COMMISSION DECISION

of 15.11.2017

on the Annual Action Programme 2017 - part I - in favour of the Caribbean Region 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(1) thereof.


Whereas:

(1) The Commission has adopted the Regional Indicative Programme for the Caribbean Region3.

(2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the 11th European Development Fund Internal Agreement4 (hereinafter “Internal Agreement”) are to assist the Caribbean countries signatories to the Cotonou Agreement5 to mobilise investments in key infrastructure with a priority focus on sustainable energy, climate change, information and communication technologies, transport and environment and thereby to contribute to their economic development and growth, integration at regional level and poverty reduction.

(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 1268/20126 applicable in accordance with Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.

(4) 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 applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323. The work programme is constituted by the Annex to this Decision.

1 OJ L 58, 3.3. 2015, p. 1
2 OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17
3 Commission Decision C(2015)3694
4 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 Overseas Countries and Territories OCTs to which Part Four of the EC Treaty applies, OJ L 210, 6.8.2013
5 OJ L 287, 4.11.2010
The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in the Annex to this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1)(c) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, 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. Some of 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. Some other entities are currently undergoing 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 entities’ positive assessment prior to the entry into force of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with them, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to these entities.

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 in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.

The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the European Development Fund Committee set up by Article 8 of the Internal Agreement.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**

**Adoption of the programme**

The Annual Action Programme 2017 part I in favour of the Caribbean Region to be financed from the 11th European Development Fund as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following action:

- Annex: Caribbean Investment Facility

**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 20 000 000 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**

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the attached Annex, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.
The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, 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 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, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, 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, 15.11.2017

For the Commission
Neven Mimica

Member of the Commission