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**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 15.12.2017**

**2017 Annual Action Programme in favour of Jamaica to be financed from the  
11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund**

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### 2017 Annual Action Programme in favour of Jamaica to be financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund

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 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund<sup>1</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 26 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted National Indicative Programme for Jamaica for the period 2014-2020<sup>3</sup>, points 3.2, 3.3 and 4 which provides for the following priorities: Environment and Climate Change; Public Financial Management; and Measures in favour of civil society.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement ('Internal Agreement')<sup>4</sup> are to assist the Government of Jamaica in: - its efforts to improve fiscal discipline and strategic allocation of resources by strengthening policy-based budgeting and expenditure management, and enhancing the transparency and efficiency of tax administration; and to ensure the efficient and effective utilisation of EU development assistance in support of the implementation of the Government's development strategies and policies; - in implementing the Forest Policy of 2017 (and supporting the National Forest Management and Conservation Plan (NFMCP 2016-2026)), to sustainably manage and utilise Jamaica's forest resources to enhance social and economic development and contribute to building the country's climate resilience.
- (3) The action entitled "Addressing Environmental and Climate Change challenges through Improved Forest Management in Jamaica" has the following objectives: (i) Reverse forest degradation, deforestation and the loss of forest biodiversity, through conservation and sustainable forest management, as well as strengthening the legislative, policy and institutional framework of the sector; (ii) Enhance economic, social and environmental benefits of forests through the sustainable utilization of

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17

<sup>3</sup> C(2014) 3919, 18.06.2014

<sup>4</sup> 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;

forest resources. It will be implemented via direct management and through the procurement by international tender, through grants following a call for proposals, and through budget support (sector reform contract).

- (4) The action entitled "Support to the Public Finance Management (PFM) Reform Programme in Jamaica" has the following objectives: (i) To strengthen the financial management system; (ii) To strengthen civil society participation in good governance and PFM sector including a focus on gender. It will be implemented via direct management and through the procurement by international tender and through budget support (sector reform contract).
- (5) 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 1268/2012<sup>5</sup> applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (6) 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 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323. The work programme is constituted by the Annex 1.
- (7) 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 2(1) and Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (8) Pursuant to 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, any substantial change to a financing decision that has already been adopted should follow the same procedure as the initial decision. It is therefore appropriate that the Commission defines the changes to this Decision that are considered non substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (9) The 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 programme**

The 2017 Annual Action Programme in favour of Jamaica to be financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Addressing Environmental and Climate Change challenges through Improved Forest Management in Jamaica;
- Annex 2: Support to the Public Finance Management (PFM) Reform Programme in Jamaica

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<sup>5</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

## *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 20 200 000 and shall be financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund.

The financial contribution provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

## *Article 3*

### **Implementation modalities**

The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are set out in the Annexes 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 1268/2012, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 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 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, 15.12.2017

*For the Commission*

*Neven MIMICA*

*Member of the Commission*