COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 29.9.2016

on the Individual Measure 2016 in favour of Paraguay for "Promotion of Democracy, citizen participation and transparency" to be financed from the general budget of the 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 action; and in particular Article 2(1)


Whereas:

(1) The Commission has adopted the Paraguay Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2014-2020, point 1.2 of which provides for the following priorities: Education; Private sector development; Social protection; and Democracy, participation and institutional strengthening.

(2) The objectives pursued by the Individual Measure measure to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument are: Democracy, citizen participation and transparency are improved.

(3) Action entitled “Promotion of democracy through support to electoral processes, citizen participation and transparency” will: 1) enhance the role and capacity of the Superior Tribunal for Electoral Justice (STEJ) to effectively deliver inclusive and transparent elections, through an agreement with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), and 2) improve the participation of citizens in the democratic and electoral processes and promotion of transparency, through a call for proposals.

(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 1268/2012.

(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 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the Annex to this Decision (“Promotion of democracy through support to electoral processes, citizen participation and transparency programme”), in the

1 OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.
following section concerning calls for proposals: 5.3.1.1 Grants: call for proposals "to improve the participation of citizens in the democratic and electoral processes and promotion of transparency" (direct management) and in the following section concerning grants awarded directly without a call for proposals: 5.3.1.3 Changes from indirect to direct management mode due to exceptional circumstances - Grant: direct award to IDEA (direct management).

(6) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entity specified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. The entrusted international organisation, IDEA, is currently undergoing the ex-ante assessment in accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. 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.

(7) 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. Depending on the results of the ex-ante assessment of IDEA in accordance with Article 61(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in case of changes from indirect to direct management mode, the authorising officer responsible may award a grant without a call for proposals to the "IDEA" in order to provide technical assistance to the STEJ. The direct award of a grant to IDEA without a call for proposals is justified by the specific technical competence and administrative power of this Organisation, in line with article 190 f) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

(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.

(9) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee set up by Article 19 of the financing instrument referred to in Recital 2.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Adoption of the measure

The Individual Measure 2016 in favour of Paraguay to be financed from the general budget of the Union, as set out in the Annex, is approved.

The measure shall include the following action:
– Annex: Promotion of democracy through support to electoral processes, citizen participation and transparency

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 2.26 million and shall be financed from budget line 21.02.01.00 of the general budget of the Union for 2016.
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 entity identified in the attached Annex subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement.

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.

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

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 and not representing more than EUR 10 000 000, 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, 29.9.2016

For the Commission
Stefano Manservisi
Director-General