COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 19.4.2018

on the 2018 Partnership Instrument individual measure for the Policy Support Facility 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, 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 1605/2002\(^1\), and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

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\(^2\), and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The objectives pursued by the individual measure to be financed under the Partnership Instrument\(^3\) are to advance and promote Union and mutual interest through cooperation with third countries. This measure will enable the Union to support the EU’s policy priorities and to influence the partner countries agenda positively in a fast and flexible manner.

(2) The action entitled ‘Policy Support Facility’ aims to support policy dialogues between the EU and partner countries on bilateral and global issues of common concern and to facilitate economic and trade relations with partner countries. The action will be implemented in direct management via procurement of services, and in limited case award of grants.

(3) 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\(^4\).

(4) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants in accordance with Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is set out in the Annex.

(5) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals only in the exceptional cases set out in Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

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\(^2\) OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.
It is necessary to allow for 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.

Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, 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.

The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The European Parliament and the Partnership Instrument Committee established under Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 234/2014 should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**

**Adoption of the measure**

The Commission implementing decision on the 2018 Partnership Instrument individual measure for the Policy Support Facility, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure includes the following action: Policy Support Facility.

**Article 2**

**Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 4,000,000 and shall be financed from budget line 19.0501 of the general budget of the European Union for 2018.

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

**Article 3**

**Methods of implementation**

The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are set out in the Annex 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.

**Article 4**

**Non-substantial changes**

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set 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 authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 19.4.2018

For the Commission
Federica MOGHERINI
Vice-President