COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 26.11.2014

on the Annual Action Programmes 2014 and 2015 part I in favour of the Asia region 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 Regional Strategy Paper for Asia and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2014-2020³, points 3.1.1.1, 3.2.1.1, 3.3.1, 3.4.1.1 and 3.4.2.1 of which provide for the following priorities: enhance the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereunder ASEAN) integration process, which contributes to trade, poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth, as well as to preserving peace and stability in South East Asia; encourage increased regional integration and co-operation in South and North-East Asia; provide support to reintegrate or integrate uprooted people, including support to local communities and resettlement areas; contribute, through the promotion of sustainable growth, to economic prosperity and poverty reduction in Asia and to support the development of a green economy and mitigation of climate change; and promote additional investments and key infrastructure with a priority focus on climate change relevant and "green" investments in areas of environment, energy as well as in SME's and social infrastructure.

(2) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Vietnam for the period 2014-2020⁴, point 3.1.1. of which clarifies that the overall specific objective of the Sustainable Energy sector is to contribute to a more sustainable energy sector by promoting efficient, clean and renewable energy to all citizens.

(3) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁵ are to enhance regional integration in South

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.
³ Decision C(2014) 6112
⁴ Decision C(2014) 5824
East, South and North East Asia, support the reintegration of uprooted people, and contribute to economic prosperity and the development of a green economy.

(4) Action 1, entitled “Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Initiative (E-READI)”, aims at supporting ASEAN regional integration processes with poverty reduction through inclusive and sustainable growth as underlying principles.

(5) Action 2, entitled "EU-South Asia Capacity building for Disaster Risk Management" is to help build resilience of South Asia to risks from hydrological climate-related disasters and to strengthen Disaster Risk Management capacities mainly at regional and national level.

(6) Action 3, entitled "Protection, essential services and durable solutions for refugees in Bangladesh; Phase IV", pursues the objective of improving the protection of and the social conditions for Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh, so that they can possibly access durable solutions.

(7) Action 4, entitled “Support for Afghan uprooted people”, aims at contributing to the protection and successful reintegration of uprooted Afghans in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran.

(8) Action 5, entitled "Development housing reconstruction support to Sri Lankan Internal Displaced Persons (hereunder IDPs)") pursues the objective of providing returnees and host communities with sustaining livelihoods through developmental permanent housing.

(9) Action 6, entitled "SWITCH ASIA II - promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production", aims at promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns and behaviours in Asia.

(10) Action 7, entitled "Asian Investment Facility", promotes a green economy through the leverage of additional investments and key infrastructure with a priority focus on climate change relevant and "green" investments.

(11) 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 Union.

(12) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified 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, the responsible authorising officer has ensured 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. The World Bank, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UNHABITAT), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB) and the Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB) are currently undergoing the assessment under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the responsible authorising officer deems that, based on the entities’ positive assessment under Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with them, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to these entities. For the Asian Investment Facility, other possible entrusted

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entities are public bodies or bodies governed by private law with a public service mission (Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Italian Società Italiana per le Imprese all'Estero (SIMEST)); they will undergo the ex ante assessment in accordance with Article 61(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 related to financial instruments. In anticipation of the results of this review, the responsible authorising officer deems that, based on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with them, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to these entities.

(13) 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.

(14) 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').

(15) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the DCI Development Cooperation Committee,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**

**Adoption of the measure**

The Annual Action Programmes 2014 and 2015 part I in favour of the Asia region, as set out in the annexes, are approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

– Annex 1: Enhanced Regional EU-ASEAN Dialogue Initiative (E-READI);
– Annex 2: EU-South Asia Capacity building for Disaster Risk Management;
– Annex 3: Protection, essential services and durable solutions for refugees in Bangladesh; Phase IV;
– Annex 4: Support for Afghan uprooted people;
– Annex 5: Development housing reconstruction support to Sri Lankan IDPs;
– Annex 6: SWITCH ASIA II – promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production;
– Annex 7: Asian Investment Facility.

**Article 2**

**Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this programme is set at EUR 152,000,000, of which EUR 121,000,000 for year 2014 to be financed from budget line 21.02.14 of the general budget of the European Union and EUR 31,000,000 for year 2015 to be financed from budget line 21.02.02 of the general budget of the European Union.
The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations following the adoption of the general budget of the European Union referred to in the first paragraph or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3
Implementation modalities

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

Section 4 of the Annexes 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, 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, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions. The responsible authorising officer may adopt the non-substantial changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 26.11.2014

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission