COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 26/09/2011

Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth (SPRING) 2011-2012 in favour of the southern Neighbourhood region to be financed under Article 19 08 01 01 of 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 (EC) n°1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)¹, and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The Commission adopted the Joint Communication of 25 May 2011² ‘A new response to a changing Neighbourhood’ which set the following priorities: (a) democratic transformation and institution building, (b) partnership with people and (c) sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development.

(2) The Commission submitted an Amending Letter to Draft Budget 2012 proposing to make available additional appropriations in support of supplementary measures in the EU Neighbourhood region as a follow-up of the Joint Communication. For 2011, a budgetary reinforcement has been approved by the Budgetary Authority.

(3) The objectives of the proposed "Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth (SPRING)" programme are to respond to the pressing socio-economic challenges that partner countries of the southern Mediterranean region are facing and to support them in their transition phase towards democracy. The SPRING programme will focus specifically on support related to democratic transformation and institution-building, and for sustainable and inclusive growth and economic development. It is a multi-country programme with an umbrella approach that provides the flexibility for modulating assistance on the basis of progress by individual countries towards deep and sustainable democracy and inclusive socio-economic development, applying the "more-for-more" principle.

(4) The present Decision constitutes a Financing Decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the

² COM(2011)303.
The "Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth (SPRING)" programme in favour of the southern Neighbourhood countries, the text of which is set out in the attached Annex, is approved.
Article 2

The provisional maximum contribution of the European Union to the "Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth (SPRING)" programme is set at EUR 350 000 000 to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 01 of the general budget of the European Union of which EUR 65 million for 2011 and EUR 285 million for 2012 subject to the adoption of the 2012 budget by Budgetary Authority including the corresponding reinforcement of the ENPI budget as proposed in Amending Letter No.1/2012.

Article 3

Cumulated changes of the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the European Union shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the "Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth (SPRING)" programme. This may include an increase of the maximum contribution of the European Union up to 20%.

The relevant authorising officer may amend the present Decision to introduce non-substantial changes to the "Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth (SPRING)" programme in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Article 4

Actions financed under this programme shall be implemented in direct centralised management in accordance with Article 53a of the Financial Regulation except where the College decides otherwise. The Commissioner for enlargement and European neighbourhood policy shall be empowered to take such decisions for the Commission, after consultation and in agreement with the Commissioner responsible for financial programming and budget. The College will be kept informed about these decisions.

Done at Brussels, 26 September 2011

For the Commission
Štefan FÜLE
Member of the Commission
ANNEX

Support for partnership, reforms and inclusive growth (SPRING)