



Brussels, 13.12.2016
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.12.2016

on the Annual Action Programme 2016 Part 2 in favour of Bhutan for Support to Civil Society in Bhutan 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 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 Multiannual Indicative Programme Bhutan for the period 2014-2020³, point 1.2 of which provides for the following priorities: fiscal decentralization and capacity development for local governments, capacity development of civil society as well as public finance management reform (sector 1) and support to sustainable agriculture and forestry (sector 2).
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme (Part 1)⁴ to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁵ are to support the Royal Government of Bhutan in their reforms in the areas of fiscal decentralization and capacity development for local governments including public finance management and in the area of sustainable agriculture and forestry including climate change adaptation and resilience. The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme (Part 2) to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁶, are to enhance the contribution of civil society to Bhutan's 11th Five Year Plan and future 12th Five Year Plan's objectives in the areas of sustainable development and good governance.
- (3) Action entitled "Support to Civil Society in Bhutan" will improve the environment and operational capacity for civil society engagement in sustainable development and good governance by promoting an inclusive approach to strengthen the capacities of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Cooperatives, and the Government agencies responsible for the registration, regulation and support to these civil society actors.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2014)5742.

⁴ C(2016)5096.

⁵ 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, p. 44).

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, p. 44).

- (4) 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 1268/2012⁷.
- (5) 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) of the Action Document.
- (6) 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.
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2016 part 2 in favour of Bhutan for Support to Civil Society in Bhutan, as set out in the Annex, is approved.

The programme shall include the following action

- Annex: Support to Civil Society in Bhutan

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 2 500 000 and shall be financed from budget line 21.020200 of the general budget of the European Union for 2016

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) No1268/2012.

⁷ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation 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).

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

Done at Brussels, 13.12.2016

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission