



Brussels, 27.10.2017
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 27.10.2017

**amending Commission Decision C(2015)5386 on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in
favour of Zimbabwe 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(4) 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 Indicative Programme (NIP) for Zimbabwe³ for the period 2014-2020, point 3 of which provides for the following priorities: health, agriculture based economic development, governance and institutional building, measures in support of civil society and support measures.
- (2) The objective pursued by this decision is to increase the financial allocation to the Action entitled “Improving health outcomes for the population of Zimbabwe” by providing an additional amount of EUR 20 685 000 to support the Health Development Fund (HDF) in Zimbabwe. There is a serious shortfall in funding for the HDF and, through it, a serious shortfall in funding to support critical elements of the health system necessary to maintain the gains, particularly those in maternal and child health, achieved so far. In the short run there are no prospects either for a sudden turn around in government finances to cover this gap or for a resumption of International Financial Institutions' lending giving access to a major World Bank social sectors loan, but this may be available downstream, as may an improvement in the government's own ability to finance the system within the framework of the health financing policy and strategy recently developed with the World Bank, UNICEF and donor assistance. The action aims at: protecting the population against the most important health threats, in particular those at the root of maternal and child mortality; strengthening national health systems at provincial and district level; and promoting equal access to health services by supporting the necessary reforms on health financing and governance. The other actions of the Commission Decision C(2015)5386 remain unchanged.
- (3) The envisaged assistance to Zimbabwe is deemed to strictly follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures concerning the said country.
- (4) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in the Annex to this Decision, subject to the

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.

³ Commission decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and Zimbabwe for 2014-2020 C(2015)346 of 30.1.2015.

conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1) 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 Union funds. UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, UNDP and World Bank 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.

- (5) The amended measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the EDF Committee set up by Article 8 of the Internal Agreement.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Decision C(2015)5386 is amended as follows:

1. Article 2 is replaced to read as follows:

"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 109 685 000 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."

2. Article 4 is amended as follows :

"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."

3. Annex 1 to Decision C(2015)5386 "Improving health outcomes for the population of Zimbabwe" is replaced by the annex joined to the present Decision.

Done at Brussels, 27.10.2017

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission