



Brussels, 10.11.2016
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 10.11.2016

on the annual action programme 2016 (Part 1) in favour of the Republic of Lebanon

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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 establishing common implementing rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action¹, 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 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Single Support Framework in favour of the Republic of Lebanon for the period 2014-2016³, point 3 of which provides for the following priorities: Justice and Security System Reform, reinforcing social cohesion, promoting economic development and protecting vulnerable groups, and promotion of sustainable and transparent management of energy and natural resources.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme (Part 1) to be financed under Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ are to support rule of law and governance aspects in relation to juvenile and criminal justice in Lebanon and to support the Lebanese administration in the implementation of the EU-Lebanon Partnership Priorities.
- (3) The action entitled 'Advancing Juvenile and Criminal Justice in Lebanon' aims at strengthening juvenile justice and a protective environment for children in line with international standards and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement services to address terrorist-related cases with a rights-based approach.
- (4) The action entitled 'Support to the Implementation of the EU-Lebanon Partnership Priorities Programme' aims at improving the capacity of the relevant Government of Lebanon institutions to meet the commitments undertaken in the context of the EU-Lebanon Association Agreement and Partnership Priorities; enhancing the efficiency of the entities involved in their implementation; fostering harmonisation of the domestic legislative and regulatory framework with EU or international frameworks, or both, such as joint efforts in view of implementing the commitments on climate

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2014) 5132, 24.7.2014 final, Commission Implementing Decision of 24.7.2014 adopting a Single Support Framework for European Union support to Lebanon for the period 2014-2016.

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a the European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

made in the context of the UNFCCC⁵ at the Paris conference in 2015, and facilitating subsequent enforcement and to facilitate future EU- Lebanon negotiations.

- (5) It is necessary to adopt a financing Decision, the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁶.
- (6) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified 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. These entities comply with the conditions of points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and the supervisory and support measures are in place as necessary.
- (7) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants in accordance with 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 set out in Annex II (section 5.3.2) to this Decision.
- (8) It is necessary to allow for 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2016 (Part 1) in favour of the Republic of Lebanon, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- (a) Annex I: 'Advancing Juvenile and Criminal Justice in Lebanon'
- (b) Annex II: 'Support to the Implementation of the EU-Lebanon Partnership Priorities Programme'.

Article 2

Financial contribution

⁵ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

⁶ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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).

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 15 million and shall be financed from budget line 22.040101 of the general budget of the European Union for 2016.

The financial contribution referred to 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 Annexes, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, are set out in the Annexes.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20% of the contribution referred to in 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 set by this Article. The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 10.11.2016

For the Commission

Johannes HAHN

Member of the Commission