



Brussels, 25.9.2013
SWD(2013) 345 final

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

Supporting document - Comparative table - 10th-11th EDF financial regulations

Accompanying the document

Proposal for a Council regulation

on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund

{COM(2013) 660 final}

	PART ONE: COMMON PROVISIONS
	1. TITLE SUBJECT MATTER, SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS I

PART ONE

MAIN PROVISIONS

TITLE I

SUBJECT MATTER AND SCOPE

Article 1

This Regulation lays down the rules for the establishment and financial implementation of the resources of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF), and the presentation and auditing of the accounts.

PART ONE

MAIN PROVISIONS

TITLE I

SUBJECT MATTER, SCOPE AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 11th EDF FR

Scope

This Regulation lays down the rules for the financial implementation of the resources of the 11th European Development Fund (11th EDF), and the presentation and auditing of the accounts.

Article 2 11th EDF FR

Relation to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 applicable to the general budget

1. Unless specifically provided otherwise, direct references in this Regulation to the provisions of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall be deemed to include also references to the corresponding provisions of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
2. References in this Regulation to applicable provisions of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall not be deemed to include procedural provisions which are not relevant to the 11th EDF, in particular those concerning the empowerment to adopt delegated acts.

3. Internal references in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 or in Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 shall not render the provisions referred to indirectly applicable to the 11th EDF.
4. Terms used in this Regulation shall have the same meaning as that assigned to them in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, with the exception of points (a) to (e) of Article 2 of that Regulation.
- However for the purposes of this Regulation, the following terms in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall be interpreted with the following adjustments:
- (a) "budget" or "budgetary" means "11th EDF";
 - (b) "budgetary commitment" means "financial commitment";
 - (c) "institution" means "the Commission";
 - (d) "appropriations" or "operational appropriations" means "11th EDF resources";
 - (e) "budget line" or "line in the budget" means "allocation";
 - (f) "basic act" means, according to the relevant context, the Internal Agreement, the Overseas Association Decision or the Implementation Regulation
 - (g) "third country" means any beneficiary country or territory covered by the geographical scope of the 11th EDF.
5. The interpretation of this Regulation shall aim at preserving coherence with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 unless such interpretation would be incompatible with the specificities of the 11th EDF as provided for in the Cotonou Agreement, the Internal Agreement, the Overseas Association Decision, or the Implementation Regulation.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 5</i></p> <p>1. Unless otherwise specified, references in this Regulation to the ACP States shall be deemed to refer also to the bodies or representatives defined in Articles 13 and 14 of Annex IV to the ACP-AC Agreement, which they may duly mandate to exercise their responsibilities under that Agreement.</p> <p>2. The financial year shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December.</p>	
	<i>Article 1 FR</i>
	Subject matter
	1. — This Regulation lays down the rules for the establishment and the implementation of the general budget of the European Union and the presentation and auditing of the accounts.
	2. — This Regulation shall apply to the implementation of the budget for the Euratom Supply Agency.
	<i>Article 1 RAP</i> <i>Subject matter</i>

	This Regulation lays down the rules of application for Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 966/2012 (hereinafter «the Financial Regulation»).
	<i>Article 2 FR</i>
	Definitions
	For the purposes of this Regulation:
	(a) "Union" means the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community, or both, as the context may require;
	—— (b) "institution" means the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the Court of Auditors, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, the European Ombudsman, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the European External Action Service (the "EEAS"); the European Central Bank shall not be considered as an institution of the Union;
	—— (c) "budget" means the instrument which, for each financial year, forecasts and authorises all revenue and expenditure considered necessary for the Union;
	—— (d) "basic act" means a legal act which provides a legal basis for an action and for the implementation of the corresponding expenditure entered in the budget.
	—— A basic act may take any of the following forms:
	—— (i) in implementation of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (the

	Euratom Treaty), the form of a regulation, a directive or a decision within the meaning of Article 288 TFEU; or
	—— (ii) in implementation of Title V of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), one of the forms specified in Articles 26(2), 28(1), 29, 31(2), 33 and 37 TEU.
	—— Recommendations and opinions shall not constitute basic acts;
	—— (e) "method of implementation" means the method of budget implementation described in Articles 58, 59 or 60;
	(f) "delegation agreement" means an agreement concluded with entities and persons entrusted with budget implementation tasks pursuant to points (i) to (viii) of Article 58(1)(c);
	(g) "beneficiary" means a natural or legal person with whom a grant agreement has been signed or to whom a grant decision has been notified;
	(h) "contractor" means a natural or legal person with whom a procurement contract has been concluded;
	(i) "recipient" means a beneficiary, contractor, or any natural or legal person that receives prizes or funds under a financial instrument;
	(j) "prize" means a financial contribution given as a reward following a contest.
	(k) "loan" means an agreement which obliges the lender to make available to the borrower an agreed sum of money for an agreed period of time and under which

	the borrower is obliged to repay that amount within the agreed time;
	(l) "guarantee" means a written commitment to assume responsibility for all or part of a third party's debt or obligation or for the successful performance by that third party of its obligations if an event occurs which triggers such guarantee, such as a loan default;
	(m) "equity investment" means the provision of capital to a firm, invested directly or indirectly in return for total or partial ownership of that firm and where the equity investor may assume some management control of the firm and may share the firm's profits;
	(n) "quasi-equity investment" means a type of financing that ranks between equity and debt, having a higher risk than senior debt and a lower risk than common equity. Quasi-equity investments can be structured as debt, typically unsecured and subordinated and in some cases convertible into equity, or as preferred equity;
	(o) "risk-sharing instrument" means a financial instrument which allows for the sharing of a defined risk between two or more entities, where appropriate in exchange for an agreed remuneration;
	(p) "financial instruments" means Union measures of financial support provided on a complementary basis from the budget in order to address one or more specific policy objectives of the Union. Such instruments may take the form of equity or quasi-equity investments, loans or guarantees, or other risk-sharing instruments, and may, where appropriate, be combined with grants;

	(q) "Staff Regulations" means the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union laid down in Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 ¹ ;
	(r) "control" means any measure taken to provide reasonable assurance regarding the effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations, the reliability of reporting, the safeguarding of assets and information, the prevention and detection and correction of fraud and irregularities and their follow-up, and the adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, taking into account the multiannual character of programmes as well as the nature of the payments concerned. Controls may involve various checks, as well as the implementation of any policies and procedures to achieve the objectives described in the first sentence;
	(s) "check" means the verification of a specific aspect of a revenue or expenditure operation.
	Article 3 FR
	Compliance of secondary legislation with this Regulation
	1. Provisions concerning the implementation of the revenue and expenditure of the budget, and contained in a basic act, shall respect the budgetary principles set out in Title II of Part One.

¹ OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 1

	<p>2. Without prejudice to paragraph 1, any proposal or amendment to a proposal submitted to the legislative authority containing derogations from provisions other than those in Title II of Part One or from delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation shall clearly indicate such derogations and shall state the specific reasons justifying them in the recitals and in the explanatory memorandum of such proposals.</p>
	<i>Article 3 11th EDF FR</i>
	Periods, dates and time limits
	<p>Unless otherwise provided, Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71² shall apply to deadlines set by this Regulation.</p>
	Article 4 FR [inspiring Article 3 11 th EDF FR]
	Periods, dates and time limits

² Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time limits (OJ L 124, 8.6.1971, p. 1).

	<p>Unless otherwise provided, Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/71 of 3 June 1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time limits³ shall apply to deadlines set by this Regulation.</p>
	<i>Article 4 11th EDF FR</i>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Protection of personal data</p> <p>This Regulation is without prejudice to the requirements of Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and to the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council .</p> <p>Article 29 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 concerning information on transfers of personal data for audit purposes shall apply.</p>
	Article 5 FR [inspiring Article 4 11 th EDF FR]
	Protection of personal data

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OJ L 124, 8.6.1971, p. 1.

 This Regulation is without prejudice to the requirements of Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data⁴ and of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.

⁴ OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31.

TITLE II

FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

Article 6

EDF resources shall be established and implemented in compliance with the following principles as set out in this Regulation:

- (a) financial accuracy;
- (b) unit of account;
- (c) specification;
- (d) sound financial management;
- (e) transparency.

TITLE II

FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

Article 5 11th EDF FR

Financial principles

The 11th EDF resources shall be implemented in compliance with the following principles:

- (a) unity and budgetary accuracy;
- (b) unit of account;
- (c) universality;
- (d) specification;
- (e) sound financial management;
- (f) transparency.

TITLE II

BUDGETARY PRINCIPLES

Article 6 FR

Respect for budgetary principles

~~The budget shall be established and implemented in accordance with the principles of unity, budgetary accuracy, annuality, equilibrium, unit of account, universality, specification, sound financial management which requires effective and efficient internal control, and transparency as set out in this Regulation.~~

CHAPTER 1

PRINCIPLE OF FINANCIAL ACCURACY

Article 7

1. No revenue shall be collected and no expenditure effected unless booked to an allocation of the EDF.
2. No expenditure may be committed or authorised in excess of the allocations.
3. Interest yielded by the funds which are the property of the EDF shall be entered as EDF revenue.

Article 8

1. Interest generated by pre-financing payments shall be assigned to the programme or the action concerned and deducted from the payment of the balance of the amounts due to the beneficiary.
2. Interest shall not be due to the Communities in the following cases:
 - (a) pre-financing which does not represent a significant amount;
 - (b) pre-financing paid under a procurement contract within the meaning of Article 91;
 - (c) advances paid to members of the institutions and to staff in accordance with the Staff Regulations of

Article 6 11th EDF FR

Principle of unity and budgetary accuracy

No revenue shall be collected and no expenditure effected unless booked to the EDF.

Article 8(2) and (3) and the first subparagraph of Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.

<p>officials of the European Communities and the Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Communities (the Staff Regulations);</p> <p>(d) pre-financing paid in the framework of joint management as referred to in Article 20(1)(c).</p>	
<p>3. Articles 3, 4 and 4a of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i> to the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Principles of unity and budgetary accuracy</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Article 7 FR</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Scope of the budget</p>
	<p>1. — The budget shall comprise:</p>
	<p>— (a) the revenue and expenditure of the Union, including administrative expenditure occasioned for the institutions by the provisions of the TEU relating to the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and the operational expenditure occasioned by implementation of those provisions where this is charged to the budget;</p>
	<p>— (b) the revenue and expenditure of the European Atomic Energy Community.</p>

	2. The budget shall record the guarantees for borrowing and lending operations entered into by the Union, including the European Financial Stability Mechanism and Balance of Payment Facility operations, in accordance with point (d) of Article 49(1).
	Article 8 FR
	Specific rules on the principles of unity and budgetary accuracy
	1. Without prejudice to Article 83, no revenue shall be collected and no expenditure effected unless booked to a line in the budget.
	2. No expenditure may be committed or authorised in excess of the authorised appropriations.
	3. An appropriation may be entered in the budget only if it is for an item of expenditure considered necessary.
	4. Interest generated by pre-financing payments made from the budget shall not be due to the Union except as otherwise provided for in the delegation agreements, with the exception of those agreements concluded with third countries or the bodies they have designated. In cases in which it is provided for, such interest shall either be re-used for the corresponding action, deducted from payment requests in accordance with point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 23(1) or recovered.

	The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the accounting of interest generated by pre-financing payments.
	<i>Article 2 RAP</i> <i>Accounting for interest yielded on pre-financing</i> <i>(Article 8(4) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Where interest is due to the budget, the agreement concluded with the entities or persons listed in points (ii) to (viii) of Article 58(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation shall stipulate that pre-financing is paid to bank accounts or sub-accounts which allow the funds and related interest to be identified. Otherwise, the accounting methods of the recipients or intermediaries must make it possible to identify the funds paid by the Union and the interest or other benefits yielded by those funds.
	Provisions of this Regulation concerning interest on pre-financing shall be without prejudice to the entry of pre-financing on the assets side of financial statements, as laid down in the accounting rules referred to in Article 143 of the Financial Regulation.
	CHAPTER 2 Principle of annuality
	Article 9 FR
	Definition

	The appropriations entered in the budget shall be authorised for a financial year which shall run from 1 January to 31 December.
	Article 10 FR
	Type of appropriations
	1. — The budget shall contain differentiated appropriations, which consist of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations, and non-differentiated appropriations.
	2. — Commitment appropriations shall cover the total cost of the legal commitments entered into during the financial year, subject to Article 86(4) and Article 189(2).
	3. — Payment appropriations shall cover payments made to honour the legal commitments entered into in the financial year or preceding financial years.
	4. — Paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article are without prejudice to the special provisions of Titles I, IV and VI of Part Two and shall not prevent appropriations being committed globally or budgetary commitments being made in annual instalments.
	Article 11 FR
	Accounting for revenue and appropriations

	1. — The revenue of a financial year shall be entered in the accounts for the financial year on the basis of the amounts collected during that financial year. However, the own resources for the month of January of the following financial year may be made available in advance pursuant to Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1150/2000 of 22 May 2000 implementing Decision 2007/436/EC, Euratom on the system of the European Communities' own resources ⁵ .
	2. — The entries in respect of value-added tax own resources, of the additional resource based on gross national income and of any financial contributions may be adjusted in accordance with Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1150/2000.
	3. — The appropriations authorised for a financial year shall be used solely to cover expenditure committed and paid in that financial year and to cover amounts due against commitments from preceding financial years.
	— The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules for appropriations for the financial year.
	4. — Commitments shall be entered in the accounts on the basis of the legal commitments entered into up to 31 December. By way of exception, the global budgetary commitments referred to in Article 86(4) and the financing agreements referred to in Article 189(2) and concluded with third countries shall be entered in the accounts on the basis of the budgetary commitments up to 31 December.
	5. — Payments shall be entered in the accounts for a financial year on the basis of

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OJ L 130, 31.5.2000, p. 1.

	the payments effected by the accounting officer by 31 December of that year.
	6. — By way of derogation from paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, the expenditure of the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund shall be entered in the accounts for a financial year in accordance with the rules laid down in Title I of Part Two.
	<i>Article 3 RAP</i> <i>Appropriations for the financial year</i> <i>(Article 11(3) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The commitment appropriations and payment appropriations authorised for the financial year shall consist of:
	(a) — appropriations provided in the budget, including by amending budgets;
	(b) — appropriations carried over;
	(c) — appropriations made available again in accordance with Articles 178 and 182 of the Financial Regulation;
	(d) — appropriations arising from pre-financing payments which have been repaid in accordance with Article 177(3) of the Financial Regulation;
	(e) — appropriations provided following the receipt of revenue assigned during the financial year or during previous financial years and not used.
	Article 12 FR
	Commitment of appropriations

	The appropriations entered in the budget may be committed with effect from 1 January, once the budget has been definitively adopted, except as otherwise provided for in Title I and Title VI of Part Two.
	Article 13-FR
	Cancellation and carry-over of appropriations
	1. — Appropriations which have not been used by the end of the financial year for which they were entered shall be cancelled.
	— However, they may be carried over, but only to the following financial year, by a decision taken by 15 February by the institution concerned, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3, or they may be carried over automatically in accordance with paragraph 4.
	2. — Differentiated commitment appropriations and non-differentiated appropriations not yet committed at the end of the financial year may be carried over in respect of:
	— (a) amounts corresponding to commitment appropriations, or to non-differentiated appropriations relating to building projects, for which most of the preparatory stages of the commitment procedure have been completed by 31 December. Such amounts may then be committed up to 31 March of the following year, or up to 31 December of the following year for amounts relating to building projects;

	—— (b) amounts which are necessary when the legislative authority has adopted a basic act in the final quarter of the financial year and the Commission has been unable to commit the appropriations provided for this purpose by 31 December.
	3.—— Payment appropriations may be carried over in respect of amounts needed to cover existing commitments or commitments linked to commitment appropriations carried over, where the payment appropriations provided for in the relevant budget lines for the following financial year are not sufficient to cover requirements.
	—— The institution concerned shall first use the appropriations authorised for the current financial year and shall not use the appropriations carried over until the former are exhausted.
	4.—— Non differentiated appropriations corresponding to obligations duly contracted at the end of the financial year shall be carried over automatically to the following financial year only.
	5.—— The institution concerned shall inform the European Parliament and the Council by 15 March of the carry over decision it has taken and shall state, for each budget line, how the criteria in paragraphs 2 and 3 have been applied to each carry-over.
	6.—— Without prejudice to Article 14, appropriations placed in reserve and appropriations for staff expenditure shall not be carried over. For the purpose of this Article, staff expenditure comprises the remuneration and allowances for members and staff of the institutions to which the Staff Regulations apply.

	<p>7. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules for the cancellation and carry over of appropriations.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 4 RAP</i> <i>Cancellation and carryover of appropriations</i> <i>(Article 13(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. — The commitment appropriations and the non-differentiated appropriations relating to building projects referred to in Article 13(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation may be carried over only if the commitments could not be made before 31 December of the financial year for reasons not attributable to the authorising officer and if the preparatory stages are sufficiently advanced to make it reasonable to surmise that the commitment will be made by no later than 31 March of the following year, or 31 December for building projects.</p>
	<p>2. — The preparatory stages referred to in Article 13(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation, which should be completed by 31 December of the financial year in order to allow a carryover to the following year, are in particular:</p>
	<p>(a) — for global commitments within the meaning of Article 85 of the Financial Regulation, the adoption of a financing decision or the closing by that date of the consultation of the departments concerned within each institution for the adoption of the decision;</p>
	<p>(b) — for individual commitments within the meaning of Article 85 of the Financial Regulation, the completion of the selection of potential contractors, beneficiaries, prize winners or delegates.</p>
	<p>3. — Appropriations carried over in accordance with Article 13(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation which have not been committed by 31 March of the following</p>

	financial year or up to 31 December of the following year for amounts relating to building projects shall be automatically cancelled.
	The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and Council of the appropriations cancelled in this way within one month following the cancellation in accordance with the first subparagraph.
	4. — Appropriations carried over in accordance with Article 13(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation may be used until 31 December of the following financial year.
	5. — The accounts shall identify appropriations carried over in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 4.
	Article 14 FR
	Carry over rules for assigned revenue
	Carry over of assigned revenue referred to in Article 21, and of appropriations not used and available at 31 December arising from such revenue, shall comply with the following rules:
	— (a) external assigned revenue shall be carried over automatically and shall be fully used by the time all the operations relating to the programme or action to which it is assigned have been carried out. External assigned revenue received during the last year of the programme or action may be used in the first year of the succeeding programme or action;
	— (b) internal assigned revenue shall be carried over for one year only, with the exception of internal assigned revenue defined in point (g) of Article 21(3), which shall be carried over automatically.

	Article 15 FR
	Decommitment of appropriations
	Without prejudice to Articles 178 and 182, where appropriations are decommitted in any financial year after that in which the appropriations were entered in the budget as a result of total or partial non-implementation of the actions for which they were earmarked, the appropriations concerned shall be cancelled.
	Article 16 FR
	Rules applicable in the event of late adoption of the budget
	1. — If the budget has not been definitively adopted at the beginning of the financial year, the procedure set out in the first paragraph of Article 315 TFEU (the provisional twelfths regime) shall apply. Commitments and payments may be made within the limits laid down in paragraph 2 of this Article.
	2. — Commitments may be made per chapter up to a maximum of one quarter of the total appropriations authorised in the relevant chapter of the previous financial year plus one twelfth for each month which has elapsed.
	— The limit of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget shall not be exceeded.
	— Payments may be made monthly per chapter up to a maximum of one twelfth of the appropriations authorised in the relevant chapter of the preceding financial year. That sum shall not, however, exceed one twelfth of the appropriations

	provided for in the same chapter of the draft budget.
	3. — The appropriations authorised in the relevant chapter of the preceding financial year, as specified in paragraphs 1 and 2, shall be understood as referring to the appropriations voted in the budget, including by amending budgets, and after adjustment for the transfers made during that financial year.
	4. — If the continuity of action by the Union and management needs so require, the Council, acting by qualified majority on a proposal of the Commission, may authorise expenditure in excess of one provisional twelfth but not exceeding the total of four provisional twelfths, except in duly justified cases, both for commitments and for payments over and above those automatically made available in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2. It shall forward the decision on authorisation without delay to the European Parliament.
	— The decision shall enter into force 30 days following its adoption unless the European Parliament:
	— (a) acting by a majority of its component Members, decides to reduce that expenditure within that time limit, in which case the Commission shall submit a new proposal; or
	— (b) informs the Council and the Commission that it does not wish to reduce that expenditure, in which case the decision shall enter into force before the expiry of the 30 days.
	— The additional twelfths shall be authorised in full and shall not be divisible.

	5. — If, for a given chapter, the authorisation of four provisional twelfths granted in accordance with paragraph 4 is not sufficient to cover the expenditure necessary to avoid a break in continuity of action by the Union in the area covered by the chapter in question, authorisation may exceptionally be given to exceed the amount of the appropriations entered in the corresponding chapter of the budget of the preceding financial year. The European Parliament and the Council shall act in accordance with the procedures provided for in paragraph 4. However, the overall total of the appropriations available in the budget of the preceding financial year or in the draft budget, as proposed, may in no circumstances be exceeded.
	CHAPTER 3 Principle of equilibrium
	Article 17 FR
	Definition and scope
	1. — Revenue and payment appropriations shall be in balance.
	2. — The Union and the bodies referred to in Article 208, may not raise loans within the framework of the budget.
	Article 18 FR
	Balance from financial year
	1. — The balance from each financial year shall be entered in the budget for the following financial year as revenue in the case of a surplus or as a payment

	appropriation in the case of a deficit.
	2. — The estimates of such revenue or payment appropriations shall be entered in the budget during the budgetary procedure and in a letter of amendment presented pursuant to Article 39. The estimates shall be drawn up in accordance with Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1150/2000.
	3. — After the presentation of the provisional accounts for each financial year, any discrepancy between those accounts and the estimates shall be entered in the budget for the following financial year through an amending budget devoted solely to that discrepancy. In such a case, the Commission shall submit the draft amending budget simultaneously to the European Parliament and the Council within 15 days of submission of the provisional accounts.

<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRINCIPLE OF THE UNIT OF ACCOUNT</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 9</i></p> <p>1. EDF resources shall be drawn up and implemented in euro and the accounts shall be presented in euro.</p> <p>However, for the treasury management purposes referred to in Article 39, the accounting officer may carry out operations in euro or in other currencies.</p> <p>2. Articles 7 and 8 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i> to the implementation of paragraph 1.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 7 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Principle of unit of account</p> <p>Article 19 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 on the use of the euro shall apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i>.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 4⁶</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Principle of unit of account</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Article 19 FR</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Use of euro</p>
	<p>1. The multiannual financial framework and the budget shall be drawn up and implemented in euro and the accounts shall be presented in euro. However, for the cash-flow purposes referred to in Article 68(1), the accounting officer and, in the</p>

	<p>case of imprest accounts, the imprest administrators, and, for the needs of the administrative management of the Commission and the EEAS, the authorising officer responsible, shall be authorised to carry out operations in other currencies as laid down in the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation.</p>
	<p>2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the rate of conversion between euro and other currencies.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 5 RAP</i> <i>Rate of conversion between the euro and other currencies</i> <i>(Article 19 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Without prejudice to specific provisions arising from the application of sector-specific regulations, conversion by the responsible authorising officer shall be made using the daily euro exchange rate published in the C series of the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i>.</p>
	<p>Where conversion between the euro and another currency is to be made by the contractors or beneficiaries, the specific arrangements for conversion contained in procurement contracts, grant agreements or financing agreements shall apply.</p>
	<p>2. In order to avoid that currency conversion operations have a significant impact on the level of the Union co-financing or a detrimental impact on the Union budget, the specific arrangements for conversion referred to in paragraph 1 shall provide, if appropriate, for a rate of conversion between the euro and other currencies to be calculated using the average of the daily exchange rate in a given period.</p>
	<p>3. If no daily euro exchange rate is published in the <i>Official Journal of the</i></p>

	<p><i>European Union</i> for the currency in question, the responsible authorising officer shall use the accounting rate referred to in paragraph 4.</p>
	<p>4. For the purposes of the accounts provided for in Articles 151 to 156 of the Financial Regulation and subject to Article 240 of this Regulation, conversion between the euro and another currency shall be made using the monthly accounting rate of the euro. That accounting exchange rate shall be established by the Commission's accounting officer by means of any source of information he regards as reliable, on the basis of the exchange rate on the penultimate working day of the month preceding that for which the rate is established.</p>
	<p>5. The results of the currency operations referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article shall be shown under a separate heading in the respective institution's accounts.</p>
	<p>The first subparagraph of this paragraph shall apply mutatis mutandis to bodies referred to in Article 208 of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 6 RAP</i> <i>Rate to be used for conversion between the euro and other currencies</i> <i>(Article 19 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Without prejudice to specific provisions deriving from the application of sector-specific regulations, or from specific procurement contracts, grant agreements or grant decisions and financing agreements, the rate to be used for conversion between the euro and other currencies shall, in cases where the conversion is carried out by the responsible authorising officer, be that of the day on which the payment order or recovery order is drawn up by the authorising department.</p>

	<p>2. In case of euro imprest accounts, the rate to be used for the conversion between the euro and other currencies shall be determined by the date of the payment by the bank.</p>
	<p>3. For the regularisation of imprest accounts in national currencies, as referred to in Article 19 of the Financial Regulation, the rate to be used for the conversion between the euro and other currencies shall be that of the month of the expenditure from the imprest account concerned.</p>
	<p>4. For the reimbursement of flat-rate expenditure, or expenditure arising from the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union (hereinafter “Staff Regulations”) which is fixed at a ceiling, and which is paid in a currency other than the euro, the rate to be used shall be that which is in force when the entitlement arises.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 8 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Principle of universality</p> <p>Without prejudice to Article 9, total revenue shall cover total estimated payments.</p> <p>All revenue and expenditure shall be entered in full without any adjustment against</p>

	<p>each other, without prejudice to Article 23 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, concerning rules on deductions and exchange rate adjustments, which shall apply.</p> <p>However, the revenue referred to in Article 9(2)(c) of this Regulation shall automatically decrease payments made against the commitment from which it was generated.</p>
	<p>CHAPTER 5⁷ Principle of universality</p>
	<p>Article 20 FR</p>
	<p>Definition and scope</p>
	<p>Without prejudice to Article 21, total revenue shall cover total payment appropriations. Without prejudice to Article 23, all revenue and expenditure shall be entered in full without any adjustment against each other.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 16</i></p> <p>1. The Commission may manage financial contributions from Member States and other donor countries on their behalf, including in both cases their public and parastatal agencies, or from international organisations to certain projects or programmes financed by the EDF, in accordance with Article 9(1) and (2) of Regulation (EC) No 617/2007.</p> <p>2. The Commission may also manage voluntary financial contributions from Member States in accordance with Article 9(4) and (5) of Regulation (EC) No 617/2007 and any specific arrangements laid down in relevant bilateral contribution agreements.</p>	
<p>3. The additional resources as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 shall be managed according to the same rules as the EDF resources.</p>	<p><i>Article 9 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p>Assigned revenue</p>
	<p>1. Assigned revenue shall be used to finance specific items of expenditure.</p> <p>2. The following shall constitute assigned revenue:</p> <p>(a) financial contributions from Member States and third countries, including in both cases their public agencies, entities or natural persons; and from international organisations to certain external aid projects or programmes financed by the Union and managed by the Commission or the EIB on their behalf in accordance with Article 10 of the [Implementation Regulation];</p> <p>(b) revenue earmarked for a specific purpose, such as income from foundations, subsidies, gifts and bequests;</p> <p>(c) revenue arising from the repayment, following recovery, of amounts wrongly paid;</p> <p>(d) revenue generated by interest on pre-financing payments, subject to Article 8(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012;</p> <p>(e) repayments and revenues generated by financial instruments pursuant to Article 140(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012;</p> <p>(f) (revenue arising from subsequent reimbursement of taxes pursuant to Article 23(3)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.</p> <p>3. Assigned revenue referred to in points (a) and (b) of paragraph 2 shall finance such items of expenditure as are determined by the donor provided that it is accepted by the Commission.</p> <p>Assigned revenue referred to in points (e) and (f) of paragraph 2 shall finance items of expenditure similar to those from which it was generated.</p>

	<p>4. Article 184(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i>.</p> <p>5. Article 22(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 concerning donations shall apply to the assigned revenue referred to in point (b) of paragraph 2 of this Regulation. With regard to Article 22(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, acceptance of a donation shall be subject to the authorisation of the Council.</p> <p>6. The 11th EDF resources corresponding to assigned revenue shall be made available automatically when the revenue has been received by the Commission. However, an estimate of amounts receivable shall have the effect of making 11th EDF resources available in the case of assigned revenue referred to in point (a) of paragraph 2 where the agreement with the Member State is expressed in euro; payments may be carried out against this revenue only when it has been received.</p>
	Article 21 FR
	Assigned revenue
	1. — External assigned revenue and internal assigned revenue shall be used to
	finance specific items of expenditure.
	2. — The following shall constitute external assigned revenue:
	— (a) financial contributions from Member States to certain research
	programmes pursuant to Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1150/2000;
	— (b) financial contributions from Member States and third countries, including
	in both cases their public agencies, entities or natural persons, to certain external aid projects or programmes financed by the Union and managed by the Commission on

	their behalf;
	—— (c) interest on deposits and the fines provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 1467/97 of 7 July 1997 on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure⁸;
	—— (d) revenue earmarked for a specific purpose, such as income from foundations, subsidies, gifts and bequests, including the earmarked revenue specific to each institution;
	—— (e) financial contributions, not covered by point (b), to Union activities from third countries or from non Union bodies;
	—— (f) assigned revenue referred to in Articles 181(2) and 183(2);
	—— (g) internal assigned revenue referred to in paragraph 3, to the extent that it is ancillary to the other revenue under this paragraph.
	3. — The following shall constitute internal assigned revenue:
	—— (a) revenue from third parties in respect of goods, services or work supplied at their request;
	—— (b) proceeds from the sale of vehicles, equipment, installations, materials, and scientific and technical apparatus which are replaced or scrapped when the book value is fully depreciated;
	—— (c) revenue arising from the repayment, in accordance with Article 80, of

	amounts wrongly paid;
	—— (d) revenue arising from interest on pre-financing payments, subject to Article 8(4);
	—— (e) proceeds from the supply of goods, services and works for other departments within an institution, institutions or bodies, including refunds by other institutions or bodies of mission allowances paid on their behalf;
	—— (f) insurance payments received;
	—— (g) revenue from lettings;
	—— (h) revenue from the sale of publications and films, including those on an electronic medium;
	—— (i) repayments to financial instruments pursuant to Article 140(6);
	—— (j) revenue arising from subsequent reimbursement of taxes pursuant to point (b) of Article 23(3).
	4. A basic act may also assign the revenue for which it provides to specific items of expenditure. Unless specified otherwise in the basic act, such revenue shall constitute internal assigned revenue.
	5. The budget shall include lines to accommodate external assigned revenue and internal assigned revenue and wherever possible shall indicate the amount.
	—— Assigned revenue may be included in the draft budget only for the amounts

	<p>which are certain at the date of the establishment of the draft budget.</p>
	<p>6. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the establishment of the structure to accommodate external and internal assigned revenue and the provision of the corresponding appropriations, and concerning rules for the contribution from Member States to research programmes. Furthermore, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the proceeds of sanctions imposed pursuant to Article 126(11) TFEU, and concerning assigned revenue resulting from the participation of EFTA states in certain Union programmes.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 7 RAP</i> <i>Structure to accommodate assigned revenue and provision of corresponding appropriations</i> <i>(Article 21 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. — Without prejudice to Articles 9 and 10, the structure to accommodate assigned revenue in the budget shall comprise:</p>
	<p>(a) — in the statement of revenue of each institution's section, a budget line to receive the revenue;</p>
	<p>(b) — in the statement of expenditure, the budget remarks, including general remarks, shall show which lines may receive the appropriations corresponding to the assigned revenue which are made available.</p>
	<p>In the case referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph, a token entry "pro memoria" shall be made and the estimated revenue shall be shown for information in the remarks.</p>

	<p>2. — The appropriations corresponding to assigned revenue shall be made available automatically, both as commitment appropriations and as payment appropriations, when the revenue has been received by the institution, save in any of the following cases:</p>
	<p>(a) — in cases provided for in Article 181(2) and 183(2) of the Financial Regulation;</p>
	<p>(b) — in the case provided for in Article 21(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation for Member States where the contribution agreement is expressed in euro.</p>
	<p>In the case referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph, commitment appropriations may be made available upon signature by the Member State of the contribution agreement.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 8 RAP</i> <i>Contributions from Member States to research programmes</i> <i>(Article 21(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. — The Member States' contributions to the financing of certain supplementary research programmes, provided for in Article 5 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1150/2000⁹ shall be paid as follows:</p>
	<p>(a) — seven twelfths of the sum entered in the budget shall be paid by no later than 31 January of the current financial year;</p>
	<p>(b) — the remaining five twelfths shall be paid by no later than 15 July of the current financial year.</p>
	<p>2. — Where the budget has not been finally adopted before the start of a financial</p>

⁹ OJ L 130, 31.5.2000, p. 1.

	year, the contributions provided for in paragraph 1 shall be based on the sum entered in the budget for the previous financial year.
	3. — Any contribution or additional payment owed by the Member States to the budget shall be entered in the Commission's account or accounts within thirty calendar days of the call for funds.
	4. — Payments made shall be entered in the account provided for in Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1150/2000 and shall be subject to the conditions laid down by that Regulation.
	<i>Article 9 RAP</i> <i>Assigned revenue resulting from the participation of EFTA States in certain Union programmes</i> <i>(Article 21(2)(e) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. — The budget structure to accommodate the participation of the Member States of the European Free Trade Association (hereinafter "EFTA States") in certain Union programmes shall be as follows:
	(a) — in the statement of revenue, a line with a token entry "pro memoria" shall be entered to accommodate the full amount of the EFTA States' contribution for the financial year in question.
	(b) — in the statement of expenditure:
	— (i) — the remarks for each line relating to the Union activities in which the EFTA States participate shall show «for information» the estimated amount of the participation;

	—— (ii) —— an annex, forming an integral part of the budget, shall set out all the lines covering the Union activities in which the EFTA States participate.
	For the purposes of point (a) of the first subparagraph the estimated amount shall be shown in the budget remarks.
	The annex referred to in point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph reflects and is part of the structure to accommodate the appropriations corresponding to such participation, as provided for in paragraph 2, and to allow the expenditure to be implemented.
	2. —— Under Article 82 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (hereinafter "EEA Agreement") the amounts of the annual participation of the EFTA States, as confirmed to the Commission by the Joint Committee of the European Economic Area in accordance with Article 1(5) of Protocol 32 annexed to the EEA Agreement, shall give rise to the provision, at the start of the financial year, of the full amounts of the corresponding commitment appropriations and payment appropriations.
	3. —— If, in the course of the financial year, additional appropriations are provided on the budget lines with EFTA State participation without the EFTA States being able, during that year, to adjust their contributions accordingly in order to comply with the «proportionality factor» provided for in Article 82 of the EEA Agreement, the Commission may, as a provisional and exceptional measure, use its cash resources to pre finance the share of the EFTA States. Whenever such additional appropriations are provided, the Commission shall, as soon as possible, call in the corresponding contributions from the EFTA States. The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and Council each year of any such decisions taken.
	The pre-financing shall be regularised as soon as possible in the budget for the

	following financial year.
	4. — In accordance with Article 21(2)(e) of the Financial Regulation, the financial contributions of the EFTA States shall constitute external assigned revenue. The accounting officer shall adopt appropriate measures to ensure that use of the revenue arising from those contributions and of the corresponding appropriations is monitored separately.
	In the report provided for in Article 150(2) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall show separately the stage of implementation, in both revenue and expenditure, corresponding to EFTA State participation.
	<i>Article 10 RAP</i> <i>Proceeds of sanctions imposed on Member States declared to have an excessive deficit</i> <i>(Article 21(2)(c) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The budget structure to accommodate the proceeds of the sanctions referred to in Section 4 of Council Regulation (EC) No 1467/97¹⁰ shall be as follows:
	(a) — in the statement of revenue, a line carrying a token entry "pro memoria" shall be entered to accommodate the interest on such amounts;
	(b) — at the same time, and without prejudice to Article 77 of the Financial Regulation, entry of those amounts in the statement of revenue shall give rise to the provision, in the statement of expenditure, of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations.

¹⁰

OJ L 209, 2.8.1997, p. 6.

	The appropriations referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph shall be implemented in accordance with Article 20 of the Financial Regulation.
	Article 22 FR
	Donations
	1. The Commission may accept any donation made to the Union, such as foundations, subsidies, gifts and bequests.
	2. Acceptance of a donation of a value of EUR 50000 or more which involves a financial charge, including follow-up costs, exceeding 10 % of the value of the donation made, shall be subject to the authorisation of the European Parliament and of the Council, both of which shall act on the matter within two months of receiving the request from the Commission. If no objection is made within that period, the Commission shall take a final decision regarding the acceptance of the donation.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the acceptance of donations made to the Union.
	<i>Article 11 RAP</i> <i>Charges entailed by acceptance of donations to the Union</i> <i>(Article 22 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	For the purposes of the authorisation of the European Parliament and of the Council referred to in Article 22(2) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall estimate and duly explain the financial charges, including follow up costs, entailed by the

	acceptance of donations made to the Union.
	Article 23 FR
	Rules on deductions and exchange rate adjustments
	1. The following deductions may be made from payment requests which shall then be passed for payment of the net amount:
	(a) penalties imposed on parties to procurement contracts or beneficiaries;
	(b) discounts, refunds and rebates on individual invoices and cost statements;
	(c) interest generated by pre-financing payments;
	(d) adjustments for amounts unduly paid.
	The adjustments referred to in point (d) of the first subparagraph may be made, by means of direct deduction, against a new interim payment or payment of a balance to the same payee under the chapter, article and financial year in respect of which the excess payment was made.
	Union accounting rules shall apply to the deductions referred to in points (c) and (d) of the first subparagraph.
	2. The cost of products or services, provided to the Union, incorporating taxes refunded by the Member States pursuant to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union, shall be charged to the budget for the ex-tax

	amount.
	3. The cost of products or services, provided to the Union, incorporating taxes refunded by third countries on the basis of relevant agreements, may be charged to the budget for:
	(a) the ex-tax amount; or
	(b) the tax-inclusive amount. In such a case, subsequently reimbursed taxes shall be treated as internal assigned revenue.
	4. Adjustments may be made in respect of exchange differences occurring in the implementation of the budget. The final gain or loss shall be included in the balance for the year.
	5. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the accounts for recoverable taxes.
	<p><i>Article 12 RAP</i></p> <p><i>Accounts for recoverable taxes</i></p> <p><i>(Article 23(3) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	<p>Any taxes borne by the Union under Article 23(2) and 23(3)(a) of the Financial Regulation shall be entered in a suspense account until they are refunded by the States concerned.</p>

CHAPTER 3

PRINCIPLE OF SPECIFICATION

Article 10

EDF resources shall be earmarked for specific purposes according to the main instruments of cooperation, as described in the Financial Protocol of the ACP-EC Agreement and in the Overseas Association Decision.

In respect of the ACP States, those instruments are laid down by the Financial Protocol set out in Annex Ib to the ACP-EC Agreement. Earmarking of resources shall also be based on the provisions of the Internal Agreement and shall take account of the resources reserved for support expenditure linked to programming and implementation under Article 6 thereof.

In respect of the OCTs, those instruments are laid down in Annex IIA bis to the Overseas Association Decision. Earmarking of those resources shall also take account of the non-allocated reserve provided for in Article 3(4) of that Annex and of the resources reserved for studies or technical assistance measures under Article 1(1)(c) thereof.

Article 10 11th EDF FR

Principle of specification

11th EDF resources shall be earmarked for specific purposes per the ACP States or OCTs and according to the main instruments of cooperation.

In respect of the ACP States, those instruments are laid down by the Financial Protocol set out in Annex Ic to the Cotonou Agreement. Earmarking of resources (indicative allocations) shall also be based on the provisions of the Internal Agreement and of the Implementation Regulation and shall take account of the resources reserved for support expenditure linked to programming and implementation under Article 6 of the Internal Agreement.

In respect of the OCTs, those instruments are laid down in Part Four of the Overseas Association Decision and Annex II thereto. Earmarking of those resources shall also take into account the non-allocated reserve provided for in Article 3(3) of that Annex and the resources for studies or technical assistance measures under Article 1(1)(c) thereof.

	CHAPTER 6 ¹¹ Principle of specification
	Article 24 FR
	General provisions
	Appropriations shall be earmarked for specific purposes by title and chapter. The chapters shall be further subdivided into articles and items.
	Article 25 FR
	Transfers by institutions other than the Commission
	1. Any institution other than the Commission may, within its own section of the budget, transfer appropriations:
	— (a) from one title to another up to a maximum of 10 % of the appropriations for the year shown on the line from which the transfer is made;
	— (b) from one chapter to another and from one article to another without limit.
	2. Three weeks before making a transfer, as referred to in paragraph 1, the institution shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of its intention to do so. In the event that duly justified reasons are raised within that period by either the European Parliament or the Council, the procedure laid down in Article 27 shall

¹¹ Chapter 5 in the RAP

	apply:
	3. — Any institution other than the Commission may propose to the European Parliament and the Council, within its own section of the budget, transfers from one title to another exceeding the limit of 10 % of the appropriations for the year shown on the line from which the transfer is to be made. Those transfers shall be subject to the procedure laid down in Article 27.
	4. — Any institution other than the Commission may, within its own section of the budget, make transfers within articles without informing the European Parliament and the Council beforehand.
	5. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the calculation of percentages of transfers by institutions other than the Commission.
	<i>Article 13 RAP Rules concerning the calculation of percentages of transfers of the institutions other than the Commission (Article 25 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. — The percentages referred to in Article 25 of the Financial Regulation shall be calculated at the time the request for transfer is made and with reference to the appropriations provided in the budget, including amending budgets.
	2. — The amount to be taken into consideration shall be the sum of the transfers to be made on the line from which transfers are being made, after adjustment for earlier transfers made.

	The amount corresponding to the transfers which can be carried out autonomously by the institution concerned without a decision of the European Parliament and Council shall not be taken into consideration.
	<i>Article 16 RAP</i> <i>Grounds for requests for transfers of appropriations</i> <i>(Articles 25 and 26 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Proposals for transfers and all information for the European Parliament and Council concerning transfers made under Articles 25 and 26 of the Financial Regulation shall be accompanied by appropriate and detailed supporting documents showing the implementation of appropriations and estimates of requirements up to the end of the financial year, both for the lines to which the appropriations are to be transferred and for those from which they are to be taken.
	Article 26 FR
	Transfers by the Commission
	1. — The Commission may, within its own section of the budget, autonomously:
	— (a) transfer appropriations within each chapter;
	— (b) with regard to expenditure on staff and administration which is common to several titles, transfer appropriations from one title to another up to a maximum of 10 % of the appropriations for the year shown on the line from which the transfer is made, and up to a maximum of 30 % of the appropriations for the year shown on the line to which the transfer is made;

	—— (c) with regard to operational expenditure, transfer appropriations between chapters within the same title, up to a maximum of 10 % of the appropriations for the year shown on the line from which the transfer is made.
	—— Three weeks before making the transfers referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph, the Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of its intention to do so. In the event that duly justified reasons are raised within that period by the European Parliament or the Council, the procedure laid down in Article 27 shall apply.
	—— By way of exception from the second subparagraph, the Commission may, during the last two months of the financial year, autonomously transfer appropriations concerning expenditure on staff, external staff and other agents from one title to another within the total limit of 5 % of the appropriations for the year. The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council within two weeks after its decision on those transfers.
	2. —— The Commission may, within its own section of the budget, decide on the following transfer of appropriations from one title to another, provided it immediately informs the European Parliament and the Council of its decision:
	—— (a) transfer of appropriations from the "provisions" title referred to in Article 46, where the only condition for lifting the reserve is the adoption of a basic act pursuant to Article 294 TFEU;
	—— (b) in duly justified exceptional cases such as international humanitarian disasters and crises occurring after 1 December of the financial year, transfer unused appropriations for that financial year still available in the budget titles falling under

	heading 4 of the multiannual financial framework to the budget titles concerning crisis management aid and humanitarian aid operations.
	3. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the calculation of percentages of internal transfers by the Commission, and grounds for transfer requests.
	<i>Article 14 RAP</i> <i>Rules concerning the calculation of percentages of transfers of the Commission</i> <i>(Article 26 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. — The percentages referred to in Article 26(1) of the Financial Regulation shall be calculated at the time the request for transfer is made and with reference to the appropriations provided in the budget, including amending budgets.
	2. — The amount to be taken into consideration shall be the sum of the transfers to be made on the line from which or to which transfers are being made, after adjustment for earlier transfers made.
	— The amount corresponding to the transfers which can be carried out autonomously by the Commission without a decision of the European Parliament and the Council shall not be taken into consideration.
	<i>Article 15 RAP</i> <i>Administrative expenditure</i> <i>(Article 26 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The expenditure referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 26(1) of the Financial Regulation shall cover, for each policy area, the items referred to in

	<i>Article 44(3) of the Financial Regulation.</i>
	<i>Article 16 RAP Grounds for requests for transfers of appropriations (Articles 25 and 26 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Proposals for transfers and all information for the European Parliament and Council concerning transfers made under Articles 25 and 26 of the Financial Regulation shall be accompanied by appropriate and detailed supporting documents showing the implementation of appropriations and estimates of requirements up to the end of the financial year, both for the lines to which the appropriations are to be transferred and for those from which they are to be taken.
	<i>Article 27 FR</i>
	Transfer proposals submitted to the European Parliament and the Council by the institutions
	1. — Each institution shall submit its transfer proposals simultaneously to the European Parliament and the Council.
	2. — The European Parliament and the Council shall take decisions on transfers of appropriations as provided for in paragraphs 3 to 6 of this Article, except as otherwise provided for in Title I of Part Two.
	3. — Except in urgent circumstances, the European Parliament and the Council, the latter acting by qualified majority, shall deliberate upon each transfer proposal

	within six weeks of its receipt by both institutions.
	4. The transfer proposal shall be approved, if, within the six week period, any of the following occurs:
	— (a) the European Parliament and the Council approve it;
	— (b) either the European Parliament or the Council approves it and the other institution refrains from acting;
	— (c) the European Parliament and the Council refrain from acting or do not take a decision to amend or refuse the transfer proposal.
	5. The six week period referred to in paragraph 3 shall be reduced to three weeks, unless either the European Parliament or the Council requests otherwise, in the following cases:
	— (a) the transfer represents less than 10 % of the appropriations of the line from which the transfer is made and does not exceed EUR 5000000;
	— (b) the transfer concerns only payment appropriations and the overall amount of the transfer does not exceed EUR 100000000.
	6. If either the European Parliament or the Council has amended the amount of the transfer while the other institution has approved it or refrains from acting, or if the European Parliament and the Council have both amended the amount of the transfer, the lesser of the two amounts shall be deemed approved, unless the institution concerned withdraws its transfer proposal.

	Article 28 FR
	Specific rules on transfers
	1. — Appropriations may only be transferred to budget lines for which the budget has authorised appropriations or which carry a token entry " <i>pro memoria</i> ".
	2. — Appropriations corresponding to assigned revenue may be transferred only if such revenue is used for the purpose for which it is assigned.
	Article 29 FR
	Transfers subject to special provisions
	1. — Transfers within the titles of the budget devoted to the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund, the Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund, the European Fisheries Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and Research shall be the subject of special provisions under Titles I, II and III of Part Two.
	2. — Decisions on transfers to allow the use of the Emergency Aid Reserve shall be taken by the European Parliament and the Council on a proposal from the Commission. A separate proposal shall be submitted for each emergency action.
	— For the purposes of this paragraph, the procedure provided for in Article 27(3) and 27(4) shall apply. If the European Parliament and the Council do not agree to the Commission proposal and cannot reach a common position on the use of this reserve, they shall refrain from acting on the Commission's transfer proposal.

	<p>3. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on requests for transfers from the Emergency Aid Reserve.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 17 RAP</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Grounds for requests for transfers from the emergency aid reserve</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>{Article 29 of the Financial Regulation}</i></p>
	<p>Proposals for transfers to allow the utilisation of the emergency aid reserve, referred to in Article 29 of the Financial Regulation, shall be accompanied by appropriate and detailed supporting documents showing:</p>
	<p>(a) — for the line to which the transfer is to be made, the most recent information available for the implementation of appropriations and the estimate of requirements up to the end of the financial year;</p>
	<p>(b) — for all lines relating to external action, the implementation of appropriations up to the end of the month preceding the request for transfer and an estimate of requirements up to the end of the financial year, including a comparison with the initial estimate;</p>
	<p>(c) — an analysis of the possibilities of reallocating appropriations.</p>

CHAPTER 4

PRINCIPLE OF SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Article 11

1. EDF resources shall be used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, namely in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
2. The principle of economy requires that the resources used for the pursuit of activities shall be made available in due time, in appropriate quantity and quality and at the best price.

The principle of efficiency is concerned with the best relationship between resources employed and results achieved.

The principle of effectiveness is concerned with attaining the specific objectives set and achieving the intended results.

3. Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed objectives shall be set. The achievement of those objectives shall be monitored by performance indicators.

Article 12

In order to improve decision-making, in particular to justify and specify the determination of the contributions to be paid by Member States referred to in Article 57, the following

Article 11 11th EDF FR

Principle of sound financial management

1. Article 30(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 concerning the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness shall apply. Article 18 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 shall not apply.

2. Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed objectives shall be set. The achievement of those objectives shall be monitored by performance indicators.

3. In order to improve decision-making, in particular to justify and specify the determination of the contributions to be paid by Member States referred to in Article 21, the following evaluations are required:

(a) the use of 11th EDF resources shall be preceded by an ex ante evaluation of the operation to be undertaken covering the elements listed in Article 18(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012;

(b) the operation shall be submitted to an ex post evaluation with a view to ensuring that the intended results justified the means deployed.

4. The funding instruments provided for in Title VIII and the methods of implementation provided for in Article 17 shall be chosen on the basis of their ability to achieve the specific objectives of the actions and their ability to deliver results, taking into account, in particular, the costs of controls, the administrative burden, and the expected risk of non-compliance. For grants, this shall include a consideration of the use of lump sums, flat rates and unit costs.

<p>evaluations are required:</p> <p>(a) the use of EDF resources shall be preceded by an <i>ex ante</i> evaluation of the operation to be undertaken;</p> <p>(b) the operation shall be submitted to an <i>ex post</i> evaluation with a view to ensuring that the intended results justify the means deployed.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 7¹² Principle of sound financial management</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Article 30 FR</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness</p>
	<p>1. Appropriations shall be used in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, namely in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.</p>
	<p>2. The principle of economy requires that the resources used by the institution in the pursuit of its activities shall be made available in due time, in appropriate quantity and quality and at the best price.</p>
	<p>The principle of efficiency concerns the best relationship between resources employed and results achieved.</p>
	<p>The principle of effectiveness concerns the attainment of the specific</p>

	objectives set and the achievement of the intended results.
	3. — Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed objectives shall be set for all sectors of activity covered by the budget. The achievement of those objectives shall be monitored by performance indicators for each activity, and the information referred to in point (e) of Article 38(3) shall be provided by the spending authorities to the European Parliament and the Council. That information shall be provided annually and at the latest in the documents accompanying the draft budget.
	4. — In order to improve decision-making, institutions shall undertake both <i>ex ante</i> and <i>ex post</i> evaluations in line with guidance provided by the Commission. Such evaluations shall be applied to all programmes and activities which entail significant spending and evaluation results shall be disseminated to the European Parliament, the Council and spending administrative authorities.
	5. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on <i>ex ante</i>, mid term and <i>ex post</i> evaluations.
	<i>Article 18 RAP Evaluation (Article 30 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. — All proposals for programmes or activities occasioning budget expenditure shall be the subject of an <i>ex ante</i> evaluation, which shall address:
	(a) — the need to be met in the short or long term;

	(b) — the added value of Union involvement;
	(c) — the policy and management objectives to be achieved, which include measures necessary to safeguard the financial interests of the Union in the field of fraud prevention, detection, investigation, reparation and sanctions;
	(d) — the policy options available, including the risks associated with them;
	(e) — the results and impacts expected, in particular economic, social and environmental impacts, and the indicators and evaluation arrangement needed to measure them;
	(f) — the most appropriate method of implementation for the preferred option(s);
	(g) — the internal coherence of the proposed programme or activity and its relations with other relevant instruments;
	(h) — the volume of appropriations, human resources and other administrative expenditure to be allocated with due regard for the cost effectiveness principle;
	(i) — the lessons learned from similar experiences in the past.
	2. — The proposal shall set out the arrangements for monitoring, reporting and evaluation, taking due account of the respective responsibilities of all levels of government that will be involved in the implementation of the proposed programme or activity.
	3. — All programmes or activities, including pilot projects and preparatory actions, where the resources mobilised exceed EUR 5 000 000 shall be the subject of an interim and/or ex post evaluation in terms of the human and financial resources allocated and the results obtained in order to verify that they were consistent with

	the objectives set, as follows:
	(a) — the results obtained in carrying out a multiannual programme shall be periodically evaluated in accordance with a timetable which enables the findings of that evaluation to be taken into account for any decision on the renewal, modification or suspension of the programme;
	(b) — activities financed on an annual basis shall have their results evaluated at least every six years.
	Points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph shall not apply to each of the projects or actions conducted within those activities, for which the requirement may be met by the final reports sent by the bodies which carried out the action.
	4. — The evaluations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 shall be proportionate to the resources mobilised for and the impact of the programme and activity concerned.
	Article 31 FR
	Compulsory financial statement
	1. — Any proposal or initiative submitted to the legislative authority by the Commission, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (the "High Representative") or by a Member State, which may have an impact on the budget, including changes in the number of posts, shall be accompanied by a financial statement and by an <i>ex ante</i> evaluation as provided for in Article 30(4).
	— Any amendment to a proposal or initiative submitted to the legislative authority which may have appreciable implications for the budget, including changes

	<p>in the number of posts, shall be accompanied by a financial statement prepared by the institution proposing the amendment.</p>
	<p>———— The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the requirements of the financial statement.</p>
	<p>2. — During the budgetary procedure, the Commission shall provide the necessary information for a comparison between changes in the appropriations required and the initial forecasts made in the financial statement in the light of the progress of deliberations on the proposal or initiative submitted to the legislative authority.</p>
	<p>3. — In order to reduce the risk of fraud and irregularities, the financial statement referred to in paragraph 1 shall provide information on the internal control system set up, an estimate of the costs and benefits of the controls implied by such system and an assessment of the expected level of risk of error, as well as existing and planned fraud prevention and protection measures.</p>
	<p>———— Such analysis shall take into account the likely scale and type of errors, as well as the specific conditions of the policy area concerned and the rules applicable thereto.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 19 RAP</i> <i>Financial statement</i> <i>(Article 31 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>The financial statement shall contain the financial and economic data for the assessment by the legislative authority of the need for Union action. It shall provide</p>

	appropriate information as regards coherence with other activities of the Union and any possible synergy.
	In the case of multiannual operations, the financial statement shall contain the foreseeable schedule of annual requirements in terms of appropriations and posts, including for external staff, and an evaluation of their medium term financial impact.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 13</i></p> <p>1. The principle of sound financial management required that EDF resources shall be implemented in compliance with effective and efficient internal control as appropriate in each management mode.</p> <p>2. For the purposes of the implementation of EDF resources, internal control is defined as a process applicable at all levels of the management and designed to provide reasonable assurance on the achievement of the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations; (b) reliability of reporting; (c) safeguarding of assets and information; (d) prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities; (e) adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, taking into account the multiannual character of programmes as well as the nature of the payments concerned. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 12 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Internal control</p> <p>Article 32 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.</p>
	Article 32 FR
	Internal control of budget implementation

	1. The budget shall be implemented in compliance with effective and efficient internal control as appropriate in each method of implementation, and in accordance with the relevant sector-specific rules.
	2. For the purposes of the implementation of the budget, internal control is defined as a process applicable at all levels of management and designed to provide reasonable assurance of achieving the following objectives:
	(a) effectiveness, efficiency and economy of operations;
	(b) reliability of reporting;
	(c) safeguarding of assets and information;
	(d) prevention, detection, correction and follow-up of fraud and irregularities;
	(e) adequate management of the risks relating to the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, taking into account the multiannual character of programmes as well as the nature of the payments concerned.
	3. Effective internal control shall be based on best international practices and include, in particular, the following:
	(a) segregation of tasks;
	(b) an appropriate risk management and control strategy including control at

	recipient level;
	(c) avoidance of conflicts of interests;
	(d) adequate audit trails and data integrity in data systems;
	(e) procedures for monitoring of performance and for follow-up of identified internal control weaknesses and exceptions;
	(f) periodic assessment of the sound functioning of the internal control system.
	4. Efficient internal control shall be based on the following elements:
	(a) the implementation of an appropriate risk management and control strategy coordinated among appropriate actors involved in the control chain;
	(b) the accessibility for all appropriate actors in the control chain of the results of controls carried out;
	(c) reliance, where appropriate, on management declarations of implementation partners and independent audit opinions, provided that the quality of the underlying work is adequate and acceptable and that it was performed in accordance with agreed standards;
	(d) the timely application of corrective measures including, where appropriate, dissuasive penalties;

	(e) clear and unambiguous legislation underlying the policies;
	(f) the elimination of multiple controls;
	(g) improving the cost-benefit ratio of controls.
	5. If, during implementation, the level of error is persistently high, the Commission shall identify the weaknesses in the control systems, analyse the costs and benefits of possible corrective measures and take or propose appropriate action, such as simplification of the applicable provisions, improvement of the control systems and re-design of the programme or delivery systems.
	Article 33 FR
	Cost-effective control systems
	When presenting revised or new spending proposals, the Commission shall estimate the costs and benefits of control systems, as well as the level of risk of error as referred to in Article 31(3).

CHAPTER 5

PRINCIPLE OF TRANSPARENCY

Article 14

1. EDF resources shall be established and implemented and the accounts presented in compliance with the principle of transparency.
2. The annual estimates of commitments and payments under Article 7 of the Internal Agreement, together with the EDF accounts referred to in Article 118 of this Regulation, shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.
3. The Commission shall make available, in an appropriate manner, information on the beneficiaries of funds deriving from the EDF held by it when EDF resources are implemented on a centralised basis and directly by its departments or by Union Delegations in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 17, and information on the beneficiaries of funds as provided by the entities to which financial implementation tasks are delegated under other modes of management.

This information shall be made available with due observance of the requirements of confidentiality, in particular the protection of personal data as laid down in Directive 95/46/EC

Article 13 11th EDF FR

Principle of transparency

1. The 11th EDF shall be implemented and the accounts presented in accordance with the principle of transparency.
2. The annual estimates of commitments and payments under Article 7 of the Internal Agreement shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.
3. Without prejudice to Article 4 of this Regulation, the first subparagraph of Article 35(2) and Article 35(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, concerning the publication of information on recipients and other information, shall apply. For the purpose of the second subparagraph of Article 21(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the term "locality" shall mean, where necessary, the equivalent to the region at NUTS 2 level when the recipient is a natural person.
4. Actions financed under the 11th EDF may be implemented with parallel or joint co-financing.

In the case of parallel co-financing, an action is split into a number of clearly identifiable components which are each financed by the different donors providing co-financing in such a way that the end-use of the financing can always be identified.

In the case of joint co-financing, the total cost of an action is shared between the donors providing the co-financing and the resources are pooled in such a way that it is no longer possible to identify the source of financing for any given activity undertaken as part of the action. In such cases, ex-post publication of grant and

¹³ OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31.

¹⁴ OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1.

<p>of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data¹³ and Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data¹⁴ by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data, and of the requirements of security, taking into account the specificities of each management mode referred to in Article 20.</p>	<p>procurement contracts as foreseen by Article 35 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, shall comply with the rules of the entrusted entity, if any.</p> <p>5. The Commission shall, where appropriate, take all necessary measures in order to ensure the visibility of the Union's financial support. This shall include measures imposing visibility requirements on recipients of Union funds except in duly justified cases. The Commission shall have the responsibility for monitoring their compliance.</p>
	<p>CHAPTER 8¹⁵ Principle of transparency</p>
	<p>Article 34 FR</p>
	<p>Publication of accounts, budgets and reports</p>
	<p>1. The budget shall be established and implemented and the accounts presented in accordance with the principle of transparency.</p>
	<p>2. The President of the European Parliament shall have the budget and any amending budget, as definitively adopted, published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i>.</p>
	<p>— The budgets shall be published within three months of the date on which</p>

	they are declared definitively adopted.
	———— The consolidated annual accounts and the report on budgetary and financial management drawn up by each institution shall be published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i>.
	———— The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the provisional publication of the budget.
	<i>Article 20 RAP</i> <i>Provisional publication of the budget</i> <i>(Article 34 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	As soon as possible and no later than four weeks after the final adoption of the budget, the final detailed budget figures shall be published in all languages on the Internet site of the institutions, on the Commission's initiative, pending official publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.
	Article 35 FR
	Publication of information on recipients and other information
	1. — Information on borrowing and lending operations contracted by the Union for third parties shall appear in an Annex to the budget.
	2. The Commission shall make available, in an appropriate and timely manner, information on recipients, as well as the nature and purpose of the measure

	<p>financed from the budget, where the latter is implemented directly in accordance with point (a) of Article 58(1), and information on recipients as provided by the entities, persons and Member States to which budget implementation tasks are entrusted under other methods of implementation.</p>
	<p>The obligation set out in the first subparagraph shall also apply to the other institutions with regard to their recipients.</p>
	<p>3. This information shall be made available with due observance of the requirements of confidentiality and security, in particular the protection of personal data.</p>
	<p>Where natural persons are concerned, the publication shall be limited to the name and locality of the recipient, the amount awarded and the purpose of the award. The disclosure of those data shall be based on relevant criteria such as the periodicity of award, or the type or importance of the award. The criteria for disclosure and the level of detail published shall take into account the specificities of the sector and of each method of implementation.</p>
	<p>The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the establishment of detailed rules on the publication of information on recipients. Where applicable, the level of detail and criteria shall be defined in the relevant sector specific rules.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 21 RAP</i> <i>Publication of information on value and recipients of Union funds (Article 35 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	<p>1. The information on recipients of Union's funds awarded under direct management shall be published on an internet site of the Union institutions, no later than 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the funds were awarded.</p>
	<p>In addition to the publication referred to in the first subparagraph the information may also be published, according to a standard presentation, by other appropriate means.</p>
	<p>2. The following information shall be published unless otherwise provided in this Regulation and in the sector specific rules, taking into account the criteria set out in Article 35(3) of the Financial Regulation:</p>
	<p>(a) the name of the recipient;</p>
	<p>(b) the locality of the recipient;</p>
	<p>(c) the amount awarded;</p>
	<p>(d) the nature and purpose of the measure.</p>
	<p>For the purpose of point b) the term "locality" shall mean:</p>
	<p>(i) the address of the recipient when the latter is a legal person;</p>
	<p>(ii) the Region on NUTS 2 level when the recipient is a natural person.</p>
	<p>As far as personal data referring to natural persons are concerned, the information published shall be removed two years after the end of the financial year in which the funds were awarded. The same shall apply to personal data referring to legal persons for whom the official title identifies one or more natural persons.</p>

	<p>3. The information referred to in paragraph 2 shall only be published for prizes, grants and contracts which have been awarded as a result of contests or grant award procedures or public procurement procedures. The information shall not be published for:</p>
	<p>(a) scholarships paid to natural persons and other direct support paid to natural persons in most need, referred to in Article 125(4)(c) of the Financial Regulation;</p>
	<p>(b) contracts below the amount referred to in Article 137(2) of this Regulation.</p>
	<p>4. The publication shall be waived if such disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or harm the commercial interests of the recipients.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 22 RAP</i> <i>Link to the publication of information on recipients of Union funds awarded under indirect management</i> <i>(Article 35 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>Where the management of Union funds is delegated to the authorities and bodies referred to in Article 58(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation, the delegation agreements shall require that information referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 21 is published according to a standard presentation, by those entrusted authorities and bodies on their website.</p>
	<p>The internet site of the Union institutions shall contain a reference at least of the address of the website where the information can be found if it is not published directly in the dedicated place of the internet site of the Union institutions.</p>

	In addition to the publication referred to in the first subparagraph, the information may also be published, according to a standard presentation, by any other appropriate means.
	Paragraphs 2 to 4 of Article 21 shall apply to the publication referred to in the first paragraph of this Article.

TITLE III

RESOURCES AND MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTIONS

CHAPTER 1

COMPOSITION OF EDF RESOURCES

Article 15

The EDF resources shall consist of the amounts laid down in Article 1 of the Internal Agreement.

Article 2

1. The Commission shall assume the responsibilities of the Community defined in Article 57 of the ACP-EC Agreement and in the Overseas Association Decision.

To that end, it shall undertake the financial implementation of operations carried out with EDF resources allocated in the form of non-repayable aid, excluding interest rate subsidies, and make payments in accordance with this Regulation.

2. For the purposes of the application of this Regulation, the Commission shall act on its own responsibility and within the limits of the resources allocated.

TITLE III

11TH EDF RESOURCES AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Article 14 11th EDF FR

Sources of 11th EDF resources

The 11th EDF resources shall consist of the funds referred to in Article 1(2), (4) and (6) of the Internal Agreement; of the funds referred to in Article 1(9) thereof; and of other assigned revenue referred to in Article 9 of this Regulation.

Article 15 11th EDF FR

Structure of the 11th EDF

The 11th EDF revenue and expenditure shall be classified according to their type or the use to which they are assigned.

Article 16 11th EDF FR

11th EDF implementation in accordance with the principle of sound financial management

1. The Commission shall assume the responsibilities of the Union defined in Article 57 of the Cotonou Agreement and in the Overseas Association Decision. To that end it shall implement the revenue and expenditure of the 11th EDF in accordance with the provisions of this Part and Part Three of this Regulation, under its own responsibility and within the limits of the 11th

	EDF resources. 2. The Member States shall cooperate with the Commission so that the 11th EDF resources are used in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.
	TITLE III
	ESTABLISHMENT AND STRUCTURE OF THE BUDGET
	CHAPTER 1 ¹⁶ Establishment of the budget
	Article 36 FR
	Estimates of revenue and expenditure
	1. — Each institution other than the Commission shall draw up an estimate of its revenue and expenditure, which it shall send to the Commission, and in parallel, for information, to the European Parliament and the Council, before 1 July each year.
	2. — The High Representative shall hold consultations with the Members of the Commission responsible for development policy, neighbourhood policy and international cooperation, humanitarian aid and crisis response, regarding their respective responsibilities.
	3. — The Commission shall draw up its own estimates, which it shall also send, directly after their adoption, to the European Parliament and the Council.

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No corresponding chapter in the RAP

	———— In preparing its estimates, the Commission shall use the information referred to in Article 37.
	Article 37 FR
	Estimated budget of the bodies referred to in Article 208
	By 31 March each year, each body referred to in Article 208 shall, in accordance with the instrument establishing it, send the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council an estimate of its revenue and expenditure, including its establishment plan, and its draft work programme.
	Article 38 FR
	Draft budget
	1. — The Commission shall submit a proposal containing the draft budget to the European Parliament and the Council by 1 September of the year preceding that in which the budget is to be implemented. It shall transmit that proposal, for information, also to the national parliaments.
	———— The draft budget shall contain a summary general statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Union and shall consolidate the estimates referred to in Article 36. It may also contain different estimates from those drawn up by the institutions.
	———— The draft budget shall follow the structure and presentation set out in Articles 44 to 49.

	Each section of the draft budget shall be preceded by an introduction drawn up by the institution concerned.
	The Commission shall draw up the general introduction to the draft budget. The general introduction shall comprise financial tables covering the main data by titles and justifications for the changes in the appropriations from one financial year to the next by categories of expenditure of the multiannual financial framework.
	2. In order to provide more precise and reliable forecasts of the budgetary implications of legislation in force and of pending legislative proposals, the Commission shall attach to the draft budget a financial programming for the following years.
	The financial programming shall be updated after the adoption of the budget, to incorporate the results of the budgetary procedure and any other relevant decisions.
	The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on financial programming.
	3. The Commission shall attach to the draft budget:
	(a) where appropriate, the reasons for which the draft budget contains different estimates from those drawn up by other institutions;
	(b) any working document it considers useful in connection with the establishment plans of the institutions and the contributions which the Commission awards to the bodies referred to in Article 208 and to the European Schools. Any

	such working document, showing the latest authorised establishment plan, shall present:
	—— (i) all staff employed by the Union, including its legally separate entities, displayed by type of contract,
	—— (ii) a statement of the policy on posts and external personnel and on gender balance,
	—— (iii) the number of posts actually filled at the beginning of the year in which the draft budget is presented, indicating their distribution by grade and administrative unit,
	—— (iv) a list of posts broken down per policy area,
	—— (v) for each category of external staff, the initial estimated number of full-time equivalents on the basis of the authorised appropriations, as well as the number of persons actually in place at the beginning of the year in which the draft budget is presented, indicating their distribution by function group and, as appropriate, by grade.
	—— (c) a working document on the planned implementation of appropriations for the financial year and on commitments outstanding, on the bodies referred to in Article 208 and the European Schools, and on the pilot projects and preparatory actions;
	—— (d) as regards funding to international organisations, a working document containing:

	—— (i) a summary of all contributions, with a breakdown per Union programme or fund and per international organisation,
	—— (ii) a statement of reasons explaining why it was more efficient for the Union to fund those international organisations rather than to act directly;
	—— (e) activity statements or any other relevant document containing the following:
	—— (i) information on the achievement of all previously set specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed objectives for the various activities, as well as new objectives measured by indicators,
	—— (ii) a full justification, including a cost benefit analysis for proposed changes in the level of appropriations,
	—— (iii) a clear rationale for intervention at Union level in accordance, inter alia, with the principle of subsidiarity,
	—— (iv) information on the implementation rates of the preceding year's activity and implementation rates for the current year,
	—— (v) a summary of evaluation results when relevant to budget changes,
	—— (vi) information on prizes with a unit value of EUR 1000000 or more;
	—— (f) a summary statement of the schedule of payments due in subsequent financial years to meet budgetary commitments entered into in previous financial

	years.
	4. Where the Commission entrusts budget implementation to public private partnerships (PPPs), it shall attach to the draft budget a working document presenting:
	— (a) an annual report on the performance of existing PPPs in the preceding financial year, including information on the legal form and the shareholders of entities entrusted pursuant to point (vii) of Article 58(1)(c);
	— (b) the targets set for the financial year to which the draft budget relates, indicating any specific budgetary needs dedicated to achieving this target;
	— (c) the administrative costs and the implemented budget in total and per body referred to in Article 209 and per PPP in the preceding financial year;
	— (d) the amount of financial contributions made from the budget, the amount of financial contributions and the value of contributions in kind made by the other partners for each PPP;
	— However, where PPPs make use of financial instruments, the information relating to those instruments shall be included in the working document referred to in paragraph 5.
	5. Where the Commission makes use of financial instruments, it shall attach to the draft budget a working document presenting the following:
	— (a) the aggregate budgetary commitments and payments from the budget for

	each financial instrument;
	—— (b) revenues and repayments under Article 140(6), and accrual for additional resources for the financial year;
	—— (c) the total amount of provisions for risks and liabilities, as well as any information on the financial risk exposure of the Union;
	—— (d) impairments of assets of equity or risk-sharing instruments, and called guarantees for guarantee instruments, both for the preceding year and the respective accumulated figures;
	—— (e) the average duration between the budgetary commitment to the financial instruments and the legal commitments for individual projects in the form of equity or debt, where their duration exceeds three years. The Commission shall, in the report provided for under Article 140(8), explain the reasons and provide, where appropriate, an action plan for the reduction of the duration in the framework of the annual discharge procedure;
	—— (f) the administrative expenditure arising from management fees and other financial and operating charges paid for the management of financial instruments, where that management has been entrusted to third parties, in total and per managing party and per financial instrument managed.
	6. The Commission shall also attach to the draft budget any further working document it considers useful to support its budget requests.
	7. In accordance with Article 8(5) of Council Decision 2010/427/EU of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action

	Service ¹⁷ and in order to ensure budgetary transparency in the area of external action of the Union, the Commission shall transmit to the European Parliament and the Council, together with the draft budget, a working document presenting, in a comprehensive way:
	—— (a) all administrative and operational expenditure relating to the external actions of the Union, including Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy tasks, and financed from the budget;
	—— (b) the EEAS' overall administrative expenditure for the preceding year, broken down into expenditure per Union delegation and expenditure for the EEAS' central administration; together with operational expenditure, broken down by geographic area (regions, countries), thematic areas, Union Delegation and mission.
	8. The working document referred to in paragraph 7 shall also:
	—— (a) show the number of posts for each grade in each category and the number of permanent and temporary posts, including contractual and local staff authorised within the limits of the appropriations in each Union Delegation, as well as in the central administration of the EEAS;
	—— (b) show any increase or reduction of posts by grade and category in the central administration of the EEAS, and in all Union Delegations based on the preceding financial year;
	—— (c) show the number of posts authorised for the financial year, the number of posts authorised for the preceding year, as well as the number of posts occupied by

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	diplomats seconded from the Member States, and Council and Commission staff;
	—— (d) provide a detailed picture of all staff in place in Union Delegations at the time of presenting the draft budget, including a breakdown by geographic area, gender, individual country and mission, distinguishing establishment plan posts, contract agents, local agents and seconded national experts and appropriations requested in the draft budget for such other types of personnel with corresponding estimates of the equivalent full time staff that may be employed within the limits of the appropriations requested.
	<i>Article 23 RAP</i> <i>Financial programming</i> <i>(Article 38 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The financial programming referred to in Article 38 of the Financial Regulation shall be structured by category of expenditure, policy area and budget line. The complete financial programming shall cover all categories of expenditure with the exception of agriculture, cohesion policy and administration for which only summary data shall be provided.
	Article 39 FR
	Letter of amendment to the draft budget
	On the basis of any new information which was not available at the time the draft budget was established, the Commission may, on its own initiative or if requested by one of the other institutions in respect of its respective section, submit simultaneously to the European Parliament and the Council letters of amendment to the draft budget before the Conciliation Committee referred to in Article 314 TFEU is convened. The letters may include a letter of amendment updating, in particular,

	expenditure estimates for agriculture.
	Article 40 FR
	Obligations of the Member States stemming from the adoption of the budget
	1. — The President of the European Parliament shall declare the budget definitively adopted in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 314(9) TFEU and Article 106a of the Euratom Treaty.
	2. — Once the budget has been declared definitively adopted, each Member State shall, from 1 January of the following financial year or from the date of the declaration of definitive adoption of the budget if this occurs after 1 January, be bound to make the payments due to the Union, as specified in Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1150/2000.
	Article 41 FR
	Draft amending budgets
	1. — The Commission may present draft amending budgets which are primarily revenue driven in the following circumstances:
	——— to enter in the budget the balance of the preceding financial year, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 18,
	——— to revise the forecast of own resources on the basis of updated economic forecasts, and

	to update the revised forecast of own resources and other revenue, as well as to review the availability of, and need for, payment appropriations.
	If there are unavoidable, exceptional and unforeseen circumstances, in particular in view of the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund, the Commission may present draft amending budgets which are primarily expenditure-driven.
	2. Requests for amending budgets, in the same circumstances as referred to in paragraph 1, from institutions other than the Commission shall be sent to the Commission.
	Before presenting a draft amending budget, the Commission and the other institutions shall examine the scope for reallocation of the relevant appropriations, with particular reference to any expected under-implementation of appropriations.
	Article 40 shall apply to amending budgets. Amending budgets shall be substantiated by reference to the budget the estimates of which they are amending.
	3. The Commission shall, except in duly justified exceptional circumstances or in the case of the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund for which a draft amending budget can be presented at any time of the year, submit its draft amending budgets simultaneously to the European Parliament and the Council by 1 September of each financial year. It may attach an opinion to the requests for amending budgets from the other institutions.
	4. The European Parliament and the Council shall discuss the draft amending

	budgets while having due regard to their urgency.
	5. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on draft amending budgets.
	<i>Article 24 RAP</i> <i>Draft amending budgets</i> <i>(Article 41(1) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Draft amending budgets shall be accompanied by statements of grounds and the information on the implementation of the budget for the preceding and current financial years available at the time of their establishment.
	Article 42 FR
	Early transmission of estimates and draft budgets
	The Commission, the European Parliament and the Council may agree to bring forward certain dates for the transmission of the estimates, and for the adoption and transmission of the draft budget. Such an arrangement may not, however, have the effect of shortening or extending the periods for which provision is made for consideration of those texts under Article 314 TFEU and Article 106a of the Euratom Treaty.
	CHAPTER 2 ¹⁸ Structure and presentation of the budget

¹⁸

Corresponding chapter does not exist in the RAP

	Article 43 FR
	Structure of the budget
	The budget shall consist of the following:
	—— (a) a general statement of revenue and expenditure;
	—— (b) separate sections for each institution, with the exception of the European Council and the Council which shall share the same section, subdivided into statements of revenue and expenditure.
	Article 44 FR
	Budget nomenclature
	1. —— Commission revenue and the revenue and expenditure of the other institutions shall be classified by the European Parliament and the Council according to their type or the use to which they are assigned under titles, chapters, articles and items.
	2. —— The statement of expenditure for the Commission section shall be set out on the basis of a nomenclature adopted by the European Parliament and the Council and classified according to purpose.
	—— Each title shall correspond to a policy area and each chapter shall, as a rule, correspond to an activity.

	Each title may include operational appropriations and administrative appropriations.
	The administrative appropriations for a title shall be grouped in a single chapter.
	3. When presented by purpose, administrative appropriations for individual titles shall be classified as follows:
	(a) expenditure on staff authorised in the establishment plan: there shall be an amount of appropriations and a number establishment plan posts corresponding to that expenditure;
	(b) expenditure on external personnel and other expenditure referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 26(1) and financed under the "administration" heading of the multiannual financial framework;
	(c) expenditure on buildings and other related expenditure, including cleaning and maintenance, rental and hiring, telecommunications, water, gas and electricity;
	(d) external personnel and technical assistance directly linked to the implementation of programmes.
	Any administrative expenditure of the Commission of a type which is common to several titles shall be set out in a separate summary statement classified by type.

	4. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the classification of the budget.
	<i>Article 25 RAP</i> -Budget nomenclature <i>(Article 44 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The budget nomenclature shall comply with the principles of specification, transparency and sound financial management. It shall provide clarity and transparency necessary for the budgetary process, facilitating the identification of the main objectives as reflected in the relevant legal bases, making possible choices on political priorities and enabling efficient and effective implementation.
	Article 45 FR
	Prohibition of negative revenue
	1. — The budget shall not contain negative revenue.
	2. — The own resources paid under Council Decision 2007/436/EC, Euratom, of 7 June 2007 on the system of the European Communities' own resources¹⁹ shall be net amounts and shall be shown as such in the summary statement of revenue in the budget.
	Article 46 FR

¹⁹

OJ L 163, 23.6.2007, p. 17.

	Provisions
	1. — Each section of the budget may include a "provisions" title. Appropriations shall be entered in that title where:
	— (a) no basic act exists for the action concerned when the budget is established; or
	— (b) there are serious grounds for doubting the adequacy of the appropriations or the possibility of implementing, under conditions in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, the appropriations entered on the lines concerned.
	— The appropriations in that title may be used only after transfer in accordance with the procedure laid down in point (c) of the first subparagraph of Article 26(1) of this Regulation, where the adoption of the basic act is subject to the procedure laid down in Article 294 TFEU, and in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 27 of this Regulation, for all other cases.
	2. — In the event of serious implementation difficulties, the Commission may propose, in the course of a financial year, that appropriations be transferred to the "provisions" title. The European Parliament and the Council shall take a decision on such transfers as provided for in Article 27.
	Article 47 FR
	Negative reserve

	The Commission section of the budget may include a "negative reserve" limited to a maximum amount of EUR 2000000000. Such a reserve, which shall be entered in a separate title, shall comprise payment appropriations only.
	That negative reserve shall be drawn upon before the end of the financial year by means of transfer in accordance with the procedure laid down in Articles 26 and 27.
	<i>Article 48 FR</i>
	Emergency Aid Reserve
	1. — The Commission section of the budget shall include a reserve for emergency aid for third countries.
	2. — The reserve referred to in paragraph 1 shall be drawn upon before the end of the financial year by means of transfer in accordance with the procedure laid down in Articles 27 and 29.
	<i>Article 49 FR</i>
	Presentation of the budget
	1. — The budget shall show:
	— (a) in the general statement of revenue and expenditure:
	— (i) the estimated revenue of the Union for the financial year concerned ('year n');

	—— (ii) the estimated revenue for the preceding financial year and the revenue for year n - 2;
	—— (iii) the commitment and payment appropriations for year n;
	—— (iv) the commitment and payment appropriations for the preceding financial year;
	—— (v) the expenditure committed and the expenditure paid in year n - 2, the latter also expressed as a percentage of the budget of year n;
	—— (vi) appropriate remarks on each subdivision, as set out in Article 44(1);
	—— (b) in each section, the revenue and expenditure in the same structure as in point (a);
	—— (c) with regard to staff:
	—— (i) for each section, an establishment plan setting the number of posts for each grade in each category and in each service and the number of permanent and temporary posts authorised within the limits of the appropriations;
	—— (ii) an establishment plan for staff paid from the research and technological development appropriations for direct action and an establishment plan for staff paid from the same appropriations for indirect action; the establishment plans shall be classified by category and grade and shall distinguish between permanent and temporary posts, authorised within the limits of the appropriations;

	—— (iii) as regards scientific and technical staff, the classification may be based on groups of grades, in accordance with the conditions laid down in each budget; the establishment plan shall specify the number of highly qualified scientific or technical personnel who are accorded special advantages under the specific provisions of the Staff Regulations;
	—— (iv) an establishment plan setting the number of posts by grade and by category for each body referred to in Article 208 which receives a contribution charged to the budget. The establishment plans shall show, next to the number of posts authorised for the financial year, the number authorised for the preceding year;
	—— (d) with regard to borrowing and lending operations:
	—— (i) in the general statement of revenue, the budget lines corresponding to the relevant operations and intended to record any reimbursements received from recipients who initially defaulted, leading to activation of the performance guarantee. Those lines shall carry a token entry "pro memoria" and be accompanied by appropriate remarks;
	—— (ii) in the Commission section:
	—— the budget lines containing the Union's performance guarantees in respect of the operations concerned. Those lines shall carry a token entry "pro memoria", provided that no effective charge which has to be covered by definitive resources has arisen,

	<p>_____ remarks giving the reference to the basic act and the volume of the operations envisaged, the duration and the financial guarantee given by the Union in respect of such operations;</p>
	<p>_____ (iii) in a document annexed to the Commission section, as an indication:</p>
	<p>_____ ongoing capital operations and debt management;</p>
	<p>_____ the capital operations and debt management for year n;</p>
	<p>_____ (e) with regard to financial instruments under Title VIII of Part One:</p>
	<p>_____ (i) a reference to the basic act;</p>
	<p>_____ (ii) budget lines corresponding to the relevant operations;</p>
	<p>_____ (iii) a general description of the financial instruments, including their duration and their impact on the budget;</p>
	<p>_____ (iv) the envisaged operations, including target volumes based on the leverage effect arising from the existing financial instruments;</p>
	<p>_____ (f) with regard to the funding to entities entrusted pursuant to point (vii) of Article 58(1)(c):</p>
	<p>_____ (i) a reference to the basic act of the relevant programme;</p>
	<p>_____ (ii) corresponding budget lines;</p>

	—— (iii) a general description of the tasks entrusted, including their duration and their impact on the budget;
	—— (g) the total amount of CFSP expenditure entered in a chapter, entitled 'CFSP', with specific articles. Those articles shall cover CFSP expenditure and shall contain specific lines identifying at least the single major missions.
	2. — In addition to the documents referred to in paragraph 1, the European Parliament and the Council may attach any other relevant documents to the budget.
	3. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the presentation of the budget, including a definition of actual expenditure in the last financial year for which the accounts have been closed, budget remarks and the establishment plans.
	Article 26 RAP Actual expenditure in the last financial year for which the accounts have been closed (Article 49(1)(a) (v) of the Financial Regulation)
	For the purposes of establishing the budget, actual expenditure in the last financial year for which the accounts have been closed shall be determined as follows:
	(a) — in commitments: commitments entered in the accounts during the financial year against appropriations for that financial year as defined in Article 3;
	(b) — in payments: payments made during the financial year, that is to say, for which a payment order has been sent to the bank, against appropriations for that financial year as defined in Article 3.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Article 27 RAP Budget remarks (Article 49(1)(a) (vi) of the Financial Regulation)</p>
	The budget remarks shall include:
	(a) the references of the basic act, where one exists;
	(b) all appropriate explanations concerning the nature and purpose of the appropriations.
	<p style="text-align: center;">Article 28 RAP Establishment plan (Article 49(1)(c)(i) of the Financial Regulation)</p>
	The staff of the Supply Agency shall appear separately in the Commission establishment plan.
	Article 50 FR
	Rules on the establishment plans for staff
	1. The establishment plans described in point (c) of Article 49(1) shall constitute an absolute limit for each institution or body; no appointment may be made in excess of the limit set.
	However, save in the case of grades AD 16, AD 15 and AD 14, each institution or body may modify its establishment plans by up to 10% of posts authorised,

	subject to the following conditions:
	—— (a) the volume of staff appropriations corresponding to a full financial year is not affected;
	—— (b) the limit of the total number of posts authorised by each establishment plan is not exceeded; and
	—— (c) the institution or body has taken part in a benchmarking exercise with other institutions and bodies of the Union as initiated by the Commission's staff screening exercise.
	—— Three weeks before making the modifications referred to in the second subparagraph, the institution shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of its intention to do so. In the event that duly justified reasons are raised within this period by either the European Parliament or the Council, the institution shall refrain from making the modifications and the procedure referred to in Article 41 shall apply.
	2.—— By way of derogation from the first subparagraph of paragraph 1, the effects of part time work authorised by the appointing authority in accordance with the Staff Regulations may be offset by other appointments.
	CHAPTER 3 ²⁰ Budgetary discipline

	Article 51 FR
	Compliance with the multiannual financial framework
	The budget shall comply with the multiannual financial framework.
	Article 52 FR
	Compliance of Union acts with the budget
	Where the implementation of a Union act exceeds the appropriations available in the budget, such an act may be implemented in financial terms only after the budget has been amended accordingly.
	TITLE IV
	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BUDGET
	CHAPTER 1 General provisions
	Article 53 FR
	Budget implementation in accordance with the principle of sound financial management
	1. The Commission shall implement the revenue and expenditure of the budget in accordance with this Regulation, under its own responsibility and within the limits of the appropriations authorised.

	2. The Member States shall cooperate with the Commission so that the appropriations are used in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the implementation of the budget in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, and on information on transfers of personal data for audit purposes.
	<i>Article 29 RAP</i> <i>Information on transfers of personal data for audit purposes</i> <i>(Article 53 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	In any call made in the context of grants, procurement or prizes implemented in direct management, potential beneficiaries, candidates, tenderers and participants shall, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council ²¹ be informed that, for the purposes of safeguarding the financial interests of the Union, their personal data may be transferred to internal audit services, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel or to the European Anti-Fraud Office (hereinafter "OLAF") and between authorising officers of the Commission and the executive agencies.
	Article 54 FR
	Basic act and exceptions

²¹ OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1.

	1. — A basic act shall first be adopted before the appropriations entered in the budget for any action by the Union may be used.
	2. — By way of derogation from paragraph 1 the following may be implemented without a basic act provided the actions which they are intended to finance fall within the competences of the Union:
	— (a) appropriations for pilot projects of an experimental nature designed to test the feasibility of an action and its usefulness. The relevant commitment appropriations may be entered in the budget for not more than two consecutive financial years.
	— The total amount of appropriations for the pilot projects shall not exceed EUR 40000000 in any financial year;
	— (b) appropriations for preparatory actions in the field of application of the TFEU and the Euratom Treaty, designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions. The preparatory actions shall follow a coherent approach and may take various forms. The relevant commitment appropriations may be entered in the budget for not more than three consecutive financial years. The procedure for the adoption of the relevant basic act shall be concluded before the end of the third financial year. In the course of that procedure, the commitment of appropriations shall correspond to the particular features of the preparatory action with regard to the activities envisaged, the aims pursued and the recipients. Consequently, the means implemented shall not correspond in volume to those envisaged for financing the definitive action itself.
	— The total amount of appropriations for new preparatory actions referred to under this point shall not exceed EUR 50000000 in any financial year, and the total amount of appropriations actually committed for preparatory actions shall not

	exceed EUR 1000000000;
	—— (c) appropriations for preparatory measures in the field of Title V of the TEU. Such measures shall be limited to a short period of time and shall be designed to establish the conditions for Union action in fulfilment of the objectives of the CFSP and for the adoption of the necessary legal instruments.
	—— For the purpose of Union crisis management operations, preparatory measures shall be designed, inter alia, to assess the operational requirements, to provide for a rapid initial deployment of resources, or to establish the conditions on the ground for the launching of the operation.
	—— Preparatory measures shall be agreed by the Council, on a proposal by the High Representative.
	—— In order to ensure the rapid implementation of preparatory measures, the High Representative shall inform the European Parliament and the Commission as early as possible of the Council's intention to launch a preparatory measure and, in particular, of the estimated resources required for this purpose. The Commission shall take all the measures necessary to ensure a rapid disbursement of the funds.
	—— The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules for the financing of preparatory measures in the field of the CFSP;
	—— (d) appropriations for one-off actions, or even actions for an indefinite duration, carried out by the Commission by virtue of tasks resulting from its prerogatives at institutional level pursuant to the TFEU and the Euratom Treaty, other than its right of legislative initiative referred to in point (b), and under specific powers directly conferred on it by those Treaties, a list of which is to be given in the

	delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation;
	—— (e) appropriations for the operation of each institution under its administrative autonomy.
	—— When the draft budget is presented, the Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on the actions referred to in points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph which shall also contain an assessment of results and the follow up envisaged.
	3. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the basic act and the exceptions enumerated in paragraph 2 of this Article.
	<i>Article 30 RAP</i> <i>Preparatory measures in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy</i> <i>(Article 54(2)(c) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The financing of measures agreed by the Council for the preparation of Union crisis management operations under Title V of the Treaty on European Union shall cover incremental costs directly arising from a specific field deployment of a mission or team involving inter alia personnel from the Union institutions, including high risk insurance, travel and accommodation costs and per diem payments.
	<i>Article 31 RAP</i> <i>Specific powers of the Commission under the Treaties</i> <i>(Article 54(2)(d) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. — The articles of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

	(hereinafter "TFEU") which directly confer specific powers on the Commission are as follows:
	(a) — Article 154 (social dialogue);
	(b) — Article 156 (studies, opinions and consultations on social matters);
	(c) — Articles 159 and 161 (special reports on social matters);
	(d) — Article 168(2) (initiatives to promote coordination on health protection matters);
	(e) — Article 171(2) (initiatives to promote coordination on trans-European networks);
	(f) — Article 173(2) (initiatives to promote coordination on matters relating to industry);
	(g) — Article 175, second subparagraph (report on progress made towards achieving economic, social and territorial cohesion);
	(h) — Article 181(2) (initiatives to promote coordination on research and technological development);
	(i) — Article 190 (report on research and technological development);
	(j) — Article 210(2) (initiatives to promote coordination of development cooperation policies);
	(k) — Article 214(6) (initiatives to promote coordination on humanitarian aid measures).

	2. — The articles of the Treaty Establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (hereinafter "Euratom Treaty") which directly confer specific powers on the Commission are as follows:
	(a) — Article 70 (financial support, within the limits set by the budget, for prospecting programmes in the territories of the Member States);
	(b) — Articles 77 to 85.
	3. — In the presentation of the draft budget, further detail may be added to the lists set out in paragraphs 1 and 2, with an indication of the articles in question and the amounts involved.
	Article 55-FR
	Implementation of the budget by institutions other than the Commission
	The Commission shall confer on the other institutions the requisite powers for the implementation of the sections of the budget relating to them.
	Detailed arrangements may be agreed between the EEAS and the Commission in order to facilitate the implementation of Union Delegations' administrative appropriations. Such arrangements shall not contain any derogation from this Regulation or the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation.

TITLE IV

IMPLEMENTATION OF EDF RESOURCES

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 17

The Commission may, within its own departments, delegate its powers to implement EDF resources, in accordance with the conditions laid down by this Regulation and by its internal rules and within the limits set by the Commission in the instrument of delegation. Those so empowered may act only within the limits of the powers expressly conferred upon them.

However, the Commission may delegate its powers to implement EDF resources to the Heads of Union Delegations. It shall, at the same time, inform the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (High Representative) thereof. When Heads of Union Delegations act as authorising officers by sub-delegation, they shall apply the Commission rules for the implementation of EDF resources and shall be submitted to the same duties, obligations and accountability as any other authorising officer by sub-delegation.

The Commission may withdraw that delegation in accordance

Article 17 11th EDF FR

Methods of implementation

1. Articles 56 and 57 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.
2. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 3 to 5, the rules on methods of implementation provided for in Chapter 2 of Title IV of Part One of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, and Articles 188 and 193 of that Regulation, shall apply. However the provisions in Articles 58(1)(b) and 59 of that Regulation, concerning shared management with Member States, shall not be applicable.
3. The entrusted entities shall ensure consistency with the EU's external policy and may entrust budget-implementation tasks to other entities under conditions equivalent to those applying to the Commission. They shall fulfil their obligations under Article 60(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 annually. The audit opinion shall be submitted within one month of the report and management declaration, to be taken into account in the assurance of the Commission. ACP States and OCTs may also entrust budget-implementation tasks within their departments and to bodies governed by private law on the basis of a service contract. These bodies shall be selected on the basis of open, transparent, proportionate and non-discriminatory procedures, avoiding conflict of interests. The financing agreement shall stipulate the terms of the service contract.
4. Where the 11th EDF is implemented in indirect management with ACP States or OCTs, without prejudice to the responsibilities of the ACP States or the OCTs acting in their capacity of contracting authorities, the Commission:
 - (a) shall, where necessary, recover amounts due from recipients according to Article 80 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, including by means of a

<p>with its own rules.</p> <p>For the purposes of the second paragraph, the High Representative shall take the measures necessary to facilitate the cooperation between Union Delegations and Commission departments.</p> <p>[fifth paragraph – see Article 34 11th EDF FR]</p>	<p>decision which shall be enforceable under the same conditions as laid down in Article 299 of the Treaty;</p> <p>(b) may, where the circumstances so require, impose administrative and/or financial penalties under the same conditions as laid down in Article 109 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.</p> <p>The financing agreement shall contain provisions on the cooperation between the Commission and the ACP State or OCT to this end.</p> <p>5. The Union's financial assistance may be provided through contributions to international, regional or national funds, such as those established or managed by the EIB, Member States, third countries or by international organisations, for attracting joint financing from a number of donors, or to funds set up by one or more donors for the purpose of the joint implementation of projects.</p>
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Article 56 FR

Delegation of budget implementation powers

1. The Commission and each of the other institutions may, within their departments, delegate their powers of budget implementation in accordance with the conditions laid down in this Regulation and by their internal rules and within the limits which they lay down in the instrument of delegation. Those so empowered shall act within the limits of the powers expressly conferred upon them.

2. However, the Commission may delegate its powers of budget implementation concerning the operational appropriations of its own section to the Heads of Union Delegations. It shall, at the same time, inform the High Representative thereof. When Heads of Union Delegations act as subdelegated authorising officers of the Commission, they shall apply the Commission rules for the implementation of the budget and shall be subject to the same duties, obligations and accountability as any other subdelegated authorising officer of the Commission.

The Commission may withdraw the delegation in accordance with its own rules.

For the purposes of the first subparagraph, the High Representative shall take the measures necessary to facilitate cooperation between Union Delegations and Commission departments.

Article 18

1. All financial actors and any other person involved in the implementation, management, audit or control of EDF resources shall be prohibited from taking any action which may bring their own interests into conflict with those of the Community. Should a conflict of interests arise, the person in question shall refrain from such an action and refer the matter to the competent authority.

2. There is a conflict of interests where the impartial and objective exercise of the functions of a financial actor or other person, as referred to in paragraph 1, is compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other shared interest with the beneficiary.

3. Article 34 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 19

For the purposes of this Title, the term 'staff' refers to persons covered by the Staff Regulations.

Article 57 FR

Conflict of interests

1. Financial actors and other persons involved in budget implementation and management, including acts preparatory thereto, audit or control shall not take any action which may bring their own interests into conflict with those of the Union.

Where such a risk exists, the person in question shall refrain from such action and shall refer the matter to the authorising officer by delegation who shall confirm in writing whether a conflict of interests exists. The person in question shall also inform his or her hierarchical superior. Where a conflict of interests is found to exist, the person in question shall cease all activities in the matter. The authorising officer by delegation shall personally take any further appropriate action.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, a conflict of interests exists where the impartial and objective exercise of the functions of a financial actor or other person, as referred to in paragraph 1, is compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other shared interest with a recipient.

~~3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 setting out what is likely to constitute a conflict of interests together with the procedure to be followed in such cases.~~

Article 32 RAP

	<i>Acts likely to constitute a conflict of interests and procedure (Article 57 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Acts likely to be affected by a conflict of interests within the meaning of Article 57(2) of the Financial Regulation may, inter alia, take one of the following forms without prejudice of their qualification as illegal activities under Article 141:
	(a) granting oneself or others unjustified direct or indirect advantages;
	(b) refusing to grant a beneficiary the rights or advantages to which that beneficiary is entitled;
	(c) committing undue or wrongful acts or failing to carry out acts that are mandatory.
	Other acts likely to be affected by a conflict of interests are those which may impair the impartial and objective performance of a person's duties such as, inter alia, the participation in an evaluation committee for a public procurement or grant procedure when the person may, directly or indirectly, benefit financially from the outcome of these procedures.
	2. A conflict of interest shall be presumed to exist if an applicant, candidate or tenderer is a member of staff covered by the Staff Regulations, unless his participation in the procedure has been authorised in advance by his superior.
	3. In the event of a conflict of interests, the authorising officer by delegation shall take appropriate measures to avoid any undue influence of the person concerned on the process or procedure in question.
	CHAPTER 2 Methods of implementation

CHAPTER 2

METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION

SECTION 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 20

1. The Commission shall implement EDF resources in accordance with the provisions set out in Articles 21 to 29 in any of the following ways:

- (a) by decentralised management;
- (b) by centralised management;
- (c) by joint management with international organisations.

2. Chapter 2 ‘methods of implementation’ of Part I, Title IV of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the implementation the present Chapter.

SECTION 2

DECENTRALISED MANAGEMENT

Article 21

Article 58 FR

Methods of implementation of the budget

[there may be an error in the visualisation of this article]

1. The Commission shall implement the budget in the following ways:

(a) directly ('direct management'), by its departments, including its staff in the Union Delegations under the authority of their respective Head of Delegation, in accordance with Article 56(2), or through executive agencies as referred to in Article 62;

~~(b) under shared management with Member States ('shared management');~~
Ø

(c) indirectly ('indirect management'), where this is provided for in the basic act or in the cases referred to in points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 54(2), by entrusting budget implementation tasks to:

(i) third countries or the bodies they have designated;

(ii) international organisations and their agencies;

(iii) the EIB and the European Investment Fund;

(iv) bodies referred to in Articles 208 and 209;

(v) public law bodies;

(vi) bodies governed by private law with a public service mission to the extent that they provide adequate financial guarantees;

As a general rule, the Commission shall undertake the financial implementation of EDF resources by one of the following:

(a) by means of decentralised management with the ACP States in accordance with the conditions set out in the ACP-EC Agreement and applying the breakdown of responsibilities provided for in Article 57 of that Agreement and Articles 34, 35 and 36 of Annex IV thereto;

(b) by means of decentralised management with the OCTs in accordance with the conditions set out in the Overseas Association Decision and in the measures implementing that Decision.

Article 22

1. In the context of decentralised management, the Commission shall undertake the financial implementation of EDF resources in accordance with the detailed rules laid down in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4. As provided for in the case of centralised management, the Commission may delegate residual tasks to bodies referred to in Article 25(2) to (5).

2. The beneficiary ACP States or OCTs shall:

(a) conduct regular checks to ensure that the actions to be financed by EDF resources have been implemented correctly;

(b) take appropriate measures to prevent irregularities and fraud and, if necessary, bring legal proceedings to

(vii) bodies governed by the private law of a Member State that are entrusted with the implementation of a public-private partnership and that provide adequate financial guarantees;

(viii) persons entrusted with the implementation of specific actions in the CFSP pursuant to Title V of the TEU, and identified in the relevant basic act.

2. The Commission remains responsible for the implementation of the budget in accordance with Article 317 TFEU and shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of the operations carried out by the entities and persons entrusted pursuant to point (c) of paragraph 1 of this Article. Where the entrusted entity or person is identified in a basic act, the financial statement provided for in Article 31 shall include a full justification for the choice of that particular entity or person.

3. The entities and persons entrusted pursuant to point (c) of paragraph 1 of this Article shall fully cooperate in the protection of the Union's financial interests. Delegation agreements shall provide for the right of the Court of Auditors and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) to comprehensively exert their competences under the TFEU in the audit of funds.

The Commission shall entrust budget implementation tasks to entities and persons under point (c) of paragraph 1 of this Article provided that transparent, non-discriminatory, efficient and effective review procedures concerning the actual implementation of such tasks are in place.

4. All delegation agreements shall be made available to the European Parliament and the Council at their request.

5. Entities and persons entrusted pursuant to point (c) of paragraph 1 of this Article shall ensure, in accordance with Article 35(2), appropriate annual *ex post* publication of information on recipients. The Commission shall be notified of the measures taken in this regard.

recover funds wrongly paid.

3. In order to ensure that funds are used in accordance with the applicable rules and within the limits of powers thereby conferred upon it, the Commission shall apply clearance-of-accounts procedures or financial correction mechanisms which enable it to discharge its obligations under the ACP-EC Agreement, in particular under Article 34(1) of Annex IV thereto, and under the Overseas Association Decision, in particular under Articles 20 and 32 thereof.

4. Partner countries and territories to which implementation tasks are delegated shall ensure, in conformity with Article 14(3), adequate annual *ex post* publication of beneficiaries of funds deriving from the EDF.

6. Entities and persons entrusted pursuant to point (c) of paragraph 1 shall not have the status of authorising officer by delegation.

7. The Commission shall not entrust executive powers to third parties, where such powers involve a large measure of discretion implying political choices.

~~8. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the methods of implementation of the budget, including direct management, the exercise of powers delegated to executive agencies, and specific provisions for indirect management with international organisations, with bodies referred to in Articles 208 and 209, with public law bodies or bodies governed by private law with a public service mission, with bodies governed by the private law of a Member State and entrusted with the implementation of a public private partnership and with persons entrusted with the implementation of specific actions in the CFSP.~~

Article 23

The implementation by ACP States and OCTs of operations financed from EDF resources shall be subject to Commission scrutiny.

That scrutiny may be exercised by prior approval, by *ex post* checks or by a combined procedure, in accordance with the provisions of the ACP-EC Agreement, the Overseas Association Decision and the measures implementing that Decision.

Article 24

Depending on the degree of decentralisation provided for in the ACP-EC Agreement, the Overseas Association Decision and the measures implementing that Decision, the Commission shall strive to encourage the beneficiary ACP States and the OCTs to adhere, when exercising the powers entrusted to them under the ACP-EC Agreement and under the Overseas Association Decision, to the principle of sound financial management set out in Article 11, in particular the progressive application of the following criteria:

- (a) transparent procurement and grant-awarded procedures, which are non-discriminatory and exclude any conflict of interests;
- (b) an effective and efficient internal control system for the management of operations, which includes

Article 33 RAP

Management mode

(Article 58 of the Financial Regulation)

The accounting system of the Commission shall identify the management mode and, under each management mode, the type of entity or person listed in Article 58(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation entrusted with tasks of budget implementation.

As regards direct management by the Commission according to Article 58(1)(a) of the Financial Regulation, the accounting system shall distinguish management by the following:

- (a) departments of the Commission;
- (b) executive agencies;
- (c) heads of Union delegations;

trust funds referred to in Article 187 of the Financial Regulation.

Article 34 RAP

Direct management

(Article 58 (1)(a) of the Financial Regulation)

Where the Commission implements the budget directly in its departments, implementation tasks shall be performed by the financial actors within the meaning of Articles 64 to 75 of the Financial Regulation and in compliance with the conditions laid down in this Regulation.

Article 35 RAP

Exercise of powers delegated to executive agencies

effective segregation of the duties of authorising officer and accounting officer or of the equivalent functions;

(c) an accounting system that enables the correct use of EDF resources to be verified and the use of funds to be reflected in the EDF accounts;

(d) an independent external audit exercised by a national institution for independent external auditing;

(e) in the case of the direct-labour operations referred to in Article 101(1), adequate provisions for the management and scrutiny of local imprest accounts and for the definition of the responsibilities of the local imprest manager and the local accounting officer.

For the purposes of applying the first subparagraph, the Commission shall, in agreement with the beneficiary ACP States and OCTs, incorporate appropriate provisions in the financing agreements referred to in Article 70(3).

(Articles 58(1)(a) and 62 of the Financial Regulation)

1. Decisions to delegate powers to executive agencies shall authorise them, as authorising officers by delegation, to implement appropriations relating to the Union programme the management of which is entrusted to them.

The Commission's instrument of delegation shall contain at least the provisions as provided for in points (a) to (d) and (h) of Article 40. It shall be formally accepted in writing by the director on behalf of the executive agency.

Article 43 RAP

*Specific provisions for indirect management with International Organisations
(Articles 58(1)(c) (ii) and 188 of the Financial Regulation)*

1. The international organisations referred to in point (ii) of Article 58(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation shall be:

(a) international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements, and specialised agencies set up by such organisations;

(b) the International Committee of the Red Cross;

(c) the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

(d) other non-profit organisations assimilated to international organisations by a Commission decision.

Where the Commission implements the budget under indirect management with international organisations, the verification agreements concluded with them shall apply.

Article 44 RAP

Designation of public law bodies or bodies governed by private law with a public-service mission

(Article 58(1)(c) (v) and (vi) of the Financial Regulation)

1. The public law bodies or bodies governed by private law with a public-service mission shall be subject to the law of the Member State or the country in which they have been set up.

2. In cases of management by a network, requiring the designation of at least one body or entity by Member State or by country concerned, the body or entity shall be designated by the Member State or the country concerned in accordance with the basic act.

In all other cases, the Commission shall designate such bodies or entities in agreement with the Member States or countries concerned.

~~Article 59 FR~~

~~Shared management with Member States~~

[omitted]

SECTION 3

CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT

Article 25

1. Where the Commission implements EDF resources on a centralised basis, implementation tasks shall be performed either directly, by its departments or by Union Delegations in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 17, or indirectly, in accordance with paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of this Article and with Articles 26 to 29.

Indirect implementation, in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 4 of this Article and with Article 27 to 29 also applies in the case of delegation of residual tasks to bodies referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article in the case of decentralised management.

2. The Commission may not delegate to third parties the executive powers it enjoys under the ACP-EC Agreement or the Overseas Association Decision where those powers involve a large measure of discretion implying political choices. The implementing tasks delegated shall be clearly defined and fully supervised as to the use made of them.

The delegation of financial implementation tasks shall comply with the principle of sound financial management and shall ensure compliance with the visibility of Community action.

No implementation tasks delegated in this way may give rise to conflicts of interests.

3. Within the limits laid down in paragraph 2, the Commission may delegate tasks of public authority, and in particular financial implementation tasks, to the following:

(a) the executive agencies established in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003²²;

(b) national public-sector bodies or bodies governed by private law with a public-service mission and providing adequate financial guarantees for the implementation of the tasks assigned to them.

The Commission may draw on the EDF resources in order to pay financial compensation to these bodies for the administrative costs incurred.

The Commission shall inform annually the Council of the cases, agencies and bodies concerned. It shall provide commensurate motivation of the use of national agencies.

4. Implementation of the corresponding EDF resources by an agency referred to in paragraph 3(a) shall be carried out by the director of that agency.

5. Where the agencies and bodies referred to in paragraph 3 perform implementation tasks, they shall conduct regular checks to ensure that the actions to be financed from EDF

²²

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resources have been implemented correctly.	
Such agencies and bodies shall take appropriate measures to prevent irregularities and fraud and if necessary bring legal proceedings to recover funds wrongly paid or incorrectly used.	

Article 37 RAP

Specific provisions for shared management with Member States measures to promote best practices (Article 59 of the Financial Regulation)

[omitted]

Article 60 FR

Indirect management

[there may be an error in the visualisation of this article]

1. Entities and persons entrusted with budget implementation tasks pursuant to point (c) of Article 58(1) shall respect the principles of sound financial management, transparency and non-discrimination and shall ensure the visibility of Union action when they manage Union funds. They shall guarantee a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union equivalent to that required under this Regulation when they manage Union funds, with due consideration for:

(a) the nature of the tasks entrusted to them and the amounts involved;

(b) the financial risks involved;

(c) the level of assurance stemming from their systems, rules and procedures together with the measures taken by the Commission to supervise and support the implementation of the tasks entrusted to them.

2. In order to protect the financial interests of the Union, the entities and persons entrusted pursuant to point (c) of Article 58(1) shall, in accordance with the principle of proportionality:

(a) set up and ensure the functioning of an effective and efficient internal control system;

(b) use an accounting system that provides accurate, complete and reliable information in a timely manner;

(c) be subject to an independent external audit, performed in accordance with internationally accepted auditing standards by an audit service functionally independent of the entity or person concerned;

Article 26

Where the Commission implements EDF resources by indirect centralised management, it shall first obtain evidence of the existence and proper operation within the entities to which it entrusts implementation of the following:

- (a) transparent procurement and grant-awarded procedures which are non-discriminatory and exclude any conflict of interest and which are in accordance with Titles V and VII;
- (b) an effective and efficient internal control system for the management of operations, which includes effective segregation of the duties of authorising officer and accounting officer or of the equivalent functions;
- (c) an accounting system that enables the correct use of EDF resources to be verified and the use of funds to be reflected in the EDF accounts;
- (d) an independent external audit;
- (e) public access to information at the level provided for in Community Regulations;
- (f) adequate annual *ex post* publication of beneficiaries of funds deriving from the EDF in conformity with Article 14(3).

The Commission may accept that the audit, accounting, procurement and grant-awarded systems of the agencies and bodies referred to in Article 25(3) are equivalent to its own,

with due account for internationally accepted standards.

Article 27

1. The Commission shall ensure supervision, evaluation and control of the implementation of the tasks entrusted. It shall take the equivalence of control systems into account when it carries out controls using its own control systems.

2. The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) shall enjoy the same powers with regard to bodies to which tasks are delegated as it does with regard to Commission departments. The bodies in question shall adopt the necessary measures to help OLAF carry out internal investigations. Any act undertaken by such bodies for the implementation of EDF resources, and in particular any decision or any contract concluded by them, must specifically provide for the same controls as those provided for in Article 70(4).

Article 28

The Commission may not entrust measures of implementation of funds deriving from EDF resources, such as payment and recovery, to external private-sector entities or bodies except to those referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 25(3) or in specific cases where the payments involved are to be made to beneficiaries determined by the Commission, are subject to conditions and amounts fixed by the Commission and do not involve the exercise of discretion

by the entity or body making the payments.

The tasks which may be entrusted by contract to external private-sector entities or bodies other than those referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 25(3) are technical expertise tasks and administrative, preparatory or ancillary tasks involving neither the exercise of public authority nor the use of discretionary powers of judgment.

SECTION 4

JOINT MANAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Article 29

1. Where the Commission implements EDF resources by joint management, certain implementation tasks shall be delegated to international organisations in the following cases:

- (a) wherever the Commission and the international organisation are bound by a long-term framework agreement laying down the administrative and financial arrangements for their cooperation;
- (b) wherever the Commission and the international organisation elaborate a joint project or programme;
- (c) where the funds of several donors are pooled and are not earmarked for specific items or categories of expenditure, that is to say, in the case of multi-donor actions.

These organisations shall, in their accounting, audit, internal

<p>control and procurement procedures, apply standards which offer guarantees equivalent to internationally accepted standards.</p> <p>2. The implementation by international organisations of operations financed from EDF resources shall be subject to scrutiny by the Commission. Such scrutiny shall be exercised by prior approval, by <i>ex post</i> checks or by a combined procedure.</p> <p>3. Individual agreements concluded with international organisations for the award of financing shall contain detailed provisions for the implementation of the tasks entrusted to such international organisations.</p> <p>4. International organisations to which implementation tasks are delegated shall ensure, in conformity with Article 14(3), adequate annual <i>ex post</i> publication of beneficiaries of funds deriving from the EDF.</p>	

	<p><i>Article 38 RAP</i> <i>Equivalence of systems, rules and procedures in indirect management</i> <i>(Article 60 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The Commission may accept that procurement rules and procedures are equivalent to its own if the following conditions are met:</p>
	<p>(a) they comply with the principle of broad competition of tenderers to obtain the best value for money, and negotiated procedures are limited to reasonable amounts or are duly justified;</p>
	<p>(b) they ensure transparency with adequate <i>ex-ante</i> publication, in particular of calls for tenders, and adequate <i>ex-post</i> publication of contractors;</p>
	<p>(c) they ensure equal treatment, proportionality and non-discrimination;</p>
	<p>(d) they prevent conflicts of interests throughout the entire procurement procedure.</p>
	<p>National law of Member States or third countries transposing Directive 2004/18/EC shall be considered equivalent to the rules applied by the institutions in accordance with the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>2. The Commission may accept that grant rules and procedures are equivalent to its own if the following conditions are met:</p>
	<p>(a) they comply with the principles of proportionality, sound financial management, equal treatment and non-discrimination;</p>
	<p>(b) they ensure transparency with adequate publication of calls for proposals, direct award procedures being limited to reasonable amounts or being duly justified,</p>

	and adequate <i>ex-post</i> publication of beneficiaries taking account of the principle of proportionality;
	(c) they prevent conflicts of interests throughout the entire grant award procedure;
	(d) they provide that grants may not be cumulative or awarded retrospectively, that they must, as a rule, involve co-financing and that they may not have the purpose or the effect of producing a profit for the beneficiary.
	3. The Commission may accept that the accounting systems and the internal control systems used by entities and persons to be entrusted with budget implementation tasks on behalf of the Commission are providing equivalent levels of protection of the financial interests of the Union and of reasonable assurance of achieving the management objectives if they comply with the principles laid down in Article 32 of the Financial Regulation.
	<i>Article 41 RAP Management declaration and compliance statement (Article 60(5) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	In case of actions terminating before the end of the financial year concerned, the final report of the entrusted entity or person for such action may replace the management declaration referred to in Article 60(5)(b) of the Financial Regulation, provided it is submitted before 15 February of the year following the financial year concerned.
	Where international organisations and third countries implement non-multiannual actions limited to 18 months, the compliance statement referred to in Article 60(5)

	of the Financial Regulation may be incorporated in the final report.
	<i>Article 42 RAP Procedures for the examination and acceptance of the accounts and exclusion from Union financing of expenditure made in breach of applicable rules under indirect management (Article 60(6) points (b) and (c) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Without prejudice to specific provisions contained in sector specific rules, the procedures referred to in points (b) and (c) of Article 60(6) of the Financial Regulation shall include:
	(a) desk reviews and, where appropriate, on-the-spot checks by the Commission;
	(b) the establishment by the Commission of the amount of expenditure recognised as accepted, following, where necessary, a contradictory procedure with the authorities and bodies and after these authorities and bodies have been informed;
	(c) where appropriate, calculation by the Commission of financial corrections;
	(d) recovery or payment by the Commission of the balance arising from the difference between accepted expenditure and the sums already paid to the authorities or bodies.
	For the purposes of point (d) of the first subparagraph, the Commission shall recover amounts due preferably by offsetting as set out in Article 87.
	2. Where budget implementation tasks are entrusted to an entity implementing a multi-donor action, the procedures referred to in points (b) and (c) of Article 60(6) of the Financial Regulation shall consist in verifying that an amount corresponding to

	that paid by the Commission for the action concerned has been used by the entity for the action and that the expenditure has been incurred in accordance with the obligations laid down in the agreement signed with the entity.
	For the purpose of this Regulation, multi-donor action shall mean any action where Union funds are pooled with at least one other donor.
	Article 61 FR
	Ex ante assessments and delegation agreements
	1. Before the Commission entrusts tasks of budget implementation to entities or persons pursuant to point (c) of Article 58(1), it shall obtain evidence that the requirements set out in points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) are being fulfilled.
	Where substantial changes are made to the systems or rules of an entity or person entrusted pursuant to point (c) of Article 58(1), or to the procedures that relate to the management entrusted to that entity or person of Union funds, the entity or person concerned shall inform the Commission thereof without delay. The Commission shall review the delegation agreements concluded with the entity or person concerned in order to ensure continued fulfilment of the requirements set out in points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2).
	2. Unless the entrusted entity is identified in the basic act, the Commission shall select an entity from one of the categories listed in points (ii), (v), (vi) and (vii) of Article 58(1)(c) taking due account of the nature of the tasks to be entrusted to the entity, as well as the experience and the operational and financial capacity of the entities concerned. The selection shall be transparent, justified on objective grounds

	and shall not give rise to a conflict of interests.
	3. Delegation agreements shall set out the requirements laid down in points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2). They shall clearly define the tasks entrusted to the entity and contain an undertaking by the entities or persons concerned to fulfil the obligations laid down in points (e) and (f) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2), and to refrain from any action which may give rise to a conflict of interests.
	4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the ex ante assessment of rules and procedures under indirect management and the content of delegation agreements.
	<p><i>Article 39 RAP</i></p> <p><i>Ex-ante assessment of rules and procedures of the entities and persons in indirect management</i></p> <p><i>(Article 61(1) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	For the purposes of the <i>ex-ante</i> assessment pursuant to Article 61(1) of the Financial Regulation, the authorising officer responsible may rely on an <i>ex-ante</i> assessment made by another authorising officer provided that their conclusions are relevant to the specific risks of the tasks to be entrusted, in particular their nature and the amounts involved.
	The authorising officer responsible may rely on an <i>ex-ante</i> assessment made by other donors as far as this assessment was made with regard to conditions equivalent to those for indirect management set out in Article 60 of the Financial

	Regulation.
	<i>Article 40 RAP</i> <i>Content of the agreement entrusting budget implementation tasks to entities and persons (Articles 61(3) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Delegation agreements shall include detailed arrangements ensuring the protection of the financial interests of the Union and the transparency of operations carried out. They shall include at least the following:
	(a) a clear definition of the tasks assigned and the limits thereof, concerning in particular the modification of the tasks entrusted, the waiving of debts, the use of funds reimbursed or unused;
	(b) conditions and detailed arrangements for performing the tasks, responsibilities and organising the controls to be carried out, including the evaluation of the programmes;
	(c) conditions for payments of the Union contribution, including the reimbursement of costs incurred in respect of implementation as well as the remuneration of the entrusted entity, together with rules on which supporting documents are required to justify the payments;
	(d) rules on reporting to the Commission on how the tasks are performed, the results expected, irregularities which occurred and the measures taken, the conditions under which payments may be suspended or interrupted as well as the conditions under which performance of the tasks terminates;
	(e) the date, by which individual contracts and agreements which implement the delegation agreement shall be concluded, which shall be commensurate with the

	nature of the tasks entrusted;
	(f) exclusion rules which allow the entity or person to exclude entities which are in a situation referred to in points (a), (b) and (e) of Article 106(1) and in points a) and (b) of Article 107 of the Financial Regulation from participating in procurement, grant or prize award procedures or from being awarded procurement contracts, grants or prizes;
	(g) detailed arrangements for Commission scrutiny as well as provisions granting the Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditors access to the information that is required for them to perform their duties, as well as the power to conduct audits and investigations including on the spot-checks;
	(h) arrangements providing for:
	(i) an undertaking of the entrusted entity to inform the Commission without delay of any fraud occurring in the management of Union funds and the measures taken;
	(ii) the designation of a contact point which shall have the appropriate powers to cooperate directly with OLAF in order to facilitate the latter's operational activities;
	(i) conditions governing the use of bank accounts and of the interest yielded as provided for in Article 8(4) of the Financial Regulation;
	(j) provisions guaranteeing the visibility of Union action in relation to the other activities of the body.
	Article 62 FR

	Executive agencies
	1. The Commission may delegate powers to the executive agencies to implement all or part of a Union programme or project, on its behalf and under its responsibility, in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003 of 19 December 2002 laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes ²³ . The executive agencies shall be created by means of a Commission Decision and shall be legal persons under Union law.
	The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the exercise of powers delegated to the executive agencies.
	2. The director of the executive agency shall implement the corresponding operational appropriations under direct management.
	<i>Article 35 RAP Exercise of powers delegated to executive agencies (Articles 58(1)(a) and 62 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Decisions to delegate powers to executive agencies shall authorise them, as authorising officers by delegation, to implement appropriations relating to the Union programme the management of which is entrusted to them.
	2. The Commission's instrument of delegation shall contain at least the provisions as provided for in points (a) to (d) and (h) of Article 40. It shall be formally

²³

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	accepted in writing by the director on behalf of the executive agency.
	Article 63 FR
	Limits to delegation of powers
	1. The Commission shall not entrust tasks relating to implementation of Union funds, including payment and recovery, to external private sector entities or bodies, except in the case referred to in points (v), (vi) and (vii) of Article 58(1)(c), or in specific cases where the payments involved:
	(i) are to be made to payees determined by the Commission;
	(ii) are subject to conditions and amounts fixed by the Commission; and
	(iii) do not involve the exercise of discretion by the entity or body making the payments.
	2. The Commission may entrust the following tasks by contract to external private sector entities or bodies that do not have a public service mission: technical expertise tasks and administrative, preparatory or ancillary tasks involving neither the exercise of public authority nor the use of discretionary powers of judgment.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on entrusting tasks to certain external private sector entities or bodies in accordance with the procurement rules set out in Title V of Part One.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 36 RAP</i> <i>Compliance with the procurement rules</i> <i>(Article 63 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>Where the Commission entrusts tasks to private bodies under Article 63(2) of the Financial Regulation, it shall conclude a contract in accordance with Title V of Part One and Part Two Title IV Chapter III of the Financial Regulation.</p>
<p>CHAPTER 3</p> <p>FINANCIAL ACTORS</p> <p><i>Article 30</i></p> <p>The Commission shall provide each financial actor with the resources required to perform his duties and a charter describing in detail his tasks, rights and obligations.</p> <p>SECTION 1</p> <p><i>PRINCIPLE OF SEGREGATION OF DUTIES</i></p> <p><i>Article 31</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TITLE IV</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FINANCIAL ACTORS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 18 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">General provisions on financial actors and their liability</p>
<p>The duties of authorising officer and accounting officer shall be segregated and mutually incompatible.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Commission shall provide each financial actor with the resources required to perform his or her duties and a charter describing in detail his or her tasks, rights, and obligations. 2. Article 64 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 on the segregation of duties, shall apply. 3. Chapter IV of Title IV of Part One of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 concerning the liability of the financial actors shall apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i>.
	CHAPTER 3

	Financial actors
	Section 1 Principle of segregation of duties
	Article 64 FR
	Segregation of duties
	1. The duties of authorising officer and accounting officer shall be segregated and mutually exclusive.
	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the rights and obligations of all financial actors.
	<i>Article 45 RAP Rights and obligations of the financial actors (Article 64 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Each institution shall provide each financial actor with the resources required to perform his duties and a charter describing in detail his tasks, rights and obligations.
	2. Heads of Union Delegations acting as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 56(2) of the Financial Regulation shall be subject to the charter provided by the Commission for the implementation of the financial management tasks subdelegated to them.

SECTION 2

AUTHORISING OFFICER

Article 32

1. In the context of the financial implementation of the operations referred to in Article 2, the Commission shall perform the duties of authorising officer.
2. The Commission shall determine the staff of an appropriate level to whom it delegates the duties of authorising officer, the scope of the powers delegated and the possibility for the persons to whom these powers are delegated to sub-delegate them.
3. The powers of authorising officer shall be delegated or sub-delegated only to staff.
4. Authorising officers by delegation or sub-delegation may act only within the limits set by the instrument of delegation or sub-delegation. The responsible authorising officer by delegation or sub-delegation may be assisted in his task by one or more members of staff entrusted, under his responsibility, to carry out certain operations necessary for the implementation of EDF resources and presentation of the accounts.
5. Where Heads of Union Delegations act as authorising officers by sub-delegation in accordance with the second

Article 19 11th EDF FR

Authorising officer

1. Articles 65, 66 and 67 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, concerning respectively, the authorising officer, his or her powers and duties, and those of Heads of Union Delegations, shall apply.
2. Where the responsible authorising officer of the Commission becomes aware of problems in carrying out procedures relating to the management of 11th EDF resources, he or she shall, in conjunction with the appointed national, regional, intra-ACP, or territorial authorising officer, make all contacts necessary to remedy the situation and take any steps that are necessary. In case the national, regional, intra-ACP, or territorial authorising officer does not or is unable to perform the duties incumbent on him or her under the Cotonou Agreement or the Overseas Association Decision, the responsible authorising officer of the Commission may temporarily take the former's place and act in the name and on behalf of the former; in that case the Commission may receive financial compensation for the additional administrative workload incurred from the resources allocated to the ACP State or OCT in question.

<p>paragraph of Article 17, they shall be subject to the Commission as the institution responsible for the definition, exercise, control and appraisal of their duties and responsibilities as authorising officers by sub-delegation. The Commission shall, at the same time, inform the High Representative thereof.</p>	
	<p>Section 2 Authorising officer</p>

Article 33

The authorising officer shall be responsible for the following:

- (a) implementing revenue and expenditure in accordance with the principle of sound financial management;
- (b) ensuring that the requirements of legality and regularity are complied with.

Article 34

1. To implement expenditure, the authorising officers by delegation and by sub-delegation shall make financial commitments and, where appropriate, legal commitments, shall validate expenditure and authorise payments and shall undertake the preliminaries for the implementation of EDF resources.
2. Implementation of revenue shall comprise drawing up estimates of amounts receivable, establishing entitlements to be recovered and issuing recovery orders. It shall involve waiving established entitlements where appropriate.

Article 35

Save in cases where management is centralised or joint with international organisations, operations relating to the implementation of programmes or projects shall be carried out by the national or regional authorising officer, as defined in

Article 65 FR

The authorising officer

1. Each institution shall perform the duties of authorising officer.
2. For the purposes of this Title, the term "staff" refers to persons covered by the Staff Regulations.
3. Each institution shall delegate, in compliance with the conditions in its rules of procedure, the duties of authorising officer to staff of an appropriate level. It shall indicate, in its internal administrative rules, the staff to whom it delegates those duties, the scope of the powers delegated and whether the persons to whom those powers are delegated may subdelegate them.
4. The powers of authorising officer shall be delegated or subdelegated only to staff.
5. Authorising officers responsible shall act within the limits set by the instrument of delegation or subdelegation. The authorising officer responsible may be assisted by one or more members of staff entrusted, under his or her responsibility, with carrying out certain operations necessary for implementing the budget and presenting the accounts.
6. Where Heads of Union Delegations act as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with Article 56(2), they shall be subject to the Commission as the institution responsible for the definition, exercise, monitoring and appraisal of their duties and responsibilities as authorising officers by subdelegation. The Commission shall, at the same time, inform the High

Article 35 of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement and in the measures implementing the Overseas Association Decision, in close cooperation with the Commission in accordance with Articles 34, 35 and 36 of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement.

Article 36

1. Where the authorising officer by delegation becomes aware of problems in carrying out procedures relating to management of EDF resources, he shall, in conjunction with the national or regional authorising officer, make all contacts necessary to remedy the situation and take any steps that are necessary.

In cases where the national or regional authorising officer does not or is unable to perform the duties incumbent on him under the ACP-EC Agreement, the authorising officer by delegation may temporarily take his place, in which case, the Commission may receive, from the resources allocated to the ACP State in question, financial compensation for the extra administrative workload incurred.

2. Any measure taken by the authorising officer by delegation pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be taken in the name of and on behalf of the national or regional authorising officer concerned.

Representative thereof.

7. The authorising officer responsible may be assisted by staff entrusted, under his or her responsibility, with certain tasks required for the implementation of the budget and production of the financial and management information. Staff assisting authorising officers responsible shall be subject to Article 57.

8. Each institution shall inform the Court of Auditors, the European Parliament and the Council of the appointment and release of authorising officers by delegation, internal auditors and accounting officers, and of any internal rules it adopts in respect of financial matters.

9. Each institution shall inform the Court of Auditors of the appointment of imprest administrators and of delegation decisions under Article 69(1) and Article 70.

~~10. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the assistance provided to authorising officers responsible and the internal provisions governing delegations.~~

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 46 RAP</i> <i>Assistance for authorising officers by delegation and subdelegation</i> <i>(Article 65 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>The authorising officer responsible may be assisted in his duties by staff entrusted, under his responsibility, with certain operations required for the implementation of the budget and production of the financial and management information. In order to prevent any conflict of interests, staff assisting authorising officers by delegation or subdelegation shall be subject to the obligations referred to in Article 57 of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>Heads of Union Delegations acting as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 56(2) of the Financial Regulation may be assisted in their duties by staff of the Commission.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 47 RAP</i> <i>Internal provisions governing delegations</i> <i>(Article 65 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>In accordance with the Financial Regulation and this Regulation, each institution shall lay down in its internal rules such measures for the management of appropriations as it considers necessary for proper implementation of its section of the budget.</p>

	Heads of Union Delegations acting as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 56(2) of the Financial Regulation shall be subject to the Internal Rules of the Commission for the implementation of the financial management tasks subdelegated to them.

Article 37

1. The authorising officer by delegation shall put in place, in compliance with the minimum standards adopted by the Commission and having due regard to the risks associated with the management environment and the nature of the actions financed, the organisational structure and the internal management and control procedures suited to the performance of his duties, including where appropriate *ex post* verifications.
2. Before an operation is authorised, the operational and financial aspects shall be verified by members of staff other than the one who initiated the operation. The initiation and the *ex ante* and *ex post* verification of that operation shall be separate functions.
3. All staff responsible for controlling the management of financial operations shall have the necessary professional skills. They shall respect a specific code of professional standards established by the Commission.
4. Any member of staff involved in the financial management and control of transactions who considers that a decision he is required by his superior to apply or to agree to is irregular or contrary to the principles of sound financial management or the professional rules he is required to observe shall inform the authorising officer by delegation in writing and, if the latter fails to take action, the panel referred to in Article 54(3).

Article 66 FR

Powers and duties of the authorising officer

1. The authorising officer shall be responsible in each institution for implementing revenue and expenditure in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and for ensuring compliance with the requirements of legality and regularity.
2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the authorising officer by delegation shall, in accordance with Article 32 and the minimum standards adopted by each institution and having due regard to the risks associated with the management environment and the nature of the actions financed, put in place the organisational structure and the internal control systems suited to the performance of his or her duties. The establishment of such structure and systems shall be supported by a comprehensive risk analysis, which takes into account their cost-effectiveness.
3. To implement expenditure, the authorising officer responsible shall make budgetary and legal commitments, shall validate expenditure and authorise payments and shall undertake the preliminary steps for the implementation of appropriations.
4. Implementation of revenue shall comprise drawing up estimates of amounts receivable, establishing entitlements to be recovered and issuing recovery orders. It shall involve waiving established entitlements, where appropriate.
5. Each operation shall be subject at least to an *ex ante* control, based on a desk review of documents and on the available results of controls already carried out,

In the event of fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity which may harm the interests of the Community, he shall inform the authorities and bodies designated by the applicable legislation.

Article 38

The authorising officer by delegation shall report to the Commission on the performance of his duties in the form of an annual activity report together with financial and management information confirming that the information contained in the report presents a true and fair view except as otherwise specified in any reservations related to the defined areas of revenue and expenditure.

That report shall indicate the results of the operations by reference to the objectives set, the risks associated with these operations, the use made of the resources provided and the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal control system. The internal auditor shall take note of the annual report and any other pieces of information provided. No later than 15 June each year, the Commission shall send to the European Parliament and the Council a summary of the annual activity report for the previous year. The annual activity reports of the authorising officers by delegation shall also be made available to the European Parliament and the Council.

relating to the operational and financial aspects of the operation.

Ex ante controls shall comprise the initiation and the verification of an operation.

For a given transaction, the verification shall be carried out by staff other than those who initiated the operation. The staff who carry out the verification shall not be subordinate to the members of staff who initiated the operation.

6. The authorising officer by delegation may put in place *ex post* controls to verify operations already approved following *ex ante* controls. Such controls may be organised on a sample basis according to risk.

The *ex ante* controls shall be carried out by staff other than those responsible for the *ex post* controls. The staff responsible for the *ex post* controls shall not be subordinate to the members of staff responsible for the *ex ante* controls.

Where the authorising officer by delegation implements financial audits of beneficiaries as *ex-post* controls, the related audit rules shall be clear, consistent and transparent, and shall respect the rights of both the Commission and the auditees.

7. Staff responsible for controlling the management of financial operations shall have the necessary professional skills. They shall respect a specific code of professional standards established by each institution.

8. If a member of staff, involved in the financial management and control of transactions, considers that a decision he or she is required by his or her superior to apply or to agree to is irregular or contrary to the principle of sound financial management or the professional rules which that member of staff is required to

observe, he or she shall inform his or her hierarchical superior accordingly. If the member of staff does so in writing, the hierarchical superior shall reply in writing. If the hierarchical superior fails to take action or confirms the initial decision or instruction and the member of staff believes that such confirmation does not constitute a reasonable response to his or her concern, the member of staff shall inform the authorising officer by delegation in writing. If that officer fails to take action, the member of staff shall inform the relevant panel referred to in Article 73(6).

In the event of any illegal activity, fraud or corruption which may harm the interests of the Union, the member of staff shall inform the authorities and bodies designated by the applicable legislation. Contracts with external auditors carrying out audits of the financial management of the Union shall provide for an obligation of the external auditor to inform the authorising officer by delegation of any suspected illegal activity, fraud or corruption which may harm the interests of the Union.

9. The authorising officer by delegation shall report to his or her institution on the performance of his or her duties in the form of an annual activity report containing financial and management information, including the results of controls, declaring that, except as otherwise specified in any reservations related to defined areas of revenue and expenditure, he or she has reasonable assurance that:

(a) the information contained in the report presents a true and fair view;

(b) the resources assigned to the activities described in the report have been used for their intended purpose and in accordance with the principle of sound financial management;

(c) the control procedures put in place give the necessary guarantees

	<p>concerning the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.</p> <p>The activity report shall indicate the results of the operations by reference to the objectives set, the risks associated with those operations, the use made of the resources provided and the efficiency and effectiveness of internal control systems, including an overall assessment of the costs and benefits of controls.</p> <p>No later than 15 June each year, the Commission shall send to the European Parliament and the Council a summary of the annual activity reports for the preceding year. The annual activity report of each authorising officer by delegation shall also be made available to the European Parliament and the Council.</p> <p>10. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on ex ante and ex post controls, the keeping of supporting documents, on the code of professional standards, the failure of the authorising officer to act, transmission of information to the accounting officer, and reports on negotiated procedures.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 48 RAP</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Keeping of supporting documents by authorising officers</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Article 66(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>The authorising officer shall set up paper based or electronic systems for the keeping of original supporting documents relating to and subsequent to budget implementation and budget implementation measures. The systems shall provide for:</p>
	<p>(a) such documents to be numbered;</p>

	(b) such documents to be dated;
	(c) registers, which may be computerised, to be kept identifying the exact location of such documents;
	(d) such documents to be kept for at least five years from the date on which the European Parliament grants discharge for the budgetary year to which the documents relate;
	(e) keeping of documents relating to pre-financing guarantees for the institution and of a log to enable such guarantees to be adequately monitored.
	Documents relating to operations not definitively closed shall be kept for longer than provided for in point (d) of the first paragraph, that is to say, until the end of the year following that in which the operations are closed.
	Personal data contained in supporting documents shall be deleted where possible when those data are not necessary for budgetary discharge, control and audit purposes. Article 37(2) of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 shall apply to the conservation of traffic data.
	<i>Article 49 RAP Ex ante and ex post controls (Article 66(5) and (6) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Initiation of an operation shall be understood as all the operations which are normally carried out by the staff referred to in Article 46 and which are preparatory to the adoption of the acts implementing the budget by the authorising officer responsible.

	<p>2. <i>Ex ante</i> verification of an operation shall be understood as all the <i>ex ante</i> checks put in place by the authorising officer responsible in order to verify its operational and financial aspects.</p>
	<p>3. <i>Ex ante</i> controls shall verify the coherence among supporting documents requested and any other information available.</p>
	<p>The extent in terms of frequency and intensity of the <i>ex ante</i> controls shall be determined by the authorising officer responsible taking into account risk-based and cost-effectiveness considerations. In case of doubt, the authorising officer responsible for validating the relevant payment shall request complementary information or perform an on-the-spot control in order to obtain reasonable assurance as part of the <i>ex ante</i> control.</p>
	<p>The purpose of the <i>ex ante</i> controls shall be to ascertain that:</p>
	<p>(a) the expenditure and revenue are in order and comply with the provisions applicable, in particular those of the budget and the relevant regulations and of any acts adopted in implementation of the Treaties or regulations and, where appropriate, the terms of contracts;</p>
	<p>(b) the principle of sound financial management referred to in Chapter 7 of Title II of Part One of the Financial Regulation is applied.</p>
	<p>For the purpose of controls, a series of similar individual transactions relating to routine expenditure on salaries, pensions, reimbursement of mission expenses and medical expenses may be considered by the authorising officer responsible to constitute a single operation.</p>
	<p>4. The <i>ex post</i> controls may be carried out on the basis of documents and, where appropriate, on the spot.</p>

	The <i>ex post</i> controls shall verify that operations financed by the budget are correctly implemented and in particular that the criteria referred to in paragraph 3 are complied with.
	The outcomes of <i>ex post</i> controls shall be reviewed by the authorising officer by delegation at least annually to identify any potential systemic issues. The authorising officer by delegation shall take measures to address those issues.
	The risk analysis referred to in Article 66(6) of the Financial Regulation shall be reviewed in the light of the results of controls and other relevant information.
	In case of multi-annual programmes, the authorising officer by delegation shall establish a multi-annual control strategy, specifying the nature and extent of controls over the period and the manner how the results are to be measured year-on-year for the annual assurance process.
	<i>Article 50 RAP</i> <i>Code of professional standards</i> <i>(Articles 66(7), 73(5) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The staff designated by the authorising officer responsible to verify financial operations shall be chosen on the grounds of their knowledge, skills and particular qualifications as evidenced by diplomas or by appropriate professional experience, or after an appropriate training programme.
	2. Each institution shall draw up a code of professional standards which determine, on matters of internal control:
	(a) the level of technical and financial competence required of the staff referred to in paragraph 1;

	(b) the obligation for such staff to undergo continuous training;
	(c) the mission, role and tasks allocated to them;
	(d) the rules of conduct, in particular the standards of ethics and integrity that they must comply with and the rights they enjoy.
	3. Heads of Union Delegations acting as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 56(2) of the Financial Regulation shall be subject to the Commission code of professional standards referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article for the implementation of the financial management tasks subdelegated to them.
	4. Each institution shall put in place the appropriate structures to distribute to authorising departments and update periodically appropriate information concerning the control standards and the methods and techniques available for that purpose.
	<i>Article 51 RAP</i> <i>Failure of the authorising officer by delegation to take action</i> <i>(Article 66(8) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Failure by the authorising officer by delegation to take action, as referred to in Article 66(8) of the Financial Regulation, shall mean the absence of any reply within a reasonable time given the circumstances of the case and, in any event, within a month at most.
	<i>Article 52 RAP</i> <i>Transmission of financial and management information to the accounting officer</i>

	<i>(Article 66 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The authorising officer by delegation shall send the accounting officer, in accordance with the rules adopted by the latter, the financial and management information required for the performance of the accounting officer's duties.
	The accounting officer shall be informed, regularly and at least for the closure of the accounts, by the authorising officer of the relevant financial data of the fiduciary bank accounts in order to allow the use of Union funds to be reflected in the accounts of the Union.
	<i>Article 53 RAP</i> <i>Report on negotiated procedures</i> <i>(Article 66 of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	<p>Authorising officers by delegation shall record, for each financial year, contracts concluded by the negotiated procedures referred to in points (a) to (g) of Article 134(1), points (a) to (d) of Article 135(1) and Articles 266, 268 and 270 of this Regulation. If the proportion of negotiated procedures in relation to the number of contracts awarded by the same authorising officer by delegation increases appreciably in relation to earlier years or if that proportion is distinctly higher than the average recorded for the institution, the authorising officer responsible shall report to the institution setting out any measures taken to reverse that trend. Each institution shall send a report on negotiated procedures to the European Parliament and Council. In the case of the Commission, that report shall be annexed to the summary of the annual activity reports referred to in Article 66(9) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 74 RAP</i> <i>Bodies responsible in matters of fraud</i> <i>(Articles 66(8) and 72(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>The authorities and bodies referred to in Articles 66(8) and 72(2) of the Financial Regulation shall be understood as the bodies designated in the Staff Regulations and the decisions of the Union institutions concerning the terms and conditions for internal investigations in relation to the prevention of fraud, corruption and any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's interests.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 75 RAP</i> <i>Financial irregularities</i> <i>(Articles 66(7) and 73(6) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	<p>Without prejudice to the powers of OLAF, the Financial Irregularities Panel referred to in Article 29 (hereinafter “the Panel”) shall be competent in respect of any infringement of a provision of the Financial Regulation or of a provision relating to financial management or the checking of operations resulting from an act or omission of a member of staff.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 76 RAP</i> <i>Financial Irregularities Panel</i> <i>(Articles 66(7) and 73(6) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Cases of financial irregularities as referred to in Article 75 of this Regulation shall be referred to the Panel by the appointing authority for an opinion referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 73(6) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>Where Heads of Union Delegations act as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with Article 56(2) of the Financial Regulation, the responsible authorising officer may refer directly to the Panel for an opinion on cases of financial irregularities as referred to in Article 75 of this Regulation.</p>
	<p>An authorising officer by delegation may refer a matter to the panel if he considers that a financial irregularity has occurred. The Panel shall deliver an opinion evaluating whether irregularities within the meaning of Article 75 have occurred, how serious they are and what their consequences might be. Where the Panel's analysis suggests that the case referred to it is a matter for OLAF, it shall transmit the file to the appointing authority without delay and shall inform OLAF at once.</p>
	<p>When the Panel is directly informed of a matter by a member of staff in accordance with Article 66(8) of the Financial Regulation, it shall transmit the file to the appointing authority and shall inform the member of staff accordingly. The</p>

	appointing authority may request the Panel's opinion on the case.
	2. The institution or, in the case of a joint Panel, the participating institutions shall, depending on its or their own internal organisation, specify the operating arrangements of the Panel and its composition, which shall include an external participant with the required qualifications and expertise.

Article 38a

1. Where Heads of Union Delegations act as authorising officers by sub-delegation in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 17, they shall cooperate closely with the Commission for the proper implementation of the funds, in order to ensure, in particular, the legality and regularity of financial transactions, the respect of the principle of sound financial management in the management of the funds and the effective protection of the financial interests of the Union.

To this effect, they shall take the measures necessary to prevent any situation susceptible to put at stake the responsibility of the Commission for the implementation of EDF resources sub-delegated to them as well as any conflict of priorities which is likely to have an impact on the implementation of the financial management tasks sub-delegated to them.

Where a situation or conflict of the type referred to in the second subparagraph arises, the Heads of Union Delegations shall inform the responsible Directors-General of the Commission and of the EEAS thereof without delay. Those Directors-General shall take appropriate steps to remedy the situation.

2. If Heads of Union Delegations find themselves in a situation referred to in Article 37(4), they shall refer the matter to the specialised financial irregularities panel set up pursuant

Article 67 FR

Powers and duties of Heads of Union Delegations

[there may be an error in the visualisation of this article]

1. Where Heads of Union Delegations act as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with Article 56(2), they shall cooperate closely with the Commission with regard to the proper implementation of the funds, in order to ensure, in particular, the legality and regularity of financial transactions, respect for the principle of sound financial management in the management of the funds and the effective protection of the financial interests of the Union.

To this effect, they shall take the measures necessary to prevent any situation susceptible to put at stake the responsibility of the Commission for the implementation of the budget subdelegated to them, as well as any conflict of priorities which is likely to have an impact on the implementation of the financial management tasks subdelegated to them.

Where a situation or conflict referred to in the second subparagraph arises, the Heads of Union Delegations shall inform the Directors-General responsible of the Commission and of the EEAS thereof without delay. Those Directors-General shall take appropriate steps to remedy the situation.

2. If Heads of Union Delegations find themselves in a situation as referred to in Article 66(8), they shall refer the matter to the specialised financial irregularities panel set up pursuant to Article 73(6). In the event of any illegal activity, fraud or corruption which may harm the interests of the Union, they shall inform the

to Article 54(3). In the event of any illegal activity, fraud or corruption which may harm the interests of the Union, they shall inform the authorities and bodies designated by the applicable legislation.

3. Heads of Union Delegations acting as authorising officers by sub-delegation in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 17 shall report to their authorising officer by delegation so that the latter can integrate their reports in his annual activity report referred to in Article 38. The reports of the Heads of Union Delegations shall include information on the efficiency and effectiveness of internal management and control systems put in place in their Delegation, as well as on the management of operations sub-delegated to them, and provide the assurance pursuant to Article 54(2a). These reports shall be annexed to the annual activity report of the authorising officer by delegation, and shall be made available to the European Parliament and the Council taking into account, where appropriate, their confidentiality.

The Heads of Union Delegations shall fully cooperate with institutions involved in the discharge procedure and provide, as appropriate, any additional necessary information. In this context, they may be requested to attend meetings of the relevant bodies and assist the responsible authorising officer by delegation.

4. Heads of Union Delegations acting as authorising officers by sub-delegation in accordance with the second paragraph of

authorities and bodies designated by the applicable legislation.

3. Heads of Union Delegations acting as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with Article 56(2) shall report to their authorising officer by delegation so that the latter can integrate their reports in his or her annual activity report referred to in Article 66(9). The reports of the Heads of Union Delegations shall include information on the efficiency and effectiveness of internal control systems put in place in their Delegation, as well as on the management of operations subdelegated to them, and provide the assurance referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 73(5). Those reports shall be annexed to the annual activity report of the authorising officer by delegation, and shall be made available to the European Parliament and the Council having due regard, where appropriate, to their confidentiality.

The Heads of Union Delegations shall fully cooperate with institutions involved in the discharge procedure and provide, as appropriate, any necessary additional information. In this context, they may be requested to attend meetings of the relevant bodies and assist the authorising officer by delegation responsible.

4. Heads of Union Delegations acting as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with Article 56(2) shall reply to any request by the Commission's authorising officer by delegation at the Commission's own request or, in the context of discharge, at the request of the European Parliament.

5. 5. The Commission shall ensure that subdelegating powers are not detrimental to the discharge procedure under Article 319 TFEU.

<p>Article 17 shall reply to any request by the authorising officer by delegation at its own request or, in the context of discharge, at the request of the European Parliament.</p>	
<p>5. The Commission shall ensure that sub-delegating powers are not detrimental to the discharge procedure, in accordance with Articles 142, 143 and 144.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 20 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Accounting officer</p> <p>1. The accounting officer of the Commission shall be the accounting officer of the 11th EDF.</p> <p>2. Articles 68, with the exception of the second subparagraph of its paragraph 1; and 69 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, concerning respectively powers and duties of the accounting officer, and powers which may be delegated by the accounting officer, shall apply. Article 54 and Article 57(3); the second subparagraph of Article 58(5); and Article 58(6) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 shall not apply.</p>

SECTION 3

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

Article 39

1. The Commission shall appoint an accounting officer who shall be responsible for:

- (a) proper implementation of payments, collection of revenue and recovery of amounts established as being receivable;
- (b) preparing and presenting the accounts in accordance with Title VIII;
- (c) keeping the accounts for:
 - (i) the allocations referred to in Article 15, except those for the Investment Facility, and interest rate subsidies;
 - (ii) the commitments referred to in Article 70;
 - (iii) payments, revenue and debts;
- (d) laying down, in accordance with Title VIII, the accounting rules and methods and the chart of accounts;
- (e) laying down and validating the accounting systems and where appropriate validating systems laid down by the authorising officer by delegation to supply or justify accounting information;
- (f) treasury management.

Section 3

Accounting officer

Article 68 FR

Powers and duties of the accounting officer

[there may be a problem in the visualisation of this article]

1. Each institution shall appoint an accounting officer who shall be responsible in each institution for the following:
- (a) properly implementing payments, collecting revenue and recovering amounts established as being receivable;
 - (b) preparing and presenting the accounts in accordance with Title IX of Part One;
 - (c) keeping the accounts in accordance with Title IX of Part One;
 - (d) laying down the accounting procedures and the chart of accounts, in accordance with Title IX of Part One;
 - (e) laying down and validating the accounting systems and where appropriate validating systems laid down by the authorising officer to supply or justify accounting information; in this respect, the accounting officer shall be empowered to verify at any time compliance with validation criteria;
 - (f) treasury management.

The accounting officer shall be empowered to verify the respect of criteria for the validating referred to in point (e) of the first subparagraph.

The accounting officer of the Commission shall remain responsible for the entire implementation of EDF resources, including accounting operations relating to EDF resources sub-delegated to Heads of Union Delegations.

2. The accounting officer shall obtain from the authorising officer by delegation and from the EIB, who shall, each for their own part, guarantee its reliability, all the information necessary for the production of accounts giving a true image of the financial implementation of EDF resources.

Article 40

1. Before the adoption of the accounts by the Commission, the accounting officer shall sign them off, thereby certifying that he has a reasonable assurance that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial situation of the EDF.

For that purpose the accounting officer shall satisfy himself that:

- (a) the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting rules, methods and accounting systems established under his responsibility as laid down in this Regulation for the EDF accounts;
- (b) all revenue and expenditure is entered in the

~~The responsibilities of the accounting officer of the EEAS shall concern only the EEAS section of the budget as implemented by the EEAS. The accounting officer of the Commission shall remain responsible for the entire Commission section of the budget, including accounting operations relating to appropriations sub-delegated to Heads of Union Delegations.~~

The accounting officer of the Commission shall, subject to Article 213, also act as the accounting officer of the EEAS in respect of the implementation of the EEAS section of the budget.

2. The accounting officer of the Commission shall be responsible for laying down the accounting rules and the harmonised charts of accounts in accordance with Title IX of Part One.

3. The accounting officers shall obtain from authorising officers all the information necessary for the production of accounts which give a true and fair view of the institutions' financial situation and of budgetary implementation. The authorising officers shall guarantee the reliability of that information.

4. Before the adoption of the accounts by the institution, or body referred to in Article 208, the accounting officer shall sign them off, thereby certifying that he or she has reasonable assurance that the accounts present a true and fair view of the financial situation of the institution or body referred to in Article 208.

For that purpose, the accounting officer shall verify that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting rules, referred to in Article 143, and the accounting procedures, referred to in point (d) of paragraph 1 of this Article, and that all revenue and expenditure is entered in the accounts.

accounts.

The authorising officer by delegation shall forward all information that the accounting officer needs in order to fulfil his duties.

The authorising officer shall remain fully responsible for the proper use of the funds he/she manages as well as the legality and regularity of the expenditure under his control.

Article 41

The accounting officer shall be empowered to check the information received as well as to carry out any further checks he deems necessary in order to sign off the accounts. The accounting officer shall make reservations, if necessary, explaining exactly the nature and scope of such reservations.

Article 42

Save as otherwise provided in this Regulation, only the accounting officer is empowered to manage cash and cash equivalents. He shall be responsible for their safekeeping.

Article 43

Save as otherwise provided in this Regulation, only the accounting officer may, in the performance of his duties, delegate certain tasks to subordinate staff.

The instrument of delegation shall lay down the tasks

The authorising officers by delegation shall forward any information that the accounting officer needs in order to fulfil his or her duties.

The authorising officers shall remain fully responsible for the proper use of the funds they manage, the legality and regularity of the expenditure under their control and the completeness and accuracy of the information forwarded to the accounting officer.

5. The accounting officer shall be empowered to check the information received as well as to carry out any further checks he or she deems necessary in order to sign off the accounts.

The accounting officer shall make reservations, if necessary, explaining exactly the nature and scope of such reservations.

6. Except as otherwise provided for in this Regulation, only the accounting officer shall be empowered to manage cash and cash equivalents. The accounting officer shall be responsible for their safekeeping.

7. Within the implementation of a programme or an action, fiduciary accounts may be opened in the name of the Commission and on its behalf in order to allow their management by an entity entrusted pursuant to points (ii), (iii), (v) or (vi) of Article 58(1)(c).

Such accounts shall be opened under the responsibility of the authorising officer in charge of the implementation of the programme or action in agreement with the accounting officer of the Commission.

Such accounts shall be managed under the responsibility of the authorising

<p><i>entrusted to the delegates.</i></p>	<p>officer.</p> <p>8. The accounting officer of the Commission shall lay down rules for the opening, management and closure of fiduciary accounts and their use.</p> <p>9. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the powers and duties of the accounting officer, including his or her appointment and termination of duties, his or her opinion on accounting and inventory systems, treasury and bank account management, signatures on accounts, management of account balances, transfer and conversion operations, methods of payment, legal entity files and the keeping of supporting documents.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 54 RAP</i> <i>Appointment of the accounting officer</i> <i>(Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Each institution shall appoint an accounting officer from officials subject to the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union.</p>
	<p>The accounting officer shall be chosen by the institution on the grounds of his particular competence as evidenced by diplomas or by equivalent professional experience.</p>
	<p>2. Two or more institutions or bodies may appoint the same accounting officer.</p>
	<p>In such case, they shall make the necessary arrangements in order to avoid any conflict of interest.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 55 RAP</i></p>

	<i>Termination of duties of the accounting officer (Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. A trial balance shall be drawn up without delay in the event of termination of the duties of the accounting officer.
	2. The trial balance accompanied by a handing over report shall be transmitted by the accounting officer who is terminating his duties or, if it is not possible, by an official in his department to the new accounting officer.
	The new accounting officer shall sign the trial balance in acceptance within one month from the date of transmission and he may make reservations.
	The handing over report shall also contain the result of the trial balance and any reservations made.
	3. Each institution or body referred to in Article 208 of the Financial Regulation shall inform the European Parliament, the Council and the Accounting Officer of the Commission within two weeks of the appointment or termination of duties of its accounting officer.
	<i>Article 56 RAP Validation of accounting and inventory systems (Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The responsible authorising officer shall notify the accounting officer of all developments or significant modifications of a financial management system, an inventory system or a system for the valuation of assets and liabilities, if it provides data for the accounts of the institution or is used to substantiate data thereof, so that the accounting officer can verify compliance with the validation criteria.

	At any time, the accounting officer may reexamine a financial management system already validated. Where a financial management system set up by the authorising officer is not or is no longer validated by the accounting officer, the responsible authorising officer shall establish an action plan in order to correct, in due time, weaknesses for which the validation has been rejected.
	The responsible authorising officer shall be responsible for the completeness of information transmitted to the accounting officer.
	<i>Article 57 RAP Treasury management (Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The accounting officer shall ensure that his institution has at its disposal sufficient funds to cover the cash requirements arising from budgetary implementation.
	2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the accounting officer shall set up cash management systems enabling him to draw up cash-flow forecasts.
	3. The accounting officer of the Commission shall divide up the funds available in accordance with Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1150/2000.
	<i>Article 58 RAP Management of bank accounts (Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. For the requirements of treasury management, the accounting officer may open accounts in the name of the institution with financial institutions or national central banks or cause such accounts to be opened. In duly warranted

	<p>circumstances, the accounting officer may open accounts in currencies other than the euro.</p>
	<p>2. The accounting officer shall be responsible for closing accounts referred to in the paragraph 1 or for ensuring that such accounts are closed.</p>
	<p>3. The accounting officer shall set the operating terms for accounts referred to in paragraph 1 with financial institutions, in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, efficiency and competitive tendering.</p>
	<p>4. At least every five years the accounting officer shall relaunch competitive tendering between financial institutions with which accounts could be opened in accordance with paragraph 1.</p>
	<p>Where local banking conditions allow for it, imprest related bank accounts opened with financial institutions located outside the Union shall be regularly subject to a competitive survey. Such a survey shall be undertaken, at least every five years, at the initiative of the imprest account holder, who then shall submit to the Accounting Officer a substantiated proposal for the selection of a bank for a period not exceeding five years.</p>
	<p>5. The accounting officer shall ensure strict compliance with the operating terms for accounts opened with financial institutions in accordance with paragraph 1.</p>
	<p>For imprest related bank accounts opened with financial institutions located outside the Union, the imprest account holder shall assume this responsibility taking into account the applicable legislation in the country where that holder exercises his mandate.</p>
	<p>6. The accounting officer of the Commission shall inform the accounting officers</p>

	<p>of the other institutions and of the bodies referred to in Article 208 of the Financial Regulation, on the operating terms of accounts opened with financial institutions. The accounting officers of the other institutions and of the bodies referred to in Article 208 of the Financial Regulation shall harmonise, with those operating terms, the operating terms of the accounts they open.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 59 RAP</i> <i>Signatures on accounts</i> <i>(Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>The terms governing the opening, operation and use of accounts shall provide, depending on internal control requirements, that cheques, bank credit transfer orders or any other banking operations must be signed by one or more duly authorised members of staff. Manual instructions shall be signed by at least two duly authorised members of staff, or by the accounting officer in person.</p>
	<p>For the purposes of the first subparagraph, the accounting officer of each institution shall communicate to all financial institutions with which the institution concerned has opened accounts the names and specimen signatures of the authorised members of staff.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 60 RAP</i> <i>Management of account balances</i> <i>(Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The accounting officer shall ensure that the balance on the bank accounts provided for in Article 58 does not deviate significantly from the cash-flow forecasts referred to in Article 57(2) and in any event:</p>

	(a) that none of those accounts is in debit;
	(b) that the balance of accounts held in other currencies is periodically converted into euro.
	2. The accounting officer may not maintain balances in foreign currency accounts which might cause excessive losses to the institution as a result of exchange rate fluctuations.
	<i>Article 61 RAP</i> <i>Transfers and conversion operations</i> <i>(Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Without prejudice to Article 69, the accounting officer shall conduct transfers between accounts opened by him in the name of the institution with financial institutions, and conduct currency conversion operations.
	<i>Article 62 RAP</i> <i>Methods of payment</i> <i>(Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Payments shall be made by bank credit transfer, by cheque or, from imprest accounts by debit card in accordance with Article 67(4).
	<i>Article 63 RAP</i> <i>Legal Entities Files</i> <i>(Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The accounting officer may make payments by bank credit transfer only if the

	payee's bank account details and information confirming the payee's identity, or any modification, have first been entered in a common file by institution.
	Any such entry in the file of the payee's legal and bank account details or modification of those details shall be based on a supporting document, the form of which shall be defined by the accounting officer.
	2. With a view to payment by bank credit transfer, authorising officers may enter into a commitment towards a third party on behalf of their institution only if that third party has provided the documentation required for its entry in the file.
	Authorising officers shall inform the accounting officer of any change in the legal and bank account details communicated to them by the payee and shall check that these details are valid before a payment is made.
	In connection with pre-accession aid, individual commitments may be concluded with the public authorities in the countries applying for accession to the European Union without a prior entry in the third-party file. In such cases the authorising officer shall do his utmost to ensure that the entry is made as quickly as possible. The agreements shall provide that communication to the Commission of the payee's bank account details is a condition to be fulfilled before the first payment can be made.
	<i>Article 64 RAP</i> <i>Keeping of supporting documents by the accounting officer</i> <i>(Article 68 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Supporting documents for the accounting system and for the preparation of the accounts referred to in Article 141 of the Financial Regulation shall be kept for at least five years from the date on which the European Parliament grants discharge for

	the budgetary year to which the documents relate.
	However, documents relating to operations not definitively closed shall be kept for longer, that is to say, until the end of the year following that in which the operations are closed. Article 37(2) of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 shall apply to the conservation of traffic data.
	Each institution shall decide in which department the supporting documents are to be kept.
	Article 69 FR
	Powers which may be delegated by the accounting officer
	1. The accounting officer may, in the performance of his or her duties, delegate certain tasks to subordinate staff.
	The instrument of delegation shall set out those tasks.
	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on persons empowered to administer accounts in a local unit.
	<i>Article 65 RAP</i> <i>Persons empowered to administer accounts</i> <i>(Article 69 of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	<p>Each institution shall lay down the conditions in accordance with which the staff it designates and empowers to administer accounts in the local units referred to in Article 72 are authorised to communicate the names and specimen signatures to local financial institutions.</p>
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SECTION 4

PAYING AGENT

Article 44

1. In order to make the payments provided for in Article 37(1) and (4) of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement or in the measures implementing the Overseas Association Decision, the accounting officer shall open accounts, where appropriate, with financial institutions in the ACP States and the OCTs, for payments in the national currencies of the ACP States or in the local currencies of the OCTs, and with financial institutions in the Member States, for payments in euro and other currencies.

2. These financial institutions, which act as paying agents, execute payments on the instructions of the accounting officer.

3. In accordance with Article 37(2) of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement, deposits in accounts with financial institutions in the ACP States and the OCTs shall bear no interest and the latter shall receive no remuneration for their services.

In accordance with Article 1(6) of the Internal Agreement, deposits in accounts with financial institutions in the Member States shall bear interest. Such interest shall be credited to the one of the accounts provided for in that Article.

Section 4

Imprest administrator

Article 70 FR

Imprest accounts

~~1. — Imprest accounts may be set up for the collection of revenue other than own resources and for the payment of small sums as defined in the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation.~~

~~— However, in the field of crisis management aid and humanitarian aid operations within the meaning of Article 128, imprest accounts may be used without any limitation on the amount, while respecting the level of appropriations decided by the European Parliament and the Council on the corresponding budget line for the current financial year.~~

~~2. — Imprest accounts shall be endowed by the institution's accounting officer and shall be placed under the responsibility of imprest administrators designated by the institution's accounting officer.~~

~~3. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the conditions for imprest accounts, including maximum amounts to be paid by imprest administrators and rules also for external actions, including rules regarding the choice of imprest administrators, the endowment of imprest accounts, checks by authorising and accounting officers and the respect of procurement procedures. Furthermore, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the~~

	creation of imprest accounts and imprest administrators in Union Delegations.
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Article 45

The relations between the Commission and the paying agents provided for in Article 37 of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement or in the measures implementing the Overseas Association Decision shall be the subject of contracts. Once signed, copies of those contracts shall be sent to the Court of Auditors for information purposes.

Article 46

1. The Commission shall transfer from the special accounts opened pursuant to Article 59(3) the amounts needed to replenish the accounts opened in its name in accordance with Article 44. Such transfers shall be made on the basis of the cash needs of the projects and programmes.
2. The Commission shall endeavour to make any withdrawals from the special accounts referred to in the first subparagraph of Article 59(3) in such a