COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 18.9.2017

on the Special Measure 2017 and 2018 on "Addressing migration and forced displacement challenges in Asia and the Middle East: a comprehensive regional EU Response"
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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 action, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The Commission has adopted the Regional Strategy Paper for Asia and the Multiannual Regional Indicative Programme for Asia for the period 2014-2020, which provides for the following priority: provide support to reintegrate or integrate uprooted people, including support to local communities and resettlement areas;

(2) The Commission has adopted the Thematic Programme "Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) in the areas of migration and asylum" for the period 2014-2017 which establishes the following three objectives: "Promotion of effective governance of migration and mobility and improved management of migratory flows in all their dimensions" (Objective 1); "Enhance the positive impact of the increased regional and global migration and mobility of people on economic, social and environmental development" (Objective 2); "Improving a common understanding of the migration and development nexus" (Objective 3).

(3) The objectives pursued by the Special Measure to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument are to address the short, medium and long-term challenges posed by protracted forced displacement and migration, both in host/transit countries and countries of origin. It also tackles the need to develop sustainable solutions for the reintegration of returnees and displaced population in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries

2 OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.
3 Decision C(2014)9382
4 Decision C(2014)6112
5 DCI Regulation no 233/2014, art.7, 77/52, 15.03.2014
countries. The action entitled "Addressing migration and displacement challenges in Asia: a comprehensive regional EU Response" foresees a series of multi-sector and multi-stakeholder measures targeting forcibly displaced populations, returnees, host / return communities, local and national authorities. The action is aimed to enhance the resilience and self-reliance of the targeted beneficiaries; improve access to livelihood support services, including skills development and employment opportunities; ensure international protection; improve migration and asylum management system and policies in the targeted countries.

(4) The action will be implemented through a series of Delegation Agreements with international organizations and with grants as described in annex.

(5) 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 1268/2012.

(6) The envisaged assistance to Afghanistan, Iran and Iraq is deemed to strictly follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures concerning the said countries.

(7) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants in accordance with Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the Annex (section 5.3.1).

(8) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in Annex to this Decision, subject to the conclusion of delegation agreements. In accordance with Article 60(1)(c) 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 European Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages European Union funds. These entities (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ, International Centre for Migration Policy Development - ICMPD, International Labour Organisation - ILO, International Organization for Migration - IOM, United Nations Human Settlements Programme - UN-HABITAT, The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR, United Nations Children's Fund - UNICEF, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime - UNODC, World Health Organisation - WHO and the World Bank Group for the budget-implementation tasks already assessed) comply with the conditions set out in 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. The World Bank Group, are currently undergoing the assessment provided for in Article 61 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the World Bank Group's positive assessment under the Council's Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with it, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to the World Bank Group.

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It is necessary to allow for 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.

Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, any substantial change to a financing decision that has already been adopted should follow the same procedure as the initial decision. It is therefore appropriate that the Commission defines the changes to this Decision that are considered non-substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.

The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee established under Article 19 of the financing instrument referred to in Recital 3.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**

**Adoption of the measure**

The Special Measure 2017 and 2018 on "Addressing migration and forced displacement challenges in Asia and the Middle East: a comprehensive regional EU Response", as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following action:

- Annex: Addressing migration and forced displacement challenges in Asia and the Middle East: a comprehensive regional EU Response

**Article 2**

**Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 195 700 000. This shall be financed for an amount of EUR 40 000 000 from the budget line 21.02.02.00, for an amount of EUR 35 700 000 from the budget line 21.02.05.00 and for an amount of EUR 90 000 000 from the budget line 21.02.07.05 of the general budget of the European Union for 2017. The remaining EUR 30 000 000 shall be financed from the budget line 21.02.05.00 of the general budget of the European Union for 2018.

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2018 following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

**Article 3**

**Methods of implementation**

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

The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are set out in the Annex to this Decision.
Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set in 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 such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 18.9.2017

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission