the European Union to the Trust Fund, not exceeding 20% of the contribution referred to in Article 1, 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 responsible authorising officer may adopt these non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 15.12.2020

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission