



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 16.6.2015
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 16.6.2015

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of Sierra Leone to be financed from
the 11th European Development Fund**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/322 of 2 March 2015 on the implementation of the 11th European Development Fund¹, and in particular Article 9 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/323 of 2 March 2015 on Financial Regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund², and in particular Article 26 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the National Indicative Programme for Sierra Leone for the period 2014-2020³, point 1.2 of which provide for the following priorities: Government and Civil Society, Education, Agriculture and Food Security and specific transport intervention.
- (2) Action entitled “Budget support”. Under this State Building Contract (SBC), budget support and related complementary support are provided to contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth and to assist the Government of Sierra Leone in the process of transitioning from fragility by achieving the peace-building and state-building goals. The specific objective is to support the Government of Sierra Leone in improving resilience to face external shocks and in reaching the New Deal Peace-building and State-building Goal of 'improved management of revenue and increased capacity for accountable and fair service delivery'. It is expected that EU budget support will provide additional fiscal space for the Government of Sierra Leone, enabling development spending and ensuring enhanced provision of basic public services. In addition, it is envisaged that under this SBC the EU will support the Government of Sierra Leone to further improve public financial management systems for a more efficient and accountable use of public funds. There is an emphasis on curtailing the incidence of, and scope for, corruption. The SBC will also provide complementary assistance to help strengthen institutional capacity of the Government of Sierra Leone in the areas pertaining to sector strategic planning and budget execution, in particular with regards education and health sectors.

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.

³ C(2014) 3633of 12.06.201

- (3) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁴ applicable by virtue of Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (4) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, applicable by virtue of Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (5) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (6) 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 between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the financing of European Union aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the OCTs to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies⁵

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of Sierra Leone to be financed from the 11th European Development Fund, as set out in the Annex, is approved.

The programme shall include the following action:

- Annex : State Building Contract for Sierra Leone.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 85 000 000 and shall be financed from the 11th European Development Fund.

The financial contribution provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section “Implementation” of the Annex to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of 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 Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

⁵ OJ L 210, 6.8.2013, p. 1

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set by the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20 % of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 16.6.2015

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission