COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 12.1.2018

on the 2018 Partnership Instrument individual measure in support to the EU-South Africa Strategic Economic Partnership to be financed from the general budget of the European Union
COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 12.1.2018

on the 2018 Partnership Instrument individual measure in support to the EU-South Africa Strategic Economic Partnership to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to the 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 1605/2002¹, and in particular Article 84 (2) thereof,

Having regard to the 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 action², and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The objectives pursued by the individual measure to be financed under the Partnership Instrument³ are to advance and promote Union and mutual interests through cooperation with third countries. The measure will enable the Union to deliver on its strategic partnership with South Africa in line with the Economic Partnership Agreement⁴.

(2) The action entitled "Support to the EU-South Africa Strategic Economic Partnership" aims to contribute to implementation of multilateral and bilateral agreements with regards to economic and trade aspects; to consolidate ability and capacity of the EU and EU business to influence policy processes in South Africa and at regional level. The action will be implemented in direct management via the procurement of services.

(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 1268/2012⁵.

(4) 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.

¹ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1
² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95
⁴ The EU signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) on 10.6.2016 with the Southern African Development Community EPA group composing Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland.
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 in support to the EU-South Africa Strategic Economic Partnership, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the action in support to the EU-South Africa Strategic Economic Partnership.

**Article 2**

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the individual measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 3,500,000 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.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2018 following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

**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.

**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 the specific action 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, 12.1.2018

For the Commission
Federica MOGHERINI
Vice-President