



Brussels, 8.11.2016
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 8.11.2016

**on the Annual Action Programme 2016 in favour of the Republic of Armenia to be
financed from the general budget of the 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 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 (SSF) for the period 2014-2017 for Armenia³, points 3.1, 3.2 and 4 of which provide for the following priorities: 1) Private sector development including labour market efficiency, 2) Public Administration Reform, and 3) Complementary support in favour of civil society.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2016 to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)⁴ are: (1) To enhance public administration systems and professionalism of the civil service and (2) to make public service delivery at central, regional and local levels more efficient and effective.
- (3) The action entitled "Support to Public Administration Reform in Armenia: Better Service Delivery through a More Efficient and Responsive Public Administration" will support the efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and service delivery of the public administration in Armenia in view of citizens' and businesses' needs. In particular it will seek to enhance the development and coordination of policy and legislation, improve the professionalism of the civil service, enhance the accountability, integrity and openness in public administration as well as strengthen public service delivery through e-governance. The action will be implemented under direct management through the budget support, grants and service contracts, as well as under indirect management with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Decision C(2014)5101, 23.07.2014

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

- (4) 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 1268/2012⁵.
- (5) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in 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 constituted by the Annex (sections 5.4.1 and 5.4.2).
- (6) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entity 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 this entity guarantees a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. UNDP 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) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (8) It is necessary to allow 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 the ENI Regulation,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2016 in favour of the Republic of Armenia, as set out in the Annex, is approved.

The programme shall include the following action:

- Annex: Support to Public Administration Reform in Armenia: Better Service Delivery through a More Efficient and Responsive Public Administration.

⁵ 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 (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 20 million and shall be financed from budget line 22 04 02 01 of the general budget of the Union for 2016.

The financial contribution provided for 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 entity identified in the attached Annex, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement.

The section “Implementation” of the Annex to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

The eligibility of costs incurred by UNDP may be authorised as of the dates set out in the Annex.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set by the first paragraph of 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 action.

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

Done at Brussels, 8.11.2016

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission