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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 4.12.2014**

**on the 2014 special measure for the Syrian population to be financed from the general  
budget of the European Union**

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### on the 2014 special measure for the Syrian population 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 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(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 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In light of the ongoing repression and restrictive measures taken by the Council of the European Union, the Commission has suspended its cooperation with the Syrian Government since May 2011. Since then, normal programming for Syria has not been possible due to the ongoing conflict but direct support to the affected population in Syria and in the neighbouring countries affected has been maintained under the European Neighbourhood Instrument through various special measures in complementarity to humanitarian assistance in sectors such as education and early recovery. This will be revised should the situation evolve towards a post-crisis state-building and reconstruction scenario.
- (2) The objective pursued by this measure to be financed under Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument<sup>3</sup> is to help the Syrian population to cope with the effects of the crisis and prepare for recovery. This special measure is made necessary by the dramatic worsening of the Syrian crisis.
- (3) Action entitled “Support to people in Syria affected by the crisis – Phase II” will contribute to help people in Syria cope with effects of the crisis and facilitate a peaceful and democratic transition. It will be implemented through grants to Civil Society Organisations.
- (4) Action entitled “Urban information and analysis to help plan and target humanitarian and recovery interventions in Syria” will contribute to improve the humanitarian and recovery responses to the Syria crisis through better urban information and analysis. It will be implemented jointly by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the EU Joint Research Center (JRC).

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

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

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27.

- (5) Action entitled “Education for vulnerable and displaced children in Syria” will contribute to improve access to education and to psychosocial support for school-age children in Syria. It will be implemented jointly by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP).
- (6) Action entitled “Scaling-up of emergency restoration and stabilisation of livelihoods of affected Syrian populations” will contribute to strengthening the resilience of the Syrian people to cope with the effects of the protracted crisis and enable those whose livelihoods were severely disrupted to recover and rebuild their lives. It will be implemented with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- (7) Action entitled “Joint comprehensive EU framework for cross-border operations in Syria from Turkey” will contribute to provide basic services to the Syrian population and to strengthen local governance through the implementation of flexible and short-term delivery projects in Syria with local civil partners. It will also contribute to decrease community tensions by addressing the needs of Syrian refugees in Turkey. It will be implemented with Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).
- (8) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision, the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012<sup>4</sup>.
- (9) 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 1 (section 4.3.1).
- (10) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified 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. UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UN-HABITAT and GIZ are currently undergoing the assessment under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the entities’ positive assessment under Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with them, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to these entities.
- (11) The Commission should authorise the eligibility of costs under indirect management as of a date preceding the adoption of this Decision for the reasons of extreme urgency in crisis management aid or in situations of imminent or immediate danger to the stability of a country, including by an armed conflict, where an early involvement engagement of the Union may prevent an escalation.
- (12) 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.
- (13) 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.

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<sup>4</sup> 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 (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

(14) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in Recital 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

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

The 2014 special measure for the Syrian population, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The measure shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Support to people in Syria affected by the crisis – Phase II;
- Annex 2: Urban information and analysis to help plan and target humanitarian and recovery interventions in Syria;
- Annex 3: Education for vulnerable and displaced children in Syria;
- Annex 4: Scaling-up of emergency restoration and stabilisation of livelihoods of affected Syrian populations;
- Annex 5: Joint comprehensive EU framework for cross-border operations in Syria from Turkey.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 41,250,000 and shall be financed from budget line 21 03 01 02 of the general budget of the European Union for 2014.

The financial contribution provided for 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 Issues” 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 eligibility of costs under indirect management prior to the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the dates set out in the Annexes 2 and 3.

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

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

Done at Brussels, 4.12.2014

*For the Commission*  
*Johannes HAHN*  
*Member of the Commission*