COMMISSION DECISION

of 12/03/2012

on an action to be financed under the African Peace Facility from the 10th European Development Fund – Support to the African Training Centres in Peace and Security

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)–European Community (EC) Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000¹ and revised by the Agreement of 25 June 2005² signed in Luxemburg, and in particular Article 34 of Annex IV thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 617/2007 of 14 May 2007 on the implementation of the 10th European Development Fund under the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement³, and in particular Article 12 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 215/2008 of 18 February 2008 on Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund⁴ and in particular Article 29(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) By its Decision C(2011) 6096 of 31 August 2011, the Commission adopted the three-year action programme of the African Peace Facility for the period 2011-2013. Its overall objective is to foster peace, stability and security in Africa, providing the basis for long-term sustainable development. The African Peace Facility supports the implementation of the Partnership on Peace and Security within the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, adopted at the second Africa-EU Summit in Lisbon and reconfirmed by the second Action Plan on peace and security in Africa adopted at the third Africa-EU Summit in Tripoli.

(2) Within this framework, the European Union has been supporting the operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture since October 2004 with

² OJEU L 287, 28.10.2005, p. 5
³ OJEU L 152, 13.6.2007, p. 1
⁴ OJEU L 78, 19.03.2008, p. 1
EUR 84 500 000 (from the ninth and tenth European Development Funds) financed through the African Peace Facility.

(3) On 27 October 2011, the African Union Commission requested the European Union to contribute an amount of EUR 11 400 000 from the African Peace Facility for a support programme to the African Training Centres in Peace and Security for the period of 1 February 2012 to 31 January 2014.

(4) The objective pursued by this action is to significantly contribute to the improvement of the required capacities and capabilities of African Training Centres and therefore to contribute to the operationalization of African Peace and Security Architecture. The action addresses training needs at three different levels: continental (African Union Commission), regional (Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms) and at the level of the training centres.

(5) The requested funding is consistent with the needs arising from the operationalisation of the African Peace and Security Architecture and the achievements made to date in implementing African Peace and Security Architecture capacity building programmes.

(6) Following a positive assessment by the Commission of the above-mentioned request by the African Union, the EU’s Political and Security Committee endorsed the request on 15 November 2011.

(7) It is therefore appropriate to allocate an amount of EUR 11 400 000 from the three-year action programme of the African Peace Facility for the period 2011-2013, budget heading "Operationalisation of APSA and Africa - EU dialogue", to support the African Training Centres in Peace and Security Programme for the period of 1 February 2012 to 31 January 2014.

(8) The management system set up by the African Union Commission for the management of European Union funds does not fully comply at the moment with all of the conditions set out in Article 29 of the Financial Regulation (EC) No 215/2008 applicable to the tenth European Development Fund. The Commission considers however that a contribution agreement in joint management may still be established under the strict conditions agreed in the joint European Commission/African Union Commission Aide-Memoire on measures to strengthen the African Union Commission's financial management, signed on 27 August 2009 and revised on 1 June 2011. These conditions shall be included in the contribution agreement which will be signed between the European Commission and the African Union Commission.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The financing of EUR 11 400 000 from the 10th European Development Fund African Peace Facility, to the African Training Centres in Peace and Security Programme, as described in the Annex to this Decision, is approved.
Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

Andris Piebalgs

Member of the Commission
ANNEX

"African Training Centres in Peace and Security Programme"