



Brussels, 4.12.2014  
C(2014) 9115 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 4.12.2014**

**on the 2014 special measure in favour of Lebanon for the Syria crisis to be financed  
from the general budget of the European Union**

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### on the 2014 special measure in favour of Lebanon for the Syria crisis to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

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<sup>1</sup> 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 1605/2002<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Lebanon has so far been the main recipient country of refugees from Syria with 1,176,971 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) (29 August 2014) in addition to approximately 42,000 Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) recorded with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Lebanon.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the measure 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<sup>3</sup> are to support the Lebanese authorities in coping with the pressure on the basic services delivery and to alleviate the burden on the host communities.
- (3) The protracted crisis with the steady increase of refugees is requesting an additional and urgent effort to address the recent developments and especially the growing tensions in the social fabric.
- (4) Action entitled "Access to basic services for the vulnerable population in Lebanon – Education & Health" will contribute to supporting the most vulnerable population in Lebanon through education and protection services for children and vulnerable groups and improvement of the provision of public healthcare services. It will be implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- (5) Action entitled "Access to basic services for the vulnerable population in Lebanon – Palestine Refugees from Syria Education" will contribute to supporting the most

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27.

vulnerable population in Lebanon through education and protection services for children and vulnerable groups and improvement of the provision of public healthcare services. It will be implemented by United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

- (6) Action entitled “Access to basic services for the vulnerable population in Lebanon – Economic recovery and basic infrastructures” will contribute to improve the overall efficiency and effectiveness of basic services provided to the Lebanese host communities affected by the influx of Syrian refugees by enhancing basic public infrastructure and of income generating opportunities. It will be implemented through grants by non-governmental organisations and local authorities.
- (7) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision, the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012<sup>4</sup>.
- (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 Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the Annexes 2 (section 4.3.1) and 3 (section 4.3.1).
- (9) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified 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. UNHCR and UNICEF are currently undergoing the assessment under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the entities’ positive assessment under Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with them, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to these entities.
- (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 Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (11) The Commission should authorise the eligibility of costs as of a date preceding that of submission of a grant application for the reasons of extreme urgency in crisis management aid or in situations of imminent or immediate danger to the stability of a country, including by an armed conflict, where an early involvement engagement of the Union may prevent an escalation.
- (12) 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.
- (13) 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.

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<sup>4</sup> 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).

- (14) The actions 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 2014 special measure in favour of Lebanon for the Syria crisis, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The measure shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Access to basic services for the vulnerable population in Lebanon – Education & Health;
- Annex 2: Access to basic services for the vulnerable population in Lebanon – Palestine Refugees from Syria Education;
- Annex 3: Access to basic services for the vulnerable population in Lebanon – Economic recovery and basic infrastructures.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 73,325,452 and shall be financed from the budget line 21 03 01 02 of the general budget of the European Union for 2014.

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 1, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The section “Implementation Issues” of the Annexes referred to in the second paragraph of Article 1 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 prior to the submission of grant applications shall be authorised as of the dates set out in Annexes 1 and 2.

#### *Article 4*

##### **Non-substantial changes**

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution referred to in 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 actions.

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

Done at Brussels, 4.12.2014

*For the Commission*  
*Johannes HAHN*  
*Member of the Commission*