



Brussels, 5.8.2016
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 5.8.2016

**on the Annual Action Programme 2016 Part III in favour of the Asia region to be
financed from the general budget of the European Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹, and in particular Article 2(1) 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 Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Regional Strategy Paper for Asia³ and the Multiannual Regional Indicative Programme for Asia for the period 2014-2020⁴, points 3.1.1.1 and 3.2.1.1 of which provide for the following priorities: enhance the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereunder ASEAN) integration process, which contributes to trade, poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth, as well as to preserving peace and stability in South East Asia; encourage increased regional integration and co-operation in South and North-East Asia by providing and further developing a dedicated regional high capacity, high quality Internet connectivity network for research and higher education, also leveraging the e-infrastructure developed for public service projects.
- (2) The Commission has adopted the Annual Action Programmes 2016 part I and 2016 part II in favour of the Asia region, to be funded from the general budget of the European Union⁵.
- (3) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁶ are to enhance regional integration in South East, South and North East Asia, support the reintegration of unrooted people, and contribute to economic prosperity and the development of a green economy.
- (4) Action 1, entitled "ASEAN regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE Plus) " is to support greater economic integration in ASEAN through the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint 2025.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Decision C(2014)9382

⁴ Decision C(2014)6112

⁵ Decision C(2015)5830 and C(2015)9220

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation, for the period 2014-2020, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014.

- (5) Action 2, entitled Asi@Connect is to provide and further develop a dedicated regional high capacity, high quality Internet connectivity network for research and higher education.
- (6) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁷.
- (7) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the Annex 1 (section 5.3.1) and annex 2 (section 5.3).
- (8) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. These entities comply with the conditions of points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and the supervisory and support measures are in place as necessary.
- (9) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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.
- (12) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee set up by Article 19 of the financing instrument referred to in Recital 3.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programmes 2016 Part III in favour of the Asia region to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: ASEAN Regional Integration Support from the EU (ARISE Plus);
- Annex 2: Asi@Connect

Article 2

Financial contribution

⁷ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 60 000 000 and shall be financed for an amount of EUR 60 000 000 from budget line 21.020200 of the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2016.

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

Article 3

Implementation modalities

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the attached Annex 1, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

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

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

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 use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

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

Done at Brussels, 5.8.2016

For the Commission
Věra JOUROVÁ
Member of the Commission