



Brussels, 14.12.2015
C(2015) 8677 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 14.12.2015

**on the Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the Republic of South Africa to be
financed from the general budget of the European Union**

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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 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹ and in particular Article 2 (1) 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 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Republic of South Africa (RSA) for the period 2014-2020³, points 1.3 and 3 of which provide for the following priorities: Employment Creation, Education, Training and Innovation; and Building a capable and developmental state.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁴ are to assist the Government of South Africa in eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable and inclusive growth, and consolidating and improving democratic and economic governance.
- (3) Action entitled "Capacity Building Programme for Employment Promotion (CBPEP) for the Republic of South Africa" has as overall objective to assist the Government of South Africa to attain its unemployment objective through support towards institutional development. The purpose of this assistance is to strengthen the organisational capacity of relevant South African Departments and of individual capacity within, to implement employment-related policy measures. Project Approach will be the selected aid modality.
- (4) Action entitled "Public Service Training and Capacity Building Programme" has as overall objective to assist the state in fulfilling its developmental and transformative role, notably through improving service delivery whilst its specific objective is to improve the public sector capacity through education, training and development by National School of Government. Project Approach will be the selected aid modality.

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ C(2014)5703 of 13.08.2015

⁴ 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).

- (5) Action entitled "The EU-South Africa Dialogue Facility" has as overall objective to strengthen relations between the European Union and the South African Government. Its purpose is to facilitate the implementation of priority aspects, notably of the Strategic Partnership Action Plan by providing seed money for existing and new areas of co-operation. Project Approach will be the selected aid modality.
- (6) 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 1268/2012.⁵
- (7) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the partner country specified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a financing agreement. In accordance with Article 60(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the authorising officer responsible needs to ensure that measures are taken to supervise and support the implementation of the entrusted tasks. A description of these measures and the entrusted tasks are laid down in Annex 2 to this Decision.
- (8) 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.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the Commission should define changes to this Decision which are not substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (10) The measure[s] provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee set up by Article 19 of the financing instruments referred to in Recital 2.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Adoption of the measure

The Annual Action Programme 2015 in favour of the Republic of South Africa to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, as set out in the Annexes, is approved.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: Capacity Building Programme for Employment Promotion for the RSA;
- Annex 2: Public service training and capacity building programme;
- Annex 3: The EU-South Africa Dialogue Facility.

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 21 500 000 and shall be financed for an amount of EUR 21 500 000 from budget line BGUE-B2015-21.020600-C1 DEVCO of the general budget of the European Union for 2015.

⁵ 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).

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

Article 3

Implementation modalities

The section “Implementation” of the Annexes to this Decision sets out the elements required by Article 94(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

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 use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 14.12.2015

For the Commission

Neven MIMICA

Member of the Commission