COMMISSION DECISION

of 5.10.2017

on the 2017 Annual Action Programme in favour of Saint Lucia 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,

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

Whereas:

(1) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme for
Saint Lucia for the period 2014-2020³, which prioritises Employment Generation
through Private Sector Development, Support Measures (Technical Cooperation
Facility and National Authorising Officer) and Measure in favour of civil society
(Non-State Actors).

(2) The objectives pursued by the measure to be financed under the 11th European
Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement⁴ (‘Internal Agreement’) are: to improve
the technical capacities of the relevant line ministries to design and implement
development programmes and projects (TCF); maintain and enhance the NAO's
capacity to formulate, implement and monitor EU programmes, fulfil EU
administrative requirements, coordinate donor activity, and facilitate dialogue between
EU and relevant line ministries (Support to NAO); and, improve and foster structured
civil society participation in the national development agenda, through an NSA
Advisory Panel (NSA).

(3) The action entitled ‘Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) and Support Measures to
the National Authorizing Officer (NAO) and the Non-State Actors (NSA) Advisory
Panel’ is to ensure the efficient and effective utilisation of EU development assistance
in support of the implementation of the Government's development strategies and
policies.

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.
² OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.
³ C(2014)3908, 19.06.2014
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 to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies (OJ L
210, 6.8.2013, p. 1).
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 2012/1268, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.

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 2012/966 and in Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2012/1268, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323. The work programme is constituted by the Annex (section 4.2.2).

The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the partner country specified in the Annex to this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a financing agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2012/966 applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that measures are taken to supervise and support the implementation of the entrusted tasks. A description of those measures and the entrusted tasks are laid down in the Annex to this Decision.

The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals only in the exceptional cases set out in Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2012/1268, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.

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 2012/966 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2012/1268, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.

The measure provided for in this Decision do not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The European Development Fund Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Adoption of the programme

The 2017 Annual Action Programme in favour of Saint Lucia, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following action:


Article 2
Financial contribution

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The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 1 570 000 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

Methods of implementation

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

The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2012/1268 applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, are set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 2012/1268, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20 % of the initial contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 and which do not cause the total contribution to exceed EUR 10 000 000, 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 2012/1268, 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, 5.10.2017

For the Commission
Stefano ManservisiDirector-General