

COMMISSION DECISION

of 09/12/2008

approving the fifth part of the 2008 Annual Action Programme in favour of the Mediterranean region to be financed under Article 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Communities

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument¹, and in particular Article 12 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted, in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy², the Regional Strategy Paper (2007-2013) and the Regional Indicative Programme (2007-2013) for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership³, which prioritises the establishment of an area of shared prosperity via sustainable and balanced socio-economic development and the gradual establishment of a free trade area between the EU and its partners and between the Mediterranean partners.
- (2) The fifth part of the 2008 Action Programme is designed to promote intra-regional trade flows and to develop regional integration in this respect by underpinning the Agadir Process between Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia.
- (3) This decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁴ and of Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁵.

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2007, p. 1.

² This action programme concerns the following Mediterranean partners: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, the Palestinian Territories and Tunisia.

³ C(2007)672.

⁴ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (CE, Euratom) No 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

⁵ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (CE, Euratom) No 478/2007 (OJ L 111, 28.4.2007, p. 13).

- (4) This decision covers all potential requests for the payment of default interest under Article 83 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and Article 106(5) of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.
- (5) The concept of "substantial change" must be understood within the meaning of Article 90(4) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 for the purposes of applying this decision in order to ensure that all substantial changes made to the decision are adopted by means of the same procedure as the one followed to adopt the amended decision.
- (6) The measures provided for in this decision are in accordance with the opinion of the ENPI Committee established pursuant to Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The fifth part of the 2008 Action Programme in favour of the Mediterranean region consisting of support for the implementation of the Agadir Agreement (Phase 2), the text of which is set out in the annex, is hereby approved.

Article 2

The Community's maximum contribution to this measure is set at EUR 4 million, to be financed under Article 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Communities for 2008.

Article 3

Within the maximum indicative budget allocated to all the specific measures, cumulative changes not exceeding 20% of the maximum Community contribution shall not be considered to be substantial provided that they do not affect the nature and objectives of the 2008 action programme.

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

Done at Brussels, 8 December 2008

For the Commission
Benita FERRERO-WALDNER
Member of the Commission