



Brussels, 16.11.2018
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 16.11.2018

on the financing of the Annual Action Programme 2018 part 2 in favour of West Africa

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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) In order to ensure the implementation of the Annual Action Programme 2018 part 2, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the Regional Indicative Programme for West Africa for the period 2014-2020⁴, which sets out the following priorities (i) peace, security and regional stability, (ii) regional economic integration and support for trade, and (iii) resilience, food and nutrition security and natural resources.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement⁵ ("Internal Agreement") are to improve economic governance in West Africa and promote regional economic integration.
- (5) The action entitled "Support to the Africa Regional Technical Assistance Centre AFRITAC WEST 2 Project – Phase II" aims to contribute to higher growth and poverty reduction in the six member countries, through the promotion of regional economic integration, strengthening the steering of harmonised economic and financial policies at the regional level, consolidating the macroeconomic, financial and

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 17.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

⁴ Commission Decision on the adoption of the Regional Indicative Programme between the European Union and West Africa 2014-2020, C(2015)4093 of 19.6.2015.

⁵ 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).

fiscal frameworks and improving economic governance in West Africa. The specific objective of the programme is to strengthen the institutional and human capacities of the States of the West Africa region for effective macroeconomic management in the areas of competence of the AFRITAC. The capacity development activities aim to improve the design, implementation, and monitoring of sound macroeconomic, financial, fiscal and monetary policies, and enhanced regional harmonisation, in alignment with the regional objectives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

- (6) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (7) 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 29(1) of Regulation (EU) 2015/323.
- (8) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (9) The action 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
The programme

The financing decision, constituting the implementation of the Annual Action Programme Part 2 in favour of West Africa, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following action:

Annex: Support to AFRITAC WEST 2 Project – Phase II

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme is set at EUR 5 000 000, and shall be financed from the 11th European Development Fund.

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

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000, not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial for the purposes 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 these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4
Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 16.11.2018

For the Commission
Stefano Manservigi
Director-General
Directorate General for International
Cooperation and Development