



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 17.2.2015
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 17.2.2015

**on the special measure in favour of Zimbabwe for agriculture-based economic recovery
to be financed from the European Development Fund Bridging Facility**

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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) No 566/2014 amending Regulation (EC) No 617/2007 on the implementation of the 10th European Development Fund as regards the application of the transition period between the 10th EDF and the 11th EDF until the entry into force of the 11th EDF Internal Agreement¹, and in particular Article 9 (3) of its annex,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 567/2014 amending Regulation (EC) No 215/2008 on Financial Regulation applicable to the 10th European Development Fund as regards the application of the transition period between the 10th European Development Fund and the 11th European Development Fund until the entry into force of the 11th European Development Fund Internal Agreement², and in particular Article 26 of its annex,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Zimbabwe covering the period 2014-2020³ which provides for the following priorities: support to the health sector, which aims to improve health outcomes for the population and increase equitable access to quality health services; support to agriculture-based economic development to increase resilience of the most vulnerable populations, contribute to income generation and improved export earnings; support to governance and institution building, where the EU will focus on institutional strengthening, fostering good governance in order to contribute to Zimbabwe's economic recovery and to the consolidation of the democratic process, as well as peace and stability.
- (2) The overall objective of the action is to contribute to the economic recovery of Zimbabwe and increased resilience of the vulnerable and food insecure communities through support to the agricultural sector. The action will focus especially on building rural communities' resilience through an approach that is more informed and better able to measure its impact. Another specific objective of the action is to improve livestock and horticultural sub-sectors ability to cope with external shocks and strengthen the disease prevention and control measures in livestock sector and horticulture for their re-integration in international markets.

¹ OJ L 157, 27.5.2014, p. 35.

² OJ L 157, 27.5.2014, p. 52.

³ C(2015)346 30.01.2015

- (3) The action entitled “Agriculture-based economic recovery” aims at increasing resilience of the vulnerable and food insecure communities through support to the agricultural sector and at strengthening the disease prevention and pest control measures in livestock and horticultural sub-sectors for their re-integration in international markets. The Action will be implemented through direct award of grants and indirect management with an international organisation under component 1: 'Building Resilience of small holder food insecure communities' and through indirect management with international organisations under component 2 'Enhancing agriculture/horticulture & livestock pest and disease control capacities'.
- (1) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down in Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁴ applicable by virtue of Articles 2(1) and 26 of the annex to Regulation (EU) No. 567/2014.
- (2) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities identified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. However, UNDP, FAO and ITC are currently undergoing the ex-ante assessment. In anticipation of the results of this review, the responsible authorising officer deems that, based on a preliminary evaluation and on the long-standing and problem-free cooperation with it, budget-implementation tasks can be entrusted to these entities.
- (3) It is appropriate to acknowledge that grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the responsible authorising officer who ensures that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals according to Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, applicable by virtue of Articles 37(1) and 2(1) of the annex to Regulation (EU) No 567/2014 are fulfilled. The reasons for and potential beneficiaries of such award should be identified, where known, in this Decision for reasons of transparency.
- (4) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for 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 by virtue of Articles 29(1) and 2(1) of the annex to Regulation (EC) No 567/2014⁵.
- (5) The Commission is required to define the term "non-substantial change" in the sense of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation, or under his or her responsibility, by sub-delegation (hereinafter referred to as the 'responsible authorising officer').
- (6) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the European Development Fund Committee set up by Article 8 of the Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, on the financing of Community aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2008 to 2013 in accordance with the ACP-EC Partnership

⁴ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

Agreement and on the allocation of financial assistance for the OCTs to which Part Four of the EC Treaty applies⁶.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The "special measure in favour of Zimbabwe for agriculture-based economic recovery to be financed from the European Development Fund Bridging Facility", as set out in the Annex, is approved.

The measure shall include the following action:

- Annex: "**Zimbabwe** Agriculture-based economic recovery"

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this special measure is set at EUR 13 000 000 to be financed from the European Development Fund Bridging Facility.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

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

Section 4 of the Annex referred to in the second paragraph of Article 1 sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the responsible authorising officer according to Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. Where known at the moment of the adoption of this Decision, the reasons for this as well as the potential beneficiaries shall be identified in the attached Annex.

The financial contribution referred to in Article 2 shall also cover any possible interests due for late payment.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

⁶ OJ L 247, 9.9.2006, p. 32.

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20 % of that contribution shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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

Done at Brussels, 17.2.2015

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission