



Brussels, 30.7.2015
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.7.2015

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and
Peace 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,

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 Thematic Strategy Paper 2014 - 2017 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace ("IcSP Strategy Paper"), which has identified priorities for longer-term actions as provided for in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 230/2014: to address specific global, trans-regional and emerging threats having a destabilising effect (e.g., terrorism, organised crime, illicit trafficking, threats to critical infrastructure, climate change, sudden pandemics, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks).
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2015 to be financed under the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace³ will follow the priorities identified by the thematic programming document: fighting counterterrorism (including fighting violent radicalisation) the fight against organised crime, in particular fighting illicit trafficking of human beings, drugs, falsified medicines, firearms and cybercrime; protecting critical infrastructure, notably critical maritime routes and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) networks. In support of the programmed objectives, an Expert Support Facility (ESF) has been established.
- (3) With respect to the Expert Support Facility, in line with previous efforts in this domain, the expected results are to consolidate EU Member States experts' support to partner countries in developing regional and trans-regional initiatives that might respond to their real needs and priorities, from the planning phase to the monitoring and evaluation ones.
- (4) As regards counterterrorism, in line with the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the objective is to disrupt terrorist networks and the activities of recruiters to terrorism, cut

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 1).

off terrorist funding and bring terrorists to justice while continuing to respect human rights and international law.

- (5) Actions to fight against organised crime will contribute to the improvement of partner countries' capabilities to tackle effectively the multifaceted components of organised crime mainly through the proactive engagement of local law enforcement actors, strengthened cooperation between the latter and police authorities and increased data gathering and information sharing;
- (6) The action in the field of critical infrastructures will improve maritime security and safety with the focus to combating piracy and armed robbery at sea.
- (7) In the field of Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) risk management, a number of initiatives and projects are being conducted by international/regional organisations, including the EU's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC) and IcSP programmes, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including its Illicit Trafficking database, WHO, EUROPOL's Counter-Proliferation Programme (CPP), the US Departments of State and of Energy, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), OPCW, the World Customs Organization's Programme on Nuclear and Radiological Materials, INTERPOL's bioterrorism project and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
- (8) 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 1268/2012⁴
- (9) 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. The work programme is constituted by the Annex I (section 5.3), Annex II (section 5.3.2), Annex IV (section 5.3.1).
- (10) The Commission may 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, the 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. United National Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) 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. ISTC and STCU are currently undergoing the assessment under Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. In anticipation of the results of this review, the authorising officer responsible deems that, based on the entities' positive assessment under Council 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.
- (11) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.

⁴ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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).

The reasons for and potential beneficiaries of such award should be identified, where known, in this Decision for reasons of transparency.

- (12) 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.
- (13) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Stability and Peace Instrument Committee set up by Article 11 of the financing instrument referred to in Recital 2.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the programme

The Annual Action Programme 2015 for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex I: Countering Terrorism
- Annex II: Fighting Organised Crime
- Annex III: Connectivity along Critical Maritime Routes in the Gulf of Guinea
- Annex IV: Climate Change and Security
- Annex V: Mitigating CBRN Risks
- Annex VI: Expert Support Facility

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 64 000 000 and shall be financed from budget line 21 05 01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2015.

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 attached Annexes, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The section “Implementation” of the Annexes to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

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. Article 4

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, 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, 30.7.2015

For the Commission

Neven MIMICA

Member of the Commission