



Brussels, 24.3.2017
C(2017) 2085 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 24.3.2017

**on the Annual Action Programme 2017 in favour of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to
be financed from the 11th European Development Fund**

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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) The Commission has adopted the National Indicative Programme for the Federal Republic of Nigeria³ for the period 2014-2020, which prioritises poverty reduction through improving policy and institutional governance to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable households, especially in Northern Nigeria.
- (2) The objective pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement⁴ (hereinafter 'Internal Agreement') is to contribute to the resilience of conflict affected people and public sector institutions in Borno State.
- (3) The action entitled 'EU Support to Response, Recovery and Resilience in Borno State (3RBS)' will help to restore basic services (health, education, nutrition, electricity) in areas of refuge, return or resettlement; to enhance social protection through creation of employment and the promotion of livelihood opportunities with the aim of increasing access to basic needs and strengthening resilience in communities affected by the insurgency; to strengthen public administration and management systems for better and sustainable public service delivery; and to reinforce the capabilities of the Borno State and Federal Governments to coordinate, target, manage and monitor the response to the crisis and related donor activities. The action will be implemented in direct management (direct award of grants and procurement of services) and indirect management with the World Bank.

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.

³ Commission Decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and Nigeria C(2014)3611 of 12.06.2014.

⁴ 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).

- (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 1268/2012⁵, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (5) 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 applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323. The work programme is set out in the Annex.
- (6) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entity specified in the Annex to this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1)(c) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that this entity guarantees a level of protection of the financial interests of the European Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages European Union funds. This entity complies with the conditions set out in points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and the supervisory and support measures are in place as necessary.
- (7) 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, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (8) 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, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, 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.
- (10) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the EDF Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Commission Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2017 in favour of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to be financed from the 11th European Development Fund, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following action:

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

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 123 000 000 and shall be financed from the 11th European Development Fund.

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

Article 3

Methods of implementation

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entity identified in the Annex, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement.

The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, 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, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million 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 applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions. The use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 24.3.2017

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission