



Brussels, 9.2.2015
C(2015) 785 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 9.2.2015

**on an individual measure in the field of technical assistance in favour of Zimbabwe 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 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 Council decision of 18 February 2014, extending the validity of Decision 2012/96/EU, has determined that the appropriate measures against the Republic of Zimbabwe in 2002 under Article 96(2) (c) of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, shall expire on 1 November 2014. The appropriate measures have meanwhile expired and the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for Zimbabwe covering the period 2014-2020³ has been adopted; this individual measure will facilitate the programming of the 11th EDF NIP.
- (2) The overall objective of the action is the successful implementation of the EU-Zimbabwe development cooperation through the Bridging Facility and the 11th EDF National Indicative Plan.
- (3) The Action entitled “Technical Cooperation Facility V” has two components: the TAF – Technical Assistance Facility and the TSPP – Training Support for Projects and Programmes. The TAF aims at facilitating the engagement of short to medium-term consultants to assist in all stages of the project cycle to ensure the effective implementation of the actions under the 11th EDF, including of the Bridging Facility and other EU programmes. The TAF will also provide support to the Government of Zimbabwe in analytical studies, including for Public Finance Management and to enhance the visibility of EU's development cooperation with Zimbabwe. The TSPP

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

aims at facilitating various educational or consultation actions such as seminars or consciousness-raising activities prior to or during the formulation of a project or programme such as Project Cycle Management workshop of stakeholders in accordance with EDF procedures.

- (4) 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.
- (5) 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 (EU) No 567/2014⁵.
- (6) 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').
- (7) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall in the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The EDF 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 Agreement and on the allocation of financial assistance for the OCTs to which Part Four of the EC Treaty applies⁶, should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The individual measure in favour of Zimbabwe to be financed from the European Development Fund Bridging Facility as set out in the Annex is approved.

- Annex: Technical Cooperation Facility V – TCF V

Article 2

Financial contribution

⁴ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

⁶ OJ L 247, 9.9.2006, p. 32.

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this individual measure is set at EUR 1 000 000 to be financed from the European Development Fund Bridging Facility.

Article 3

Implementation modalities

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.

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

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20 % of the contribution referred to in Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20 % of that contribution 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 responsible authorising officer may adopt these non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 9.2.2015

For the Commission
Fernando Frutuoso de Melo Director General