



Brussels, 16.4.2014  
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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 16.4.2014**

**on the Special measure 2014 in favour of Palestine<sup>1</sup> to be financed from the general budget of the European Union**

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<sup>1</sup> This designation does not entail any recognition of Palestine as a state and is without prejudice to positions on the recognition of Palestine as a state.

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 16.4.2014

### on the Special measure 2014 in favour of Palestine<sup>1</sup> to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

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

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>3</sup>, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Since 2002 the Commission has set priorities for co-operation with Palestine on an ad-hoc basis and Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 provides for the adoption of special measures in the event of unforeseen and duly justified needs or circumstances.
- (2) The European Union remains committed to building the institutional capacity of the Palestinian Authority to maintain the viability of the two-state solution. There is a widening gap between the Palestinian Authority's income and its mandatory expenditures that is putting at risk the livelihood of thousands of Palestinian families who depend on Palestinian Authority salaries, as well as the economy of both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The financial situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) remains critical.
- (3) The objectives pursued by this special measure, to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument<sup>4</sup>, are to provide urgent financial support to the Palestinian Authority and to UNRWA and therefore to allow the delivery of essential public services to the entire Palestinian population.
- (4) This Decision complies with the conditions laid down in Article 94 of 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<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> This designation does not entail any recognition of Palestine as a state and is without prejudice to positions on the recognition of Palestine as a state.

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

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

- (5) This Decision should provide that the Commission acknowledges and accepts the contribution from other donors pursuant to Article 21(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012, subject to the signature of the relevant agreement, and should decide on the use of such contribution.
- (6) The Commission should authorise the eligibility of costs as of a date preceding that of submission of a grant application for the reasons of extreme urgency in crisis management aid or in situations of imminent or immediate danger to the stability of a country, including by an armed conflict, where an early involvement engagement of the Union may prevent an escalation.
- (7) The maximum contribution of the European Union set by this Decision should cover any possible claims for 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.
- (8) The Commission is required to define the term "non-substantial change" in the sense of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation No 1268/2012 to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer by delegation, or under his or her responsibility, by sub-delegation (hereinafter referred to as the 'responsible authorising officer').
- (9) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Committee set up by the basic act referred to in Recital 3,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

##### **Adoption of the measure**

The following Special Measure, constituted by the actions identified in the second paragraph and attached as annexes, is approved:

Special measure 2014 in favour of Palestine

The actions constituting this measure are:

- Annex 1: PEGASE Direct Financial Support to Recurrent Expenditures of the Palestinian Authority - 2014;
- Annex 2: Contribution to UNRWA's 2014 Regular Budget

#### *Article 2*

##### **Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union authorised by this Decision for the implementation of this special measure is set at EUR 200 million to be financed from budget line 21 03 01 04 of the general budget of the European Union for 2014.

#### *Article 3*

##### **Implementation modalities**

Section 4 of the Annexes referred to in the second paragraph of Article 1 sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

The Commission authorises the eligibility of costs prior to the submission of grant applications as of the date identified in the Annexes.

The financial contribution referred to in Article 2 shall also cover any possible interests due for late payment.

#### *Article 4*

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

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution referred to in Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

Done at Brussels, 16.4.2014

*For the Commission*  
*Štefan FÜLE*  
*Member of the Commission*