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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.7.2016

**on the Annual Action Programme 2016 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries 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 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 ENI Regional South Strategy Paper (2014-2020) and Multinannual Indicative Programme (2014-2017)³ which set the following priorities: (i) building a partnership for liberty, democracy and security; (ii) building a partnership for inclusive and sustainable economic development; (iii) building a partnership with the people; (iv) support to regional and subregional institutional cooperation.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2016 - Part 1 to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁴ are to: support and promote the conditions for a sustainable resolution of the Israeli-Arab conflict through civil society and citizen's positive engagement; strenghten partner countries' capacity to prevent and to respond to natural and man-made disasters; strengthen partner countries' capacity to tackle cybercrime and to cooperate effectively in compliance with the Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe; intensify and accelarate exchange of information with the partner countries on issues related to organised crime, terrorism, smuggling of migrants, trafficking of human beings and of small arms and, to this effect, increase data collection from the Neighbourhood South; promote the engagement of young women and men in public affairs and their political participation; promote job creation and economic development and inclusiveness in the partner countries by supporting business-to-business networking, social enterprises ecosystems and regional trade integration.
- (3) The first action entitled “Middle East Peace Process – EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2016” aims at supporting and promoting the conditions for a sustainable resolution of

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2014) 5242 of 30.07.2014.

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).

the Israeli-Arab conflict through the positive engagement of civil society and citizens. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (call for proposals and procurement).

- (4) The second action entitled “Security package 2016” will strengthen partner countries' capacities to prevent and to respond to natural and man-made disasters; to tackle cybercrime and to cooperate effectively, in compliance with the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime of the Council of Europe, and to intensify and accelerate exchange of operational information in the Neighbourhood South, and with the EU, on issues related to organised crime, terrorism, smuggling of migrants, trafficking of human beings and of small arms, and, to this effect to increase data collection from the Neighbourhood South. Indirect management with Member States Agencies, with the Council of Europe and with Interpol is envisaged for this regional project.
- (5) The third action entitled “Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South” aims at promoting the engagement of citizens in public affairs and their political participation through a structured dialogue on regional agendas between the civil society, EU institutions, regional entities and national/local authorities; the empowerment of young women and men in their ability to participate in public affairs through dialogue and debate; cooperation between local media and youth in order to increase the role and visibility of youth in pluralistic media (public and private broadcasters and on line media). Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (calls for proposals and grant directly awarded).
- (6) The fourth action entitled “Support to job creation, economic development and inclusiveness” aims at promoting job creation, economic development and inclusiveness in the Southern Mediterranean countries by supporting business-to-business networking, social enterprises ecosystems and regional trade integration through the implementation of the Agadir Agreement. Direct management is envisaged for this regional project (calls for proposals and grant directly awarded).
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by Annexe 1 (section 5.3.1), Annex 3 (sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2) and Annex 4 (sections 5.3.1, 5.3.2 and 5.3.3).
- (9) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities 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 these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. These entities 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.

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).

- (10) 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 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (11) 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 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (12) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Commission 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.
- (13) 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 financing instrument referred to in recital 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2016 – Part 1 in favour of the ENI South countries, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Middle East Peace Process – EU Peacebuilding Initiative 2016;
- Annex 2: Security Package 2016;
- Annex 3: Empowerment of young women and men in the Neighbourhood South;
- Annex 4: Support to job creation, economic development and inclusiveness.

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 41.29 million to be financed from the following budget lines of the general budget of the European Union for 2016:

- budget line 22.04.01.01 for an amount of EUR 11.29 million,
- budget line 22.04.01.02 for an amount of EUR 14 million, and
- budget line 22.04.01.03 for an amount of EUR 16 million.

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 entities identified in the attached Annex 2, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

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

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 Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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

Done at Brussels, 20.7.2016

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission