



Brussels, 22.7.2015
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 22.7.2015

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 Part I in favour of the Republic of Lebanon 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 establishing common implementing rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action¹ and in particular Article 2 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 European Commission has adopted the Single Strategic Framework in favour of the Republic of Lebanon for the period 2014-2016³, point 3 of which provides for the following priorities: justice and security system reform, reinforcing social cohesion, promoting economic development and protecting vulnerable groups, and promotion of sustainable and transparent management of energy and natural resources.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme part I 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 Instrument⁴ are to assist Lebanon in the implementation of its Mine Action Strategy and to improve housing for the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon.
- (3) The Action entitled “Supporting Lebanon Inclusive and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development through Mine Action” programme aims at continuing and deepening EU support to Lebanon with a focus on capacity building and institutional support, clearance and land release for an inclusive and sustainable development and on support to victims whose rights are not guaranteed yet and exposed communities.
- (4) The Action entitled “Improvement of housing of the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon” programme’s aim is to rehabilitate the dilapidated shelters. This will have direct benefits for the well-being of the shelters' inhabitants, providing a positive social impact for highly vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon.
- (5) 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 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2014) 5132, 24.7.2014.

⁴ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27.

Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁵.

- (6) 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. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) complies 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. United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) is 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 entity's positive assessment under Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002⁶ and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with it, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to this entity.
- (7) 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 the Annex 1 (section 5.3.1 and 5.3.2) of this Decision.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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 2015 part I in favour of the Republic of Lebanon, as set out in the Annexes, is approved:

The programme shall include the following actions:

⁵ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

⁶ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p.1).

- Annex 1: “Supporting Lebanon Inclusive and Sustainable Socio-Economic Development through Mine Action”
- Annex 2: “Improvement of housing of the most vulnerable Palestine refugees in Lebanon”

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 15 million and shall be financed from budget line 21.030102 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015.

The financial contribution referred to 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 annexes, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The section “Implementation” of the annexes 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.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution referred to in 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, 22.7.2015

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission