



COMMISSION DECISION C(2013)3075

of 30 May 2013

on the adoption of 2013 work programme in the Climate Action policy area, serving as a financing decision.

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (hereinafter referred to as "the LIFE+ Programme")¹, and in particular Article 5 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 Union² (hereinafter referred to as the 'Financial Regulation'), and in particular Articles 84 and 128 thereof,

Having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union³ (hereinafter referred to as the 'Rules of Application'), and in particular Article 94 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission adopted on 22 January 2013 the Decision C (2013) 343 setting out the work programme of grants and contracts in the Climate Action Policy Area for the year 2013. As described in this decision a balance of EUR 6 000 000 will be subject to a separate amending decision. The present decision therefore provides for an update which is essential to the proper implementation of the work programme of the Directorate General for Climate Action.
- (2) This Decision should allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of the Financial Regulation and Article 111(4) of the Rules of Application.
- (3) For the application of this Decision, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 94(4) of the Rules of Application.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The 2013 work programme in the Climate Action policy area (hereinafter "supplementary work programme"), as set out in the Annex, is adopted. It constitutes a financing decision in the meaning of Article 84 of the Financial Regulation.

¹ OJ L 149/1, 9.6.2007, p. 1.

² OJ L 298/1, 26.10.2012

³ OJ-L 362/1, 31.12.2012

Article 2

The maximum contribution for this supplementary work programme is set at EUR 6 000 000 and shall be financed from budget article 07 12 01 – Implementation of Union policy and legislation on climate action.

These appropriations shall cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20 % of the maximum contribution set in Article 2 of this Decision and Article 2 of the Decision C(2013)343 of 22 of January 2013 are not considered to be substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of the Rules of Application, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature and objective of the work programme. This may include the increase of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision and Decision C(2013)343 of 22 of January 2013 up to 20 %

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such changes in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and the principle of proportionality.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Connie Hedegaard
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Introduction

This supplementary work programme complements the initial work programme of grants and contracts in the Climate Action Policy Area for the year 2013 as set up in the Decision C(2013)343, which specifies implementing measures for a total amount of EUR 14 700 000 out of the EUR 20 700 000 foreseen in the 2013 General budget of the European Union under the budget item 07 12 01 .

In particular this supplementary work programme includes the following implementing measures:

- A call for proposals for operating grants for the promotion of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) primarily active in the field of environmental protection and enhancement for an amount of EUR 4 000 000;
- procurement procedures on the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) for an amount of EUR 2 000 000.

These actions will be implemented under direct centralised management

Legal basis

Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+)

Budget line

07 12 01 EU policy and legislation on Climate Action

1. CALL FOR PROPOSALS – OPERATING GRANTS

Introduction

This work programme contains implementing measures for the year 2013. On the basis of the objectives given in the Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+)⁴, operating grants will be awarded after a call for proposals.

1.1. The call for proposals

The call for proposals will be implemented under direct centralised management by the Directorate General for Climate Action.

Grants shall be covered by a written agreement.

1.2. Legal basis

Regulation (EC) No 614/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 concerning the Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE+), and in particular article 5, paragraph 2.

1.3. Objectives of the call for proposals

In accordance with the multiannual priorities defined in Annex 2 to the LIFE+ Regulation, one of the principal objectives of the programme is to promote non-governmental organisations (NGOs) primarily active in the field of environmental protection and enhancement at a European level.

⁴ OJ L 149 of 9 June 2007, p.1

To this end, and in accordance with article 5.2 of the Regulation, the Commission will publish in 2013 an open call for proposals with a view to co-finance the operating costs of European environmental NGOs in relation to activities provided for in their 2014 annual work programme that involve contributing to the implementation and/or development of EU environmental policy and legislation in Europe.

1.4. Expected results of actions to be supported

It is expected to strengthen the participation of NGOs in the dialogue process of environmental and climate policy making and in its implementation.

