



Brussels, 16.12.2014
C(2014) 9504 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 16.12.2014

**on the 2014 individual measure in favour of Uzbekistan for theme Sustainable
Management of Water Resources in rural areas to be financed from the general budget
of the European Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Country Strategy Paper for Uzbekistan³ and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Uzbekistan for the period 2014 – 2020, points 1.2 and 3.1 of which provide for the following priority: rural development.
- (2) The objective pursued by the 2014 individual measure to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁴ is to improve the water supply and the efficiency of water resource management at national, basin and farm levels.
- (3) The Action entitled “Sustainable Management of Water Resources in rural areas in Uzbekistan” aims at reaching its objectives through: enhancing legal, financial and organisational frameworks of water resources management and alignment to international standards; harmonising and strengthening water management skills, practices and techniques within a national framework; raising public awareness on Water Efficiency; and strengthening Civil Society Organisations’ involvement in this process.
- (4) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down in Article 94 of 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 Union⁵.
- (5) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1

³ C(2014)7507

⁴ Regulation (EU) 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p.44.

⁵ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1

delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60 (1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the responsible authorising officer has ensured that these entities guarantees a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) complies 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. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are currently undergoing the ex-ante assessment. In anticipation of the results of this review, the responsible authorising officer deems that, based on the entity's positive assessment under Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with it, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to this entity.

- (6) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for 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.
- (7) The Commission is required to define the term "non-substantial change" in the sense of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation, or under his or her responsibility, by sub-delegation (hereinafter referred to as the 'responsible authorising officer').
- (8) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Committee set up by the basic act as referred to in Recital (2).

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The 2014 individual measure in favour of Uzbekistan for Sustainable Management of Water Resources in rural areas to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, as set out in the Annex, is approved.

The measure shall include the following action:

- Annex : Sustainable Management of Water Resources in rural areas in Uzbekistan.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this measure is set at EUR 20 000 000 to be financed from budget line 21.02 10 00 of the general budget of the European Union for financial year 2014.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the attached Annex, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

Section 4 of the Annex referred to in the second paragraph of Article 1 sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

The financial contribution referred to in Article 2 shall also cover any possible interests due for late payment.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20 % of that contribution shall not be considered substantial, 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 referred to in this Article.

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

Done at Brussels, 16.12.2014

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission