



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 3.7.2014
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 3.7.2014

**on the adoption of the first multiannual indicative programme for the period 2014-2017
under the Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries**

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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 234/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries, and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Union must seek to develop relations and build partnerships with third countries. Although based on the experience gained with industrialised countries and high-income countries and territories under Council Regulation (EC) No 1934/2006¹, the instrument set up under Regulation (EU) No 234/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries is a new instrument. It offers direct support for the Union's external policies and extends the cooperation partnerships and policy dialogues to areas and issues outside development cooperation in order to promote core Union interests.
- (2) The multiannual indicative programmes set out the Union's interests and priorities, specific objectives and expected results. They lay down the priority areas selected for Union financing and should indicate in general terms, for the relevant period, the indicative allocation of funds for each priority area and for each partner or group of partner countries. In accordance with Article 9(3) and (4) of Council Decision 2010/427/EU of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EEAS contributes to the management and programming cycle of external-aid instruments². The above Council Decision 2010/427/EU applies to the relevant provisions of the abovementioned Regulation No 234/2014.
- (3) The financial allocation for implementing the partnership instrument for the period 2014-2020 will be EUR 960 400 000.
- (4) The aid provided by the Union will support the objectives and thematic priorities identified in the Annex to Regulation No 234/2014 and be implemented for this purpose in accordance with the multiannual indicative programme for the Partnership

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1934/2006 of 21 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (OJ L 405, 30.12.2006, p. 41).

² The EEAS has responsibility for preparing the decisions of the Commission regarding the strategic, multiannual steps within the programming cycle. Throughout the whole cycle of programming, planning and implementing the instrument, the High Representative and the EEAS will work with the relevant members and departments of the Commission. All proposals for decisions will be prepared by following the Commission's procedures and will be submitted to the Commission for adoption.

Instrument for cooperation with third countries for the period 2014-2020 annexed hereto.

- (5) In accordance with Article 18(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Erasmus+, in order to promote the international dimension of higher education, an indicative amount of EUR 88 000 000 will be allocated for actions to promote the mobility of young people to and from partner countries during their studies and for cooperation and political dialogue with the authorities, institutions and organisations of those countries.
- (6) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee set up under Article 7 of Regulation No 234/2014,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The first multiannual indicative programme for the period 2014-2017 under the Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries set up by Regulation No 234/2014, and its attached table, which are annexed hereto, are hereby adopted.

Done at Brussels, 3.7.2014

For the Commission
Catherine ASHTON
Vice-President