1.5. Specific targets /actions/ themes for 2014:

Thematic objectives: The main focus of the proposed work programme should relate to one or more of the following thematic objectives:

To protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital
To turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green and competitive low-carbon economy
To safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing

Annual priorities: In addition, the extent to which proposals address the following annual priorities will be given special consideration:

- Waste
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

1.6. Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG Environment through a cross delegation. The content of the action has been elaborated in close collaboration between the Directorate General for Climate Action and Directorate General for Environment.

1.7. Timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Indicative timetable for call for proposals:

Timing of call for proposals :	
Publication date	2 nd quarter 2013
Closing date	Third quarter 2013
Notification of results	Fourth quarter 2013
Conclusion of the grant agreements	Fourth quarter 2013- first quarter 2014

Indicative budget and expected number of projects to be selected:

25-35 proposals for a total indicative budget of EUR 9.000.000: EUR 4 000 000 will be financed by this budgetary article and the difference by the budgetary article 07 03 07 on the basis of the 2013 work programme in the Environment Policy area.

1.8. Form of the grant and maximum possible rate of co-financing

The grant will take the form of a partial reimbursement of eligible costs. The rate of overall EU assistance shall not exceed 70% out of the applicant's eligible expenses for the current year.

Maximum amount for requests

The maximum amount that can be requested and awarded is fixed at €900.000. For organisations that have been awarded an operating grant under this programme in 2013, the maximum amount that can be requested and awarded is limited to the same amount as the one requested for 2013 or 2012, but cannot exceed €900.000.

1.9. Eligibility criteria.

An applicant organisation must be an independent and non-profit-making legal person primarily active in the field of environmental protection and enhancement with an environmental objective aimed at the public good and with a view to sustainable development.

It should be operating at a European level, either alone or in the form of several co-ordinated associations, with a structure and activities covering at least three European countries.

Its activities must be in line with the thematic objectives as listed above in section 1.5 and meet the principles underlying the proposal for a General Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 "Living well, within the limits of our planet".⁵

The applicant must have been legally constituted for more than two years and have had its annual statement of accounts for the two preceding years certified by a registered auditor. In cases of exceptional circumstances, notably regarding a new network created within the two preceding years, the Commission may grant a derogation from these two requirements.

The support is open to the participation of European NGOs established (legally registered) in the EU27 Member States plus Croatia.

1.10. Selection criteria

- Financial capacity: The applicant must be reliable from a financial point of view and have stable and sufficient sources of funding to carry out the work programme and to participate in its funding.

- Operational capacity: The applicant must have professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed work programme, as evidenced by the curriculum vitae of the legal representative of the organisation and the main collaborators showing all their relevant professional experience to complete the proposed work programme, as well as one or more recent activity report(s) allowing an assessment of the organisation's objectives, activities and experience.

1.11. Award criteria

A point system according to the award criteria will be established for evaluating and selecting organisations to be supported.

The award criteria will relate to:

- Policy relevance of involvement in EU environmental implementation and/or policy-shaping under the thematic objectives listed under section 1.5.

⁵ COM(2012)710 of 29.11.2012

- Relevance and potential to contribute to:
 - maximising the benefits of the Union’s environment legislation,
 - improving the evidence base for environment policy,
 - securing investment for environment and climate policy and get the prices right and
 - improving environmental and climate integration and policy coherence.
- Relevance for enhancing the sustainability of the Union’s cities and increasing the Union’s effectiveness in confronting regional and global environmental and climate challenges
- Effectiveness of NGO contribution to the EU policy process
- Technical and financial coherence and management of the work programme
- Organisational development
- Relevance in addressing the specific annual priorities defined in section 1.5.

2. PROCUREMENT

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for a procurement contract in 2013 under this supplementary work programme amounts to €2 000.000.

Indicative number and type of contracts envisaged

Procurement procedures are expected to be launched for 2 service contracts and a supply contract.

Subject of the contracts envisaged

The contracts will aim at improving the security of the EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) through a set of specific measures which are necessary for such types of systems to be implemented successfully.

Indicative timeframe

The procurement procedures will be launched in the second and third quarter of 2013.