



Brussels, 7.8.2018
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 7.8.2018

**on the individual measure in favour of the Republic of Liberia 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 Fund¹, 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 the Republic of Liberia for the period 2014-2020³, which prioritises increasing access to sustainable and affordable infrastructure services for the general population and for productive activities, including women.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the measure to be financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement⁴ ("Internal Agreement") are to contribute to the reduction of poverty by improving transport infrastructure and conditions on the remaining non-asphalted section of the road between Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire. It will boost the post-conflict economic recovery of the two countries in the Mano River Union region by improving road infrastructure and promoting intra-community and regional trade.
- (3) The Commission has created the Africa Investment Platform (AIP) to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development thus addressing specific socio-economic root causes of migration, including irregular migration, through economic and social development of partner countries (by boosting investment and employment opportunities, with a focus on sustainability, job creation and socioeconomic sectors).
- (4) The action entitled "Contribution to the Africa Investment Platform (AIP) for the Mano River Union Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programme - Phase 2 (Paving of Sanniquellie – Loguatu Road Section (47.1km) in Liberia) and

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 the Republic of Liberia (2014-2020) C(2015) 1267 final of 26.2.2015.

⁴ 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).

construction of a One Stop Border Post at Loguatuo/Gbeunta Border in Ivory Coast/Liberia" seeks to improve transport conditions on the two road sections in order to reduce transport costs, facilitate the free movement of persons and goods between the two countries and improve the living conditions of programme area communities.

- (5) 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, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323. The above mentioned requirements will be adopted within the subsequent financing decisions for each programme to be supported under the Facility. The management modes for each action will also be defined in these complementary decisions.
- (6) The envisaged assistance to Liberia is deemed to strictly follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures concerning the said country.
- (7) It is necessary to allow for 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.
- (8) 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.
- (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:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Commission Decision on the individual measure in favour of the Republic of Liberia to be financed from the 11th European Development Fund, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following action:

- Annex : Contribution to the Africa Investment Platform (AIP) for the Mano River Union Road Development and Transport Facilitation Programme - Phase 2 (Paving of Sanniquellie – Loguatuo Road Section (47.1km) in Liberia) and construction of a One Stop Border Post at Loguatuo/Gbeunta Border in Ivory Coast/Liberia.

Article 2

Financial contribution

⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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).

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 6 000 000 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.

Article 4

Non-substantial changes

Increases or decreases 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, 7.8.2018

For the Commission
Günther OETTINGER
Member of the Commission