



Brussels, 14.12.2015
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 14.12.2015

**on the pilot project in favour of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to be financed
from the general budget of the Union**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002¹, and in particular Article 54(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Country Strategy Paper for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the National Indicative Programme² for the period 2014-2020, point 3.1 of which provides for the following priority: to contribute to the improvement of the health of the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo within the overarching context of the fight against poverty.
- (2) The Commission has adopted the Thematic Programme for Human Development of the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC)³. The human development programme promotes inclusive education; supports effective, productive and decent employment through vocational education and training; economically empowers vulnerable groups; improves access to healthcare services, especially for sexual and reproductive health; promotes women's rights and empowerment; and tackles child labour.
- (3) The objectives pursued by the measure to be financed from the general budget of the Union are to better the standard of living of communities in the vicinity of artisanal mining sites in Mwenga Territory, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, by providing remedial education to children and by offering adolescents and sex workers alternative opportunities to earn a living through the provision of vocational training.
- (4) The action entitled "Socio-economic reintegration of children and female sex workers living around artisanal mines in Mwenga Territory, South Kivu Province, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo" aims to increase school enrolment for a targeted group of children working in the mines through remedial education, reduce the number of adolescents and sex workers returning to work in or around the mines through vocational training and raise awareness among local stakeholders about child protection and human rights, including women's rights. Medical assistance will be provided to sex workers in order to combat sexually transmitted diseases and avoid unwanted pregnancies.

¹ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

² Decision C(2014)3904.

³ Decision C(2014)5072 of 23.07.2014.

- (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 1268/2012⁴.
- (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.
- (7) 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. The work programme is constituted by the Annex (section 5.4.1).
- (8) 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 are fulfilled.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall in the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The European Parliament should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The pilot project in favour of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to be financed from the general budget of the Union, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The pilot project shall include the following action:

- Socio-economic reintegration of children and female sex workers living around artisanal mines in Mwenga Territory, South Kivu Province, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Article 2

Financial contribution

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the measure referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 2 200 000 and shall be financed from budget line 21 02 77 20 of the general budget of the Union for 2015.

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

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).

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section “Implementation” of the Annex to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

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 withing the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, 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, 14.12.2015

For the Commission

Neven Mimica

Member of the Commission