



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 3.9.2014  
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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 3.9.2014**

**on the Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of the Republic of Azerbaijan to be  
financed from the general budget of the European Union**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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### on the Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of the Republic of Azerbaijan 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 the 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 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) The Commission has adopted the Single Strategic Framework for the 2014-2017<sup>3</sup>, points 3.3 and 4 of which provide for the following priorities: education and skills development and complementary support to civil society.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument<sup>4</sup> is to contribute to economic diversification by improving the education system while continuing efforts to improve democracy and human rights respect in Azerbaijan.
- (3) The first Action entitled “Education Support Programme in Azerbaijan”, will contribute to the modernisation of the education and training systems enhancing quality, equality, relevance and access in line with EU standards and practices. The Action will be implemented through grants and service contracts.
- (4) The second Action entitled “Support to Civil Society in Azerbaijan” will strengthen civil society and increase citizen participation in promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms to advance democratic development of the country. The Action will be implemented through grant contracts.
- (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 Union<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

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

<sup>3</sup> Decision C(2014)5129, 25.07.2014

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 27.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

- (6) 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 Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (7) The Commission is required to define the term "non-substantial change" in the sense of Article 94(4) of Delegated 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').
- (8) 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.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

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

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

Annual Action programme 2014 in favour of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The actions constituting this measure are:

- Annex 1: Education Support Programme in Azerbaijan;
- Annex 2: Support to Civil Society in Azerbaijan.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this programme is set at EUR 22 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 2 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2014;  
EUR 1 million from the general budget of the European Union for 2015.
- budget line 21 03 02 02 for an amount of EUR 19 million<sup>6</sup> 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 or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

#### *Article 3*

##### **Implementation modalities**

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<sup>6</sup> Including appropriations corresponding to assigned revenue.

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, 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 responsible authorising officer may adopt these non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 3.9.2014

*For the Commission*  
*Štefan FÜLE*  
*Member of the Commission*