



Brussels, 18.8.2014
C(2014) 5792 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 18.8.2014

**on the ENI East Regional Action Programme 2014 Part 1 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 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) No 236/2014 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 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 ENI East Regional Strategy Paper³ and Indicative Programme⁴ for the period 2014-2020, which provides for the following priorities: Eastern Partnership including Flagship Initiatives; regional cooperation frameworks; energy and transport initiatives involving the wider region and horizontal and sectoral support.
- (2) The objective pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁵ is: (1) to support the implementation of SEIS principles and practices in the six Eastern Partnership countries; (2) to support the implementation of the Programmatic Cooperation Framework with the Council of Europe.
- (3) The first action entitled "Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System principles and practices in the Eastern Partnership countries (SEIS East)" supports the implementation of SEIS principles and practices as a tool for improving quality, availability and access to environmental information to the benefit of effective and knowledge-based policy-making and to improve good governance in the field of environment. The action will be implemented through a grant contract with the European Environment Agency and through an administrative arrangement with Eurostat.
- (4) The second action entitled "Implementation of the Programmatic Cooperation Framework with the Council of Europe in the Eastern Partnership" will strengthen the

¹ OJ L77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Decision C(2014)5200

⁴ Decision C(2014)5200

⁵ Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument, OJ L77, 15.03.2014, p.27.

operational collaboration between the Commission and the Council of Europe in five priority areas of cooperation (human rights; justice; rule of law including fight against corruption and money laundering; information society; democratic governance). The action will be implemented through indirect management.

- (5) 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 Union⁶.
- (6) The Commission may entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entity identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of delegation agreements. However, this entity (Council of Europe) 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.
- (7) In the case of recurrent actions, the Commission may adopt multiannual action programmes for a period of up to three years on the basis of Article 6(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.
- (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 Commission 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 Commission Delegation 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 the basic act referred to in Recital 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Adoption of the programme

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

ENI East Regional Action Programme 2014 Part 1

The actions constituting this measure are:

- Annex I: Implementation of the Shared Environmental Information System principles and practices in the Eastern Partnership countries (SEIS East);
- Annex II: Implementation of the Programmatic Cooperation Framework with the Council of Europe in the Eastern Partnership;

⁶ 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 is set at EUR 37.4 million to be financed from the following budget lines of the general budget of the European Union:

- budget line 21 03 02 01 for an amount of
 - EUR 10.0 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2014;
 - EUR 10.0 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2015;
 - EUR 10.4 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2016;
- budget line 21 03 02 02 for an amount of EUR 7 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2014.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations following the adoption of the general budget of the European Union of 2015 and of the general budget of the European Union of 2016 or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

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.

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, considering each financial year separately, 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, 18.8.2014

For the Commission
Štefan FÜLE
Member of the Commission