Brussels, 23.10.2014
C(2014) 7615 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 23.10.2014

on the Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of Egypt 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 (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[1] 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[2], and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The Commission has adopted the Single Strategic Framework in favour of Egypt for the period 2014-2015[3], point 3 of which provides for the following priorities:

   – Governance, Transparency and Business Environment (including Complementary support in favour of civil society and of EU Agreements);

   – Poverty Alleviation, Local socio-economic development and Social Protection;

   – Quality of life and environment.

(2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of Egypt 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[4] are to increase access to education for the most vulnerable and socially excluded children and to strengthen child protection, especially its effectiveness in addressing specific challenges such as institutional provisions, prevention and care services.

(3) Action entitled "Expanding Access to Education and Protection for at Risk Children in Egypt" has as the specific objectives of 1) scaling up the Community Schools model and improve access of out of school children to primary education, 2) supporting the inclusion of children with disability in the education system and 3) supporting the Government in operationalising the Child Law and the provisions of the Constitution related to the protection of children.

(4) 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

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[1]   OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.
[2]   OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.
[3]   C(2014) 7170 of 08.10.2014.
[4]   OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27.

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[5].

(5) The Commission may entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. However, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is currently undergoing the ex-ante assessment. In anticipation of the results of this review, the responsible authorising officer deems that, based on a preliminary evaluation and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with them, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to this entity.

(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 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 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

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

Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of Egypt.

The action constituting this measure is:

– Annex: "Expanding Access to Education and Protection for at Risk Children in Egypt"

The adoption of this Annual Action Programme is subject to the final adoption of the Single Strategic Framework in favour of Egypt for the period 2014-2015.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this measure is set at EUR 30 million to be financed from budget line 21.03.01.02 of the general budget of the European Union for 2014.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

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[5] OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entity identified in the attached Annex, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement.

Section 4 of the Annex referred to in 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 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, 23.10.2014

For the Commission
Štefan FÜLE
Member of the Commission