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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION DECISION

of

XXX

**Concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2015 of the Pericles 2020
Programme**

ANNEX

Annual Work Programme for Pericles 2020 and the financing for the implementation of the Pericles 2020 Programme in 2015

1.1. Introduction

This is the Annual Work Programme (AWP) for the implementation of the Pericles 2020 programme 2014-2020 established by Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 ("the Programme"). Pericles 2020 is a programme establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting.

On the basis of the objectives given in the Programme this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the year 2015 as indicated below.

The Programme will be implemented with the actions mentioned in Art. 8 of the Regulation (EU) No 331/2014.

The budget breakdown is the following:

The amount of appropriations allocated under Article 24 03 01 of the budget of the European Union is EUR 1.024.800 in 2015 (in current prices). The assistance in the context of this Programme will take one of the following forms:

- Grants for specific projects proposed by the National Authorities following calls for proposals, the details of which are described below. It is planned to allocate EUR 600 000 to grants;
- Service contracts (procurements) concerning the organisation of trainings (such as conferences, staff exchanges and workshops), as well as the conduct of studies. It is planned to allocate EUR 424 800 to these measures organised by the Commission.

The EU's financial support takes the form of:

Grant agreements with a maximum co-financing rate of 75% (contribution of the EU in relation to the total eligible costs incurred for the action). In exceptional and duly justified cases, defined in the annual work programmes, the co-financing rate shall not exceed 90% of the eligible costs.

Such duly justified cases defined for this work programme include, in particular:

- Conferences, seminars and workshops taking place outside the EU and having as a main target staff from third countries particularly affected by production and distribution of counterfeits;
- Actions organised by Authorities from Member States entering the euro area;
- Actions organised by Authorities applying for the first time.

Legal basis

1. Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles 2020' programme) and repealing Council Decisions 2001/923/EC, 2001/924/EC, 2006/75/EC, 2006/76/EC, 2006/849/EC and 2006/850/EC¹.
2. Council Regulation extending to the non-participating Member States the application of Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles 2020' programme)².

Budget line and budget allocation

The amount of appropriations allocated under Article 24 03 01 of the budget of the European Union is EUR 1.024.800 in 2015.

According to Art. 9(2) of the basic act and its Annex, 100% of the budget will be allocated to the eligible actions³ (listed in Art. 8(2)):

- Exchange and dissemination of information;
- Technical, scientific and operational assistance;
- Grants to finance the purchase of equipment to be used by specialised anti-counterfeiting authorities.

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Priorities: the priorities on which the Pericles Programme is based in 2015 are listed in the update of the Pericles Strategy 2015⁴. They have been endorsed by the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group (ECEG), as provided for by Council Regulation (EC) 1338/2001 of 28 June 2001. They are as follows:

- increasing emphasis on Member States which are particularly affected by the production and distribution of counterfeits;
- maintaining an efficient framework for the protection of the euro in South Eastern Europe and the candidate country Turkey;
- developing closer cooperation with authorities of those third countries of which there is suspicion or evidence that they are the location of counterfeit euro production;
- reinforcing the protection of the euro coins by developing new security features or authentication methods.

¹ Hereinafter: the basic act.

² COM(2011) 910 final. Once the Council Regulation is adopted, which extends the application of Regulation (EU) No 331/2014, this Annual Work Programme will also cover non-participating Member States.

³ According to the Annex to the basic act, within the financial envelope for the Programme as set out in Article 9, a minimum of 90% of the budget shall be allocated to the eligible actions listed in Article 8(2).

⁴ Update of the Pericles 2020 strategy: priority action points (Note Ares(2014)3967843, attached as annex).

Objectives:

The general objective⁵ of the Pericles 2020 Programme shall be to prevent and combat counterfeiting and related fraud, thus enhancing the competitiveness of the Union's economy and securing the sustainability of public finances.

The specific objective⁶ of the Programme shall be to protect euro banknotes and coins against counterfeiting and related fraud, by supporting and supplementing the measures undertaken by the Member States and assisting the competent national and Union authorities in their efforts to develop among themselves and with the Commission a close and regular cooperation and an exchange of best practice, where appropriate including third countries and international organisations.

Expected results:

- higher capacity of the national experts to address issues related to counterfeiting of the euro;
- strengthening of the cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities in relation to the protection of the euro against counterfeiting, both inside and outside the EU;
- improve knowledge on the legislation and administrative practices concerning the protection of the euro;
- harmonisation of the administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation in different Member States;
- improving cooperation within the European Union and improving its relations with third countries;
- strengthening the technical capacity of third country agencies to investigate euro counterfeiting.

Implementation

The Programme will be implemented by the Commission in cooperation with the Member States, through regular consultations at different stages of the implementation of the Programme, within the Euro Counterfeiting Experts Group (ECEG)⁷, taking into account relevant measures undertaken by other competent entities, in particular the ECB and Europol⁸, as well as the multi-annual character of the projects.

Considering the nature and scope of actions planned as well as the nature of the authorities involved, the initiatives being supported should develop synergies and complementarities with Law Enforcement Training Schemes -LETS (COM(2013) 172 final) and with the Internal Security Fund - ISF.

⁵ Art. 3 of the basic act.

⁶ Art. 4 of the basic act.

⁷ Referred to in Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001.

⁸ As stipulated in Art. 13 of the basic act.

The Commission will regularly report on the results of the actions supported by the Programme and will provide an annual report on results to the European Parliament and to the Council as stipulated in Art.13(3) of the basic act.

1.2. Grants

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for grants in 2015 amounts to € 600 000.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals:

The activities of the programme shall be implemented in conformity with Article 7 defining target groups and joint actions, and shall include:

- (a) exchange and dissemination of information, in particular through organising workshops, meetings and seminars, including training, targeted placements and exchanges of staff of competent national authorities and other similar actions (see Art.8(2)(a) of the basic act);
- (b) technical, scientific and operational assistance, as appears necessary as part of the Programme including in particular the actions mentioned in Art.8(2)(b) of the basic act;
- (c) grants to finance the purchase of equipment to be used by specialised anti counterfeiting authorities of third countries for protecting the euro against counterfeiting, in compliance with Art.10(3) and Art.8(2)(c) of the basic act.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

The Commission selects the projects submitted by the Member States on the basis of the following criteria:

a. Eligibility criteria

Bodies eligible for funding under the Programme shall be the competent national authorities as defined in point (b) of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2001⁹.

Beneficiaries shall be the Member States having adopted the euro as their single currency¹⁰.

Once Council Regulation extending to the non-participating Member States the application of Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (the 'Pericles 2020' programme)¹¹ enters into force, the competent national authorities of the non-participating countries will also be able to benefit from the programme. In particular, Competent National Authorities from non-participating countries may submit proposals to the calls, but the Council Regulation extending to non-participating Member States the application of Regulation (EU) No 331/2014 must enter into force before signature of the relevant

⁹ Art.5 of the basic act.

¹⁰ Art.6 of the basic act.

¹¹ COM (2011) 910 final.

grant agreements. Otherwise these applicants are not eligible for funding.

To be eligible for co-financing, measures must demonstrate the transnational and multidisciplinary aspects of the fight against counterfeiting.

b. Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, applicants shall demonstrate the operational resources (technical, management) and the professional skills and qualifications needed to successfully implement the proposed action.

When appropriate, the applicant shall demonstrate that it has the financial capacity enabling it to perform the tasks involved in the project as shown by the annual accounts (balance and profit and loss account) for the last financial year for which accounts have been closed. The financial capacity requirement does not apply to national and regional administrations.

c. Award criteria

Applications submitted by applicants that fulfil the eligibility and selection criteria indicated above will be assessed on the basis of the award criteria mentioned below:

- compliance with the Programme's objectives as defined above;
- compatibility with work being carried out or planned as part of EU action in the field of combating currency counterfeiting;
- European dimension, including in particular aspects that relate to cooperation with the ECB and Europol;
- complementarity with previous, current or future projects;
- the intrinsic quality of the project in terms of its conception, organisation, presentation and objectives;
- cost-effectiveness ratio;
- the impact of the anticipated results on the attainment of the Programme's objectives.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the calls for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
Date of publication of the First Call on the Commission website	[First Semester 2015]	[EUR 600 000] in total
Deadline for the submission of proposals, First Call, first deadline	[First Semester 2015]	[EUR 300 000]

Deadline for the submission of proposals, First Call, second deadline	[Second Semester 2015]	[EUR 300 000]
Date of publication of the Second Call on the Commission website (if necessary)	[Second Semester 2015]	[Remaining available budget...]

1.3. Procurement

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2015 amounts to € 424 800.

Procured actions will focus on the implementation of the priorities of the Pericles strategy 2015¹² complementing grant agreements.

In implementing these actions, the Commission may choose to use the services of a firm specialised in organising events under a framework contract. The number of contracts stipulated under existing framework contracts depends on the size and the type of planned actions and could indicatively concern up to 8 actions.

Indicative time framework for the procurement contracts: second semester 2015.

¹² Update of the Pericles 2020 strategy: priority action points (document Ares(2014)3967843 attached as annex).