



Brussels, 19.11.2012
C(2012) 8236 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 19.11.2012

**on the Special Measure Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2012-2013 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 (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 Instrument (ENPI)¹, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Joint Communication of the European Commission and of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy “A new response to a changing Neighbourhood”² committed to supporting a greater political role for civil society organisations through a partnership with societies, helping them develop their advocacy capacity, the ability to monitor reform and their role in implementing and evaluating EU programmes. To that end, the Joint Communication proposed the establishment of a Civil Society Facility to provide funding for civil society organisations.
- (2) The Civil Society Facility is also referred to in the Joint Communication of the European Commission and of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy “A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the Southern Mediterranean”³, outlining the EU’s response to the events in the Southern Neighbourhood region. This year’s Joint Communication “Delivering on a new European Neighbourhood Policy”⁴ highlights as well the crucial role played by civil society as an agent for democratisation ensuring the sustainability and inclusiveness in the reform process.
- (3) The objective of the Civil Society Facility is to strengthen and promote the role of civil society organisations in reforms and democratic changes taking place in the region, through increased participation in the fulfilment of the European Neighbourhood Policy objectives.
- (4) The present 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

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1-14.

² COM(2011)303 of 25 May 2011.

³ COM(2011)200 of 8 March 2011.

⁴ JOIN(2012)14 of 15 May 2012.

Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget⁵ (hereafter 'the Financial Regulation') and Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget⁶ (hereafter 'the Implementing Rules').

- (5) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by the present Decision should cover any possible claims for interest due for late payment on the basis of Articles 83 of the Financial Regulation and 106(5) of its Implementing Rules.
- (6) The Commission is required to define the term “substantial change” in the meaning of Article 90 (4) of the Implementing Rules to ensure that any substantial change in this Decision shall follow the same procedure as the initial Decision.
- (7) Subject to the adoption of the 2013 budget by the budgetary authority, an indicative amount of EUR 11 million will be added to finance the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2012-2013 to be financed from the budget line 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the EU for 2013.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the ENPI Committee set up under Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Special Measure Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2012-2013, the text of which is set out in the attached Annex, is approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the European Union to this Special Measure is set at EUR 22 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Union for EUR 11 million in 2012 and for EUR 11 million in 2013 upon approval of the budget.

This maximum contribution shall also cover any possible interests due for late payment.

Article 3

Cumulated changes of the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the European Union shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the Special Measure

⁵ OJ L 248, 16.09.2002, p. 1-48.

⁶ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1-71.

Neighbourhood South civil society facility 2012-2013. This may include an increase of the maximum contribution of the European Union up to 20%.

The relevant authorising officer may amend the present Decision to introduce non-substantial changes to the Special Measure Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2012-2013 in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Article 4

Subject to the adoption of the 2013 budget by the Budgetary Authority, the provisional maximum EU contribution for 2013 to the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2012-2013 is set at EUR 11 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2013. This amount will be added to finance the Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2012-2013.

Done at Brussels, 19.11.2012

For the Commission
Štefan FÜLE
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Special Measure Neighbourhood South Civil Society Facility 2012-2013