



Brussels, 2.12.2016
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 2.12.2016

on the Annual Action Programme 2016 in favour of Iraq "Breaking the Cycle of Sectarian Violence" 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 (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2014-17³, point 3.1 of which provides for the following priorities: strengthen the role and the organisational capacities of Civil Society to oversee government activities, advocate for Human Rights, monitor violations and promote basic services.
- (2) The objective pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁴ is to break the cycle of sectarian violence in Iraq and thus promote peaceful and inclusive society.
- (3) Action entitled "Breaking the Cycle of Sectarian Violence" consists of two components. The first component will support existing Iraqi media outlets in Iraq in improving the flow of accurate information and building resilience in the face of violent divisive narratives and it will be implemented by BBC Media Action. The second component will contribute to the creation of an enabling environment for dialogue and debate addressing religion and traditional customs as drivers for peace in Iraq and it will be implemented by the British Council.
- (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.
- (5) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants the detailed rules on which are set out in Article 128(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and in Article

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Decision C(2014)5777

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020 (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 44).

⁵ 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 Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. The work programme is constituted by the Annex 1 – Component 1 and 2.

- (6) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals provided that the conditions for an exception to a call for proposals in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are fulfilled.
- (7) It is necessary to allow 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.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee set up by Article 19 of the financing instrument referred to in Recital 2,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2016 in favour of Iraq, as set out in the Annex, is approved.

The programme shall include the following action:

- Annex : Breaking the Cycle of Sectarian Violence

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 10 000 000 and shall be financed from budget line 21.020400 of the general budget of the European Union for 2016.

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

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section “Implementation” of the Annex to this Decision 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 authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 190 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set by 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, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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

Done at Brussels, 2.12.2016

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission