



Brussels, 6.4.2020
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 6.4.2020

**adopting a special measure for the 2020 contribution to European Union
Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, to be financed from the general
budget of the Union**

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adopting a special measure for the 2020 contribution to European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, to be financed from the general budget of the Union

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 and 234 thereof,

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 action², and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By its Decision C(2014) 9615 of 10 December 2014, the Commission has established the European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis (the 'Trust Fund') for a duration of 60 months in compliance with Article 234 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. This Decision has been amended by the Commission Decision C(2015) 9691 of 21 December 2015.
- (2) The primary objective of the Trust Fund is to provide a coherent and reinforced aid response to the Syrian and Iraqi crises and the massive displacement resulting from them on a multi-country scale. In pursuit of this objective, the Trust Fund shall address the needs of three groups: refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees, as well as provide assistance to the communities and the administrations in which these groups find themselves, as regards resilience and early recovery.
- (3) This special measure is in line with the 'EU Strategy for Iraq' adopted by the Council on 22 January 2018 and with the Council conclusions on Iraq from 15 July 2019³.
- (4) The Trust Fund will provide urgently needed additional support to internally displaced and refugees in Iraq, in complement to short-term humanitarian aid and long-term development support.
- (5) The Trust Fund will pursue its objectives through the pooling of resources and capacities of various donors and agencies in order to analyse, identify and implement high-impact projects in the region. These pooled capacities will make a direct

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ https://www.consilium.europa.eu//media/40357/st11026-en19.pdf?utm_source=dsm-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Iraq%3a+Council+adopts+conclusions

contribution to the identification of actions to be implemented in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Syria, and any other relevant country in the wider region.

- (6) As part of the EU support pledged at the Iraq Reconstruction Conference held in Kuwait in February 2018, the EU will provide the Trust Fund with an additional contribution of EUR 25 million from the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). This will help respond to the urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees, host communities and their administrations primarily in Iraq, but also in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Syria and any other relevant country in the wider region.
- (7) This additional support will contribute to the implementation of the core principles of the Global Compact on Refugees, the Agenda 2030 and the rollout of the EU policy framework on forced displacement (Lives in Dignity). It is part of the EU's deliverables at the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019 and a reinforcement of the EU's is also in line with the EU's commitment to share responsibility with countries hosting large numbers of refugees in the region.
- (8) In order to ensure the implementation of the special measure, it is necessary to adopt a financing Decision for 2020. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing Decisions.
- (9) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)⁴.
- (10) 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.
- (11) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the measure, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (12) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the DCI Committee set up under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 233/2014,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Special measure

A special measure for the 2020 contribution to the European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, to be financed from the general budget of the Union, is hereby adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the special measure to the Trust Fund is set at EUR 25 000 000, and shall be financed from appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 21 02 04 00: EUR 16 700 000;

⁴ 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.

(b) budget line 21 02 07 05: EUR 8 300 000.

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

Article 3
Implementation modalities

The Trust Fund shall implement the contribution:

- directly (i) by the Commission’s departments, including its staff in the Union Delegations under the authority of their respective Head of Delegation, (ii) or through executive agencies;
- indirectly with third countries or the bodies they have designated, international organisations or their agencies, the European Investment Bank or the European Investment Fund or both of them acting as a group, public law bodies or bodies governed by private law with a public service mission to the extent that the latter provide adequate financial guarantees.

The Constitutive Agreement signed with the donors defines the rules and procedures applying to the management and governance of the Trust Fund.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20% of the initial contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, and which do not cause the total contribution to exceed EUR 10 000 000, 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 for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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, 6.4.2020

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission



