

ANNEX

to the Commission Decision amending Decision C(2014) 9861 on the 2014 Annual Action Programme for the Democratic Republic of the Congo financed under the European Development Fund bridging facility using resources from the 11th European Development Fund

Document on the ‘Programme to support the National Authorising Officer (PAON)’

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO - Programme to support the National Authorising Officer (PAON) CRIS No EDF/2014/34686 Revision 1: June 2015		
Total cost	Initial cost: EUR 8 000 000 Initial financing: EUR 2 000 000 under the EDF bridging facility EUR 6 000 000 under the 11th EDF		
Aid method/Management mode and type of financing	Project approach - Indirect management with the Democratic Republic of the Congo		
DAC code	15110	Sector	Public policy and administrative management

2. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The implementation of cooperation between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the European Union (EU) through the European Development Fund (EDF) relies on close collaboration between the European Commission and the EDF National Authorising Officer (NAO). It is the NAO who acts as the contracting authority for projects and programmes.

To assist in the effective performance of the duties delegated by the Cotonou Agreement, in 2004 the EDF NAO created the EDF National Authorising Officer's Support Unit (COFED), a technical structure placed under the direct authority of the Minister for Finance. The COFED assists the Minister in all the tasks related to the cooperation programme between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the EU and has received EU support for its operation.

The project's *overall objective* is to make cooperation between the EU and the Democratic Republic of the Congo more effective.

Its *specific objective* is to enable the Democratic Republic of the Congo, through the EDF NAO, to assume fully its role under the Cotonou Partnership Agreement in programming, identifying, formulating and implementing the programmes and projects financed by the EDF. This project aims to continue supporting the development strategy of

the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo through projects/programmes financed under the EDF, with a view to the programming of the 11th EDF.

The expected results of this support are: consolidation of the contracting authority capacity of the NAO's department, enhancement of the capacity of project managers and technical ministries, improved cooperation between the EU and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and implementation of the aid by partners and other beneficiaries.

Because of the urgency of preventing the operation of the National Authorising Officer's Support Unit being blocked due to a lack of available funds and in order to guarantee its operational continuity, EUR 2 000 000 were initially allocated from the bridging facility to the Programme to support the EDF NAO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Given that the funds are now being made available under the 11th EDF, the financing decision has had to be amended to incorporate the amount of EUR 6 000 000.

The other sub-points of point 2 remain unchanged.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

All the sub-points of point 3 remain unchanged.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1 Financing agreement

A financing agreement has been signed with the partner country, as provided for in Article 17 of Annex IV to the Cotonou Agreement.

The total cost of the project is EUR 8 000 000, which can be broken down as follows: EUR 2 000 000 financed under the EDF bridging facility and EUR 6 000 000 financed under the 11th EDF.

The other sub-points of point 4 remain unchanged.