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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 15.9.2017**

**on the Annual Action Programme 2017 part 2 in favour of Cambodia  
to be financed from the general budget of the Union**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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### on the Annual Action Programme 2017 part 2 in favour of Cambodia to be financed from the general budget of the Union

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 1605/2002<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action<sup>2</sup>, and in particular article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the European Development Cooperation Strategy for Cambodia and the Multiannual Indicative Programme between the European Union and Cambodia<sup>3</sup> for the period 2014-2020, point 3.2 of which provides for the following priorities: 'Improved access, quality and relevance of education and system efficiency and increased capacity at all levels (Specific Objectives 1, 2 and 3).
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument<sup>4</sup> are to support the Royal Government of Cambodia in their reforms in the area of education.
- (3) Action entitled "EU-Cambodia Education Sector Reform Partnership 2018-2021" will ensure the continuous financial and technical support for the overall implementation of the Education Strategic Plan 2014-2018 and successor plans. The major part of the action will be implemented through budget support to the Government of Cambodia. A minor part of the action will be implemented through indirect management with international organisations.
- (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>.
- (5) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in the Annex to this Decision, subject to the conclusion of delegation agreements. In accordance with Article 60(1) and (2) of

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

<sup>3</sup> C(2014)9526

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020 (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 44).

<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).

Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that these entities guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages Union funds. These entities comply with the conditions of points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and the supervisory and support measures are in place as necessary.

- (6) 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.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, 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 not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee, established under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 233/2014,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

##### **Adoption of the programme**

The Annual Action Programme 2017 part 2 in favour of Cambodia, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following action:

Annex: EU-Cambodia Education Sector Reform Partnership 2018-2021

#### *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 100 000 000 and shall be financed from budget line 21.020200 of the general budget of the European Union for 2017.

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

#### *Article 3*

##### **Methods of Implementation**

Budget-implementation tasks under indirect management may be entrusted to the entities identified in the attached Annex, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements.

The elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 are set out in the Annex to this Decision.

#### *Article 4*

##### **Non-substantial changes**

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 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, 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, 15.9.2017

*For the Commission*  
*Neven MIMICA*  
*Member of the Commission*