



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

Brussels, 7.10.2014  
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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 7.10.2014**

**on an Individual Measure 2014 in favour of the ENI East and South countries for a  
Regional Communication Programme Phase II to be financed from the general budget  
of the European Union**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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### **on an Individual Measure 2014 in favour of the ENI East and South countries for a Regional Communication Programme Phase II 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 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 Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017) for Regional South<sup>3</sup> which provide for the following priorities: building a partnership for liberty, democracy and security; building a partnership for inclusive and sustainable economic development; building a partnership with the people; support to regional and subregional institutional cooperation.
- (2) The Commission has also adopted the Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multiannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017) for Regional East<sup>4</sup> which provide for the following priorities for the Eastern Partnership countries: supporting the political association process; contributing to the economic integration and sector cooperation; and enhancing civil society's role as a vector for reform.
- (3) The Union's Neighbourhood Policy has become a key part of its overall foreign policy following the Arab Spring and the recent developments in the East and their geopolitical impact for the EU. Peace, security and stability are increasingly demanding issues in the political discussion in the Union and its neighbourhood, both in the East and in the South.
- (4) The objectives pursued by this Individual 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>5</sup> is to reinforce the people to people contacts between the EU and its Neighbourhood partner countries.

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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> C(2014) 5242 of 30.7.2014.

<sup>4</sup> C(2014) 5200 of 28.7.2014.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27.

- (5) The action entitled “OPEN Neighbourhood: Opportunities, Participation, Engagement and Networking with people from the Neighbourhood area (Regional Communication Programme Phase II)” aims to support the ongoing process of democratisation in the Neighbourhood area and to contribute to the establishment of a culture of transparency, dialogue and mutual understanding between the people from the EU and its partner countries in the Neighbourhood area by making the Union's Neighbourhood Policy better understandable and explaining its high political relevance to the people in the partner countries and in the EU. The action will be implemented through service contracts.
- (6) 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>6</sup>.
- (7) 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<sup>7</sup>.
- (8) 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').
- (9) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee set up by the basic act referred to in Recital 4,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

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

The following Individual Measure, constituted by the action identified in the second paragraph and attached as annex, is approved:

- Individual Measure 2014 in favour of the ENI East and South countries for a Regional Communication Programme Phase II to be financed from the general budget of the European Union.

The action constituting this measure is:

- Annex: “OPEN Neighbourhood: Opportunities, Participation, Engagement and Networking with people from the Neighbourhood area (Regional Communication Programme Phase II)”.

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<sup>6</sup> OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

## *Article 2*

### **Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this Individual Measure is set at EUR 20 million to be financed for an amount of EUR 15 million from budget line 21 03 03 03 of the general budget of the European Union for 2014 and for an amount of EUR 5 million from budget line 21 03 03 03 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations following the adoption of the general budget of the European Union for 2015 or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

## *Article 3*

### **Implementation modalities**

Section 4 of the Annex 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 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, 7.10.2014

*For the Commission*

*Štefan FÜLE*

*Member of the Commission*