

COMMISSION DECISION

of 21/11/2008

approving the special measure in favour of Lebanon 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 (EC) No 1638/2006 of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument¹, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission adopted the Country Strategy Paper for Lebanon and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2007-2010 in March 2007², which indicates the priorities of supporting political, social and economic reforms, as well as support for reconstruction and recovery.
- (2) 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 this decision complements the orientation of the above-mentioned Country Strategy Paper and Indicative Programme.
- (3) However, the hostilities in and around the Nahr el-Bared refugee camp in 2007 has given rise to unforeseen reconstruction needs for the camp itself and its adjacent areas, which are not provided for in the Country Strategy Paper and the Multiannual Indicative Programme. The Community contribution will take place in the framework established by the donor's conference in Vienna on 23 June 2008.
- (4) This decision forms part of the Commission's overall support to the Palestinians in Lebanon, consolidating the Commission's role as the biggest donor to the Palestinians in the region.
- (5) The criteria set out in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) n° 1638/2006 and the conditions for the special measure have thus 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.

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1.

² C(2007)672.

- (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 Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities³, Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of that Regulation⁴.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The action, "Support to the Reconstruction of the Palestinian refugee camp at the Nahr el-Bared" (EUR 8 million), for which the text is set out in the Annex, is approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the Community is set at EUR 8 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Communities for 2008.

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 Action.

The authorising officer may adopt such changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels, 21 November 2008

For the Commission
Benita FERRERO-WALDNER
Member of the Commission

³ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1605/2002 (OJ L 248, 16.09.2002) as last amended by Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 1995/2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006) and by Council Regulation (EC) N° 1525/2007 of 17 December 2007 (OJ L 343, 27.12.2007, p. 9.).

⁴ Commission Regulation (EC Euratom) N° 2342/2002 (OJ L 357, 31.12.2002) as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC Euratom) N° 478/2007 du 23/04/2007 (OJ L 111, 28.04.2007).