

**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 20/03/2007**

**in favour of Lebanon for an Annual Action Programme to be financed under budget item 19 08 01 01 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 Instrument<sup>1</sup> in conjunction with Article 26 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission will adopt the Country Strategy Paper for Lebanon and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2007-2010 in early March 2007, which indicates the priorities of supporting political, social and economic reforms, as well as support for reconstruction and recovery.
- (2) Article 12 of Regulation (EC) n° 1638/2006 provides for the adoption of annual action programmes.
- (3) This decision supports the comprehensive priorities agreed between the EU and Lebanon at a political, cultural, economic and social level as explicitly addressed in the EU-Lebanon Action Plan and is based on the Country Strategy Paper and Multiannual Indicative Programme for Lebanon.
- (4) This decision responds to the needs for the economic reform, recovery and reconstruction of Lebanon as set out at the international donor conference in Paris on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007, and forms part of the Commission's overall response.
- (5) The criteria set out in Regulation (EC) n° 1638/2006 and conditions for the measure have been fulfilled.
- (6) The actions provided for in this decision are in accordance with the opinion of the ENPI Committee set up under Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006.
- (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

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1.

Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities<sup>2</sup>, Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of that Regulation<sup>3</sup> and Article 15 of the Internal Rules<sup>4</sup>.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

The actions, "Support to Reforms" (€10 million), "Local Development and Reconstruction" (€18 million), "Enterprise Support Facility" (€15 million), "De-mining" (€4 million) and "Refugee Scholarships" (€3 million) which constitute the Annual Action Programme 2007 in favour of Lebanon, the text of which is set out in the Annex, are approved.

*Article 2*

The maximum contribution of the Community is set at EUR 50 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 01 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, 20 March 2007

*For the Commission*  
*Benita FERRERO-WALDNER*  
*Member of the Commission*

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<sup>2</sup> OJ L 248, 16.09.2002 p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> 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).

<sup>4</sup> SEC (2006)131.