COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 3.12.2014

on the Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of Afghanistan 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 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,


Whereas:

(1) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2014-2020, points 3.1, 3.2 and 3.4 of which provide for the following priorities: (i) to improve the sustainability and increase the wealth of Afghanistan's rural populations, (ii) to improve the health and nutrition status of the Afghan population, and (iii) to enhance democratic governance and domestic accountability.

(2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument are to support the government of Afghanistan to: (i) enhance the social and economic development of rural communities and reduce hunger and vulnerability, (ii) strengthen the public health system and the delivery of public health services, and (iii) improve service delivery to Afghan citizens through legitimate and effective institutions and processes.

(3) Action 1 entitled “Support to Agriculture and Rural Development in Afghanistan” aims to promote sustainable growth and employment in rural areas by improving licit agricultural production, promoting higher value-added agricultural products while incentivising on and off-farm enterprises, and their linkages with relevant markets. The action will be implemented under a Financing Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

(4) Action 2 entitled “Support to Health and Nutrition Services to the Afghan Population” aims to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Public Health to manage the public health system as well as the delivery of public health services, including nutrition, disability, and mental health services. The action will be implemented under a Financing Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

1 OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.
3 [Commission Decision C(2014) 7413]
4 OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p.44.
(5) Action 3 entitled “Support for Democratisation and Accountability” aims to provide support for electoral systems and processes, including the parliamentary elections scheduled for 2015; the functioning of the parliament to be elected in 2015; and sub-national governance. The action will be implemented under a Financing Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

(6) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down 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 Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.5

(7) The Commission may entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. The responsible authorising officer has accordingly ensured that the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit complies with the conditions of points (a) to (d) of the second subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012. However, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme are currently undergoing the ex-ante assessment. In anticipation of the results of this review, the responsible authorising officer deems that, based on a preliminary evaluation and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with it, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to these entities.

(8) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for 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 1268/2012.6

(9) The Commission is required to define the term "non-substantial change" in the sense of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation, or under his or her responsibility, by sub-delegation (hereinafter referred to as the ‘responsible authorising officer’).

(10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Committee set up by the basic act referred to in Recital 2.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The following Annual Action Programme, constituted by the actions identified in the second paragraph and attached as annexes, is approved:

Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of Afghanistan

The actions constituting this measure are:

Annex 1: Support to Agriculture and Rural Development in Afghanistan
Annex 2: Support to Health and Nutrition Services to the Afghan Population
Annex 3: Support for Democratisation and Accountability

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Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this programme is set at EUR 182 500 000 to be financed from budget line Article 21 02 15 of the general budget of the European Union for 2014.

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.

Section 4 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.

The financial contribution referred to in Article 2 shall also cover any possible interests due for late payment.

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 shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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

Done at Brussels, 3.12.2014

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission