COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 18.3.2013

on the 2013 Special Measures in favour of Belarus 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 (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI)\(^1\), and in particular Article 13 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The Council Conclusions of 31 January 2011 following the post electoral crisis in Belarus reiterates the European Union commitment to strengthening its engagement with the Belarusian people and civil society, targeting in particular non-governmental organisations and students.

(2) The objective pursued by these special measures, as set out in the attached Annexes, is to contribute to a democratic and prosperous development in Belarus by supporting civil society, students and people-to-people contacts as a way to reach out to the Belarusian public at large and strengthen the awareness of Belarusian citizens with regard to European societies and values.


(5) The Commission is required to define the term “substantial change” in the meaning of Article 94(4) of the Rules of Application (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012) to ensure that any substantial change in this Decision shall follow the same procedure as the initial Decision.

(6) The Commission has ensured that the management system set up by the entity to which the Commission will entrust implementation of EU funds for the actions set out in Annex 2 and Annex 3 complies with the conditions for the delegation of tasks under

\(^1\) OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1

(7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the ENPI Committee set up under Article 26 of Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The 2013 Special Measures for Belarus, the text of which is set out in the attached Annexes, is approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the European Union to these Special Measures is set at EUR 12.2 million to be financed from budget line 19 08 01 03 of the general budget of the European Union for 2013.

This maximum contribution shall also cover any possible interests due for late payment.

Article 3

The management system set up by the entity to which the Commission will entrust implementation of EU funds for the actions set out in Annex 2 and in Annex 3 complies with the conditions for the delegation of tasks under joint management. The financial implementation of tasks related to these actions can thus be entrusted to this entity.

Article 4

Cumulated changes of the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution of the European Union shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the Special Measures. This may include an increase of the maximum contribution of the European Union up to 20%.

The relevant authorising officer may amend the present Decision to introduce non substantial changes to the Special Measures in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels, 18.3.2013

For the Commission
Štefan FÜLE
Member of the Commission
ANNEXES
Annex 1: Special Measure: Support to Civil Society in Belarus
Annex 2: Special Measure: Contribution to the European Humanities University Trust Fund
Annex 3: Special Measure: Open Europe Scholarship Scheme – Phase II
Annex 4: Special Measure: Support to the European Dialogue on Modernisation in Belarus