



Brussels, 29.10.2018
C(2018) 7352 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 29.10.2018

amending Decision C(2015)799 on the Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho 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) 2015/322 of 2 March 2015 on the implementation of the 11th European Development Fund¹, and in particular Article 9(4) 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 Articles 26 and 62 thereof.

Whereas:

- (1) By its Decision C(2015)799 of 17.2.2015 the Commission adopted the Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho. The Programme included the action entitled "Technical Cooperation Facility V, TCF V" the purpose of which is to assist the government in the identification, formulation, and implementation of actions under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF).
- (2) By its Decision C(2017)5577 of 3.8.2017 the Commission increased its financial contribution for this programme up to EUR 13 600 000 in order to respond urgently to the financing needs of the concerned country.
- (3) By its Decision C(2018)5444 of 7.8.2018 the Commission increased its financial contribution for this programme up to EUR 20 000 000 after the mid-term review of the Lesotho National Indicative Programme.
- (4) The increase in resources of the action "Technical Cooperation Facility V" has become necessary to finance the additional new activities. The Technical Cooperation Facility V has been used to provide technical assistance and capacity building support in the implementation of all aspects of EU-Lesotho cooperation. Although not directly linked to any initiative or policy, it has provided ad-hoc support to a broad range of government policies, and especially to those relevant to the 11th EDF focal sectors (Water, Energy and Governance).
- (5) The extended Technical Cooperation Facility V will provide support to the operations of the National Authorising Officer, policy and infrastructure development in the Water sector and continued assistance to the reform of the Public Finance management. In addition, the Facility will provide ad-hoc short-term technical assistance support to a broad range of government policies. The measures carried out will complement the Government of Lesotho's own activities in these priority areas, as

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.

expressed in the Second National Strategic Development Plan, which is to commence in 2018/2019.

- (6) The Decision C(2015)799 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (7) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (8) The envisaged assistance to the Kingdom of Lesotho is deemed to strictly follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures concerning the said country.
- (9) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the EDF Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole article

Decision C(2015)799 on the Annual Action Programme 2014 in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho to be financed from the European Development Fund Bridging Facility is modified as follows :

1) Article 2 "Financial Contribution" is replaced to read as follows :

"The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this programme is set at EUR 25 000 000 financed from the European Development Fund Bridging Facility for an amount of EUR 12 000 000 and the 11th European Development Fund for an amount of EUR 13 000 000."

2) Annex 2 is replaced by the annex to the present decision.

Done at Brussels, 29.10.2018

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission