



Brussels, 18.12.2017
C(2017) 8974 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 18.12.2017

**on the Annual Action Programme 2017 in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho 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 Fund (EDF)¹, 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 Kingdom of Lesotho for the period 2014-2020³, which prioritises under point 4 "Other measures in support of Non-State Actors (NSAs)" the support to civil society organisations.
- (2) The action entitled "Support to Civil Society in Lesotho" aims to: i) enhance participation of the general population, both men and women, in decision-making within their communities and in promoting accountable representatives; ii) enhance the coordination of Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (LCN) with Civil Society as a whole in Lesotho. It will be implemented in direct management through grants and procurement.
- (3) 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 1268/2012⁴, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.

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 Lesotho C(2014)3639 final, 12.06.2014.

⁴ 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).

- (6) 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, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (7) 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.
- (8) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The EDF Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the programme

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

The programme shall include the following action:

- Annex: Support to Civil Society in Lesotho.

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 4 500 000 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

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

Done at Brussels, 18.12.2017

For the Commission
Stefano Manservigi

Director-General