



Brussels, 10.12.2015  
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**COMMISSION DECISION**

**of 10.12.2015**

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho to be  
financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund**

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### on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho to be financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund

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 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund<sup>1</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 26 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the National Indicative Programme for the Kingdom of Lesotho for the period 2014-2020<sup>3</sup>, point 1.2.3 "Focal sector 3: Governance" of which provides for the following priority: complementary support to help the Independent Electoral Commission in its responsibility of upholding the rights of the people of Lesotho in selecting its representatives in a free and fair way. Such support was originally foreseen for general elections which had been expected to take place in 2017. As snap elections were called two years earlier (February 2015), the European Union did not have sufficient time to mobilise the foreseen envelope, and it was decided to instead use this provision for a nationwide civic education programme.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement<sup>4</sup> ('Internal Agreement') are to contribute to increase citizens' awareness of governance matters and their capacity to engage in democratic and developmental processes.
- (3) The action entitled 'Participatory Initiative for Social Accountability in Lesotho (PISA)' will propose to: enhance citizens' engagement in democratic matters in Lesotho (such as human rights, women's rights, elections, anti-trafficking, general rights and duties, etc.); create dialogue platforms with effective engagement of local and national structures; enhance community participation in public policy processes in Lesotho (such as local authorities development plans, preparation of community needs in view of national budget, etc.).

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.

<sup>3</sup> Commission Decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and Lesotho C(2014)3639, 12.06.2014.

<sup>4</sup> Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the financing of European Union aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies (OJ L 210, 6.8.2013, p. 1).

- (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 1268/2012<sup>5</sup> applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (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 188(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 applicable in accordance with Article 37(1) of regulation (EU) 2015/323. The work programme is constituted by the Annex to this Decision.
- (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, applicable in accordance with Article 37(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2015/323, 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, applicable in accordance with Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (9) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall in the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the EDF Committee, set up by Article 8 of the Internal Agreement, is required. The EDF Committee shall be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

##### **Adoption of the measure**

The Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho to be financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund, as set out in the Annex, is approved.

The programme shall include the following action:

- Annex: 'Participatory Initiative for Social Accountability in Lesotho (PISA)'

#### *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 3 000 000 and shall be financed from the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund.

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

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<sup>5</sup> 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).

*Article 3*

**Implementation modalities**

The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 applicable in accordance with Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323 are set out in the Annex.

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 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, applicable in accordance with Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323 provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions. The use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

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

Done at Brussels, 10.12.2015

*For the Commission*  
*Neven Mimica*

*Member of the Commission*