COMMISSION DECISION

of 11.12.2017

on the 2017 Annual Action Programme in favour of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 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) No 322/2015 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) No 323/2015 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 a National Indicative Programme for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines³ for the period 2014-2020, point 3.1 of which provides for the following priority: Rural Roads.

(2) The objective pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement ("Internal Agreement")⁴ is to assist the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in its efforts to enhance the quality of and to improve climate change resilience of the road network, in particular rural roads.

(3) The Action entitled "Road Management and Rural Road Improvement Programme in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines" has the following objectives: (a) strengthen the national road management and maintenance programme whilst minimising environmental impacts and (b) upgrade and "climate-proof" village and feeder roads. It will be implemented via indirect management with the Caribbean Development Bank.

(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 1268/2012⁵ applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p.1
² OJ L 58, 3.3.2017, p. 17
³ C(2014)3911, 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 OCTs to which Part Four of the EC Treaty applies, OJ L 210, 6.8.2013;
The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the Caribbean Development Bank 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 this entity guarantees a level of protection of the financial interests of the European Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages European Union funds. The Caribbean Development Bank is 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 entity’s 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 it, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to the Caribbean Development Bank.

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, 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 EDF Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**

**Adoption of the programme**

The 2017 Annual Action Programme in favour of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 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: Road Management and Rural Road Improvement Programme in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines;

**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 5 980 000 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 attached Annex, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement.

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 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, 11.12.2017

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission