



Brussels, 19.11.2018
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 19.11.2018

on the Annual Action Programme 2018 in favour of the Republic of Angola

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/322 of 2 March 2015 on the implementation of the 11th European Development Fund¹, and in particular Article 9 (1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/323 of 2 March 2015 on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund², and in particular Article 26 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Annual Action Programme 2018 in favour of the Republic of Angola, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the National Indicative Programme for the period 2014-2020⁴, which prioritises actions to promote job creation, economic development and poverty reduction. The areas of intervention include sustainable agriculture, vocational and higher education and economic governance, including public finance management.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement⁵ ("Internal Agreement") are to provide support to Public Finance Management, an enabling business environment, and skills and education as they are key elements for diversifying the Angolan economy and making the conditions right for sustainable and equitable growth. Moreover, Angola seeks to model its relationship with the EU on the basis of equal

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

⁴ Commission Decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and Republic of Angola C(2015)4613 of 10/7/2015 and Commission Decision on amending the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and the Republic of Angola C(2018) 3723 final of 14.06.2018.

⁵ Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the financing of European Union aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies, OJ L 210, 6.8.2013, p. 1.

partners; in 2012 the EU and Angola signed the Joint Way Forward so as to intensify dialogue and cooperation in various domains.

- (5) The overall objective of the action entitled "EU-Angola Dialogue Facility" is to promote sustainable development in areas covered by the EU-Angola Joint Way Forward signed in 2012 while the purpose of the action is to enhance the effectiveness of EU-Angola dialogues in priority areas identified within the Joint Way Forward and its Action Plan.
- (6) The overall objective of the action entitled "Economic Governance Support Programme" is to contribute to higher growth and poverty reduction in Angola through improving the credibility and efficiency of public expenditure, public investments and fiscal transparency, the provision of a broader and more stable value-added tax revenue base for the budget and the development of an effective system to counter illicit financial flows.
- (7) The overall objective of the action entitled "Higher Education Support Programme" is to foster post-graduate research human capital that effectively contributes to economic diversification and employment creation in priority sectors for Angola through aligning higher education governance and policy instruments towards post-graduate research specialisation in priority sectors, raising institutional capacity and stimulating informed study choice and equitable post-graduate career development in areas of specialisation.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (9) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (10) To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046⁶ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (11) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 applicable in accordance with Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (12) In order to allow for flexibility of the implementation of the programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (13) The actions provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the EDF Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement.

⁶ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide not to require an ex-ante assessment

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The programme

The financing decision, constituting the Annual Action Programme 2018 in favour of the Republic of Angola, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: "EU-Angola Dialogue Facility";
- Annex 2: "Economic Governance Support Programme";
- Annex 3: "Higher Education Support Programme".

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme is set at EUR 22 000 000, and shall be financed from the 11th European Development Fund.

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

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 5.4 of Annexes 2 and 3.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes⁷ 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 for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, provided that these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

⁷ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 19.11.2018

For the Commission
Neven Mimica
Member of the Commission