

C (2012) 5159

COMMISSION DECISION

of 22/08/2012

on the Annual Action Programme 2012 in favour of the Southern African Development Community, to be financed from the 10th European Development Fund

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to the Partnership Agreement between the members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000¹ and revised in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on 23 June 2010², hereinafter referred to as the "Cotonou Agreement", 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 Cotonou Agreement³, and in particular Article 7 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 Articles 21(a), 22 and 23; 25(1) and Article 29(1)(a) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission adopted the Regional Strategy Paper for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2008-2013, points 6.3.1. and 6.4 in Part II of which provide for the following priorities: "Regional economic integration" and the setting up of a Technical Cooperation Facility and Support to Non State Actors. "
- (2) The objectives pursued by this Annual Action Programme are based on the following objectives set out in the Regional Indicative Programme: increase economic growth and reduce poverty through deeper levels of regional economic integration by implementing the Southern African Development Community Free Trade Agreement

¹ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3; as revised in Luxemburg on 25 June 2005, O.J. L 209, 11.08.2005, p.27 and in Ouagadougou on 22 June 2010, O.J. L 287, 04.11.2010, p. 1, provisionally applicable by virtue of Decision No 2/2010 of the ACP-EU Council of Ministers of 21 June 2010, O.J. L 287, 04.11.2010, p. 68.

² OJ L 287, 4.11.2010, p.3

³ OJ L 152, 13.6.2007, p. 1

⁴ OJ L 78, 19.03.2008, p. 1

and moving to a Customs Union and a Common Market with integrated rules and standards, free movement of production factors, labour, capital, goods and services, competition policy and macroeconomic convergence.

- (3) The specific objective of the support to the Regional Economic Integration Support programme (REIS) is to create an enabling environment through the SADC Secretariat to enhance the movement of goods and services within SADC, facilitate investment, and secure World Trade Organisation (WTO) compatible market access arrangements between SADC Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) countries and the EU.
- (4) The objective of the support to the SADC Project Preparation and Development Facility (PPDF) is to help SADC Member States to address the supply-side infrastructure services constraints affecting economic development within the region as a means to promote regional economic integration.
- (5) The specific objective of the Institutional Capacity Development Programme (ICDP) is to improve the capacity of the SADC Secretariat to effectively carry out its mandate of coordinating the implementation of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme (RISDP) and the Strategic Indicative Programme for the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-Operation (SIPO).
- (6) The Technical Cooperation Facility specific objectives are to facilitate actions necessary for the expeditious identification, preparation, monitoring, evaluation and audit of interventions under the Regional Indicative Programme and other European Development Fund funds, and the objectives of the action Support to Non State Actors is to increase the involvement of Southern African Development Community Non State Actors via capacity development activities related to regional integration within constituencies/regional Non State Actor networks, and the participation of Civil Society Organisations in governance and human rights, as well as in early warning analysis and post-conflict situations.
- (7) The measures covered by this Decision are in conformity with the objectives of development finance co-operation as defined in Articles 55 and 79 of the Cotonou Agreement.
- (8) This Decision constitutes a Financing Decision within the meaning of Article 16 of Annex IV to the Cotonou Agreement and Article 67 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund.
- (9) It is appropriate to define the term “substantial change” within the meaning of Article 7 of Regulation (EC) N° 617/2007 to ensure that any substantial change in this Decision shall follow the same procedure as the initial Decision.
- (10) In accordance with Article 53(d) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002, evidence has been obtained that the international organisations to be entrusted with the implementation of the Union budget by joint management, apply standards which offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted standards in their accounting, audit, internal control and procurement procedures by the authorising officer by delegation.

- (11) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Development Fund Committee set up by Article 8 of the Internal Agreement of 17 July 2006.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Annual Action Programme in favour of the Southern African Development Community constituted by the actions "Institutional Capacity Development Programme", "Technical Cooperation Facility II", "Regional Integration Support Programme", and "Project Preparation and Development Facility" the text of which is set out in the attached Annexes, is approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the European Union to the Annual Action Programme is set at EUR 50 000 000, to be financed from the 10th European Development Fund.

Article 3

Cumulated changes of the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision and not representing more than EUR 10 000 000 shall not be considered substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the Annual Action Programme. This may include an increase of the maximum contribution authorised by this Decision of up to 20%.

The relevant authorising officer may amend the present Decision to introduce non-substantial changes in the Annual Action Programme in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Algirdas ŠEMETA
Member of the Commission

ANNEXES

Annual Action Programme Southern African Development Community:

Annex I: Institutional Capacity Development Programme

Annex II: Technical Cooperation Facility II

Annex III: Regional Economic Integration Support programme

Annex IV: The Project Preparation and Development Facility