



Brussels, 17.9.2018
C(2018) 6115 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 17.9.2018

**on the individual measure in favour of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau 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 Guinea-Bissau for the period 2014-2020³, which prioritises: Sector 1 - Consolidation of democratic governance, including education; Sector 2 - Sustainable rural development; and Sector 3 - Health.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the measure to be financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement⁴ ("Internal Agreement") are to support the credible and reliable update of the electoral rolls and to support the organisation of legitimate, transparent and credible elections in line with the domestic legislation and international standards, via an untargeted contribution to the Basket Fund "Support to Electoral Cycle 2018 and 2019", managed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Guinea-Bissau.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The envisaged assistance to Guinea-Bissau is deemed to strictly follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures concerning the said country.
- (5) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entity specified in the Annex to this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a delegation agreement. In accordance with Article 154(3) and (4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) 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 Guinea-Bissau C(2016)4038 final of 4.7.2016.

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).

Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2015/323, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that this entity guarantees a level of protection of the financial interests of the European Union equivalent to that required when the Commission manages European Union funds. This entity complies with the conditions set out in points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 154(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and the supervisory and support measures are in place as necessary.

- (6) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, applicable in accordance with Article 2(1) and Article 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, 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.
- (8) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The EDF Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Commission Decision on the individual measure in favour of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau 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: "Support to the Electoral Cycles of Guinea Bissau 2018-2019".

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 2 500 000, 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

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

The elements required by Article 110(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, 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 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, 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, 17.9.2018

For the Commission
Stefano Manservigi
Director-General