

COMMISSION DECISION

of 12/03/2007

on a special measure in favour of the West Bank and Gaza Strip to be financed under budget item 19 08 01 02 of the general budget of the European Communities

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to European Parliament and Council Regulation (EEC) No 1638/2006 of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument¹, and Article 26 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Since 2002 the Commission has set priorities for co-operation with the West Bank and Gaza Strip on an ad hoc basis and Article 13 of Regulation (EC) n° 1638/2006 provides for the adoption of special measures in the event of unforeseen and duly justified needs or circumstances.
- (2) The criteria set out in Regulation (EC) n° 1638/2006 and conditions for the special measure have been fulfilled.
- (3) The objectives to be pursued are, in particular, to mitigate the impact of the current socio-economic crisis on the vulnerable refugee and non-refugee population, and to support social projects in East Jerusalem.
- (4) This decision responds to the Quartet's "*willingness to endorse a temporary mechanism*" to provide direct delivery of assistance to the Palestinian people, endorsed by the Council Meeting of 15 May requesting the EU to work "*urgently to develop such a mechanism which as a matter of priority will be aimed at contributing to meet basic needs*".
- (5) The European Council of 15/16 June 2006 endorsed the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) drawn up by the Commission to channel assistance directly to Palestinian people and requested the Commission to urgently establish that mechanism.
- (6) The European Council of 15 December 2006 agreed to extend TIM's mandate for a further three months until March 2007.

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1.

- (7) This decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 (2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities², Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of that Regulation³ and Article 15 of the Internal Rules⁴.
- (8) The special measure provided for in this decision is 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 in favour of the West Bank and Gaza Strip: "Temporary International Mechanism (TIM)" (€65 million), "Contribution to the 2007 UNRWA General Budget" (€66 million), "Special contribution to Palestine Refugees in Lebanon" (€4 million), and "Support to Community Services in East-Jerusalem" (€2 million), the text of which is set out in the Annex, is approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the Community is set at EUR 137 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 02 of the general budget of the European Communities for 2007.

Article 3

Within the maximum indicative budget of all the specific actions, cumulated changes not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the Community are not considered to be substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the Annual Action Programme.

The authorising officer may adopt such changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels, 12 March 2007

For the Commission
Benita FERRERO-WALDNER
Member of the Commission

² OJ L 248, 16.09.2002 p. 1.

³ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1248/2006, (OJ L 227, 7.8.2006, p. 3).

⁴ SEC (2006)131.