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COMMISSION DECISION

of 2008

on the Annual Action Programme 2008 in favour of Sierra Leone to be financed from the 10th European Development Fund

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement signed in Cotonou on 23 June 2000¹, revised by the Agreement of 25 June 2005 signed in Luxemburg², and in particular Article 18.2 and article 34 of Annex IV thereof,

Having regard to the Internal Agreement of 17 July 2006 between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the financing of Community aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2008 to 2013 in accordance with the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the EC Treaty applies³, and in particular Article 11.1 thereof,

Having regard to the Council Regulation (EC) No 617/2007 of 14 May 2007 on the implementation of the 10th European Development Fund under the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement⁴, and in particular Article 7 thereof.

Having regard to the Council Regulation (EC) No 215/2008 of 18 February 2008 on Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund⁵ and in particular Articles 21 to 24, 25(1) and 29 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Country Strategy Paper for Sierra Leone and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2008-2013⁶, point 1.2.1 of which mentions the following priorities: Good governance and institutional support; Rehabilitation of priority infrastructure; General Budget support; and as non-focal sectors: EPA support, Agriculture, Regional Programmes, Technical Cooperation Facility, others.

¹ OJ L 317, 15.12.2000, p. 3

² OJ L 287, 28.10.2005, p. 5

³ OJ L 247, 9.9.2006, p. 32

⁴ OJ L 152, 13.6.2007, p. 1

⁵ OJ L 78, 19.03.2008, p. 1

⁶ C(2007) 5788. The CSP/NIP was signed on 9/12/07

- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme are to confront the causes of the civil war which still exist and to support sustainable economic growth. Sierra Leone is a fragile state, emerging from an 11 year long civil war. The UN Human Development Index puts Sierra Leone on the bottom of its ranking of 177 countries. Sierra Leone faces financial crisis, and its budget is highly dependant on foreign aid (+- 50%). MDGs are thus unlikely to be reached by 2015. The EC interventions support pro-poor policies of the Government's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and address the current inability of the state to deliver basic services, confront widespread corruption and marginalization and disempowerment of the rural and urban communities (especially the youth).
- (3) The Annual Action Plan will: (i) support the macroeconomic stability and provide additional resources to the Government of Sierra Leone for implementing the policy agenda outlined in its new PRSP through budget support; (ii) strengthen the office capacity of the National Authorising Officer (NAO office) to efficiently execute its mandate as stated in the Cotonou Partnership Agreement; (iii) support the essential identification, preparation and formulation of programmes and sector studies for interventions financed from the European Development Fund through the Technical cooperation facility; (iv) build human capacity and support the definition and implementation of a road sector policy; (v) support the rehabilitation of priority infrastructures, specially through the further completion of the highway connection Conakry-Freetown-Monrovia and (vi) seek to ensure the maximum contribution of the Special Court to the rule of law and the respect for Human Rights in Sierra Leone and in the sub region.
- (4) In addition, € 8 Million Euros from the 10th EDF A Envelope will be dedicated to increase the budget of the road infrastructure programme already supported under the Financing Agreement n°9066/SL with a view to reinforce the works component of the programme in order to face costs increase.
- (5) The measures covered by this Decision are in conformity with the objectives of development finance co-operation as defined in Article 55 of the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement.
- (6) This decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 16 of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Partnership Agreement and Article 67 of the Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund. The present decision authorises the relevant authorising officer to sign the agreements by which the Commission acknowledge and accepts the contribution from other donors to the present 2008 Action Programme pursuant to article 9(2) of the Council Regulation (EC) No 617/2007].
- (7) It is appropriate to define the term "substantial change" within the meaning of Article 7 of the Regulation (EC) N° 617/2007 to ensure that any substantial change in this decision shall follow the same procedure as the initial decision.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Development Fund Committee set up by article 8 of the Internal Agreement of 17 July 2006.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Annual Action Programme in favour of Sierra Leone constituted by the actions “Multi Donor Budget Support (MDBS) for Sierra Leone”; “Support to an improved functioning of the NAO Office in Ministry of Finance and Economic Development”, “Technical Cooperation Facility III”, "Institutional Support to Sierra Leone Roads Authority 2009 –2012”, "Legacy project-Special Court Sierra Leone", and "Road infrastructure programme – Addendum N° 2 to the Financing agreement SL 9066/SL" the text of which is set out in the attached Annexes, is approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the Community to the 2008 Action Programme is set at EUR 70.170.000 to be financed from the 10th European Development Fund.

Article 3

Within the global indicative budget of all the specific actions, cumulated changes not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the Community and not representing more than EUR 10 million shall not be considered substantial provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the Annual Action Programme.

The authorising officer may adopt such changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels, [date]

For the Commission

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[Member of the Commission]

ANNEXES

Sierra Leone 2008 Annual Action programme

Annex 1: Action Fiche Multi donor Budget Support for Macroeconomic Stabilisation

Annex 2. Support for the improved functioning of the office of the National Authorising officer (NAO) in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development

Annex 3. Action Fiche SL Technical cooperation Facility III

Annex 4. Action Fiche institutional support to the Sierra Leone Roads Authority (SLRA)

Annex 5. Action Fiche Legacy project-Special Court Sierra Leone

Annex 6 Action Fiche "Road infrastructure programme" – Addendum N° 2 to the Financing agreement SL 9066/SL

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