COMMISSION DECISION


on the Annual Action Programme 2016 in favour of the Dominican Republic to be financed from the 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 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) No 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 for the Dominican Republic for the period 2014-2020³, point 1.2 of which provides for the following priority: i) support to inclusive productive development and to capacity building for quality employment.

(2) The objective pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the 11th European Development Fund Internal Agreement⁴ (hereinafter "Internal Agreement") is to contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable growth of the Dominican economy.

(3) The Action entitled "Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training" has the objective of strengthening and improving national technical and vocational education and training system to better respond to the demands of the productive sector and the needs of the labour force.

(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 26 of Regulation (EU) No 2015/323.

(5) 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

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¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.
² OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.
³ Decision C (2014)3689, 10.06.2014.
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.
188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, applicable in accordance with Article 37 of Regulation (EU) No 2015/323.

(6) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in this Decision, subject to the 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 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2015/323, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. 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.

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

(8) 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 29(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2015/323.

(9) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, applicable in accordance with Article 26 of Regulation (EU) No 2015/323, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.

(10) The action programme 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 measure**

The Annual Action Programme 2016 in favour of the Dominican Republic, as set out in the Annex, is approved.

The programme shall include the following action:

– Annex: Strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training

**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 16 000 000 and shall be financed from the 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 Action Document.

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

**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 26 of Regulation (EU) No 2015/323, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions. The use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.


*For the Commission*

*Neven Mimica*

*Member of the Commission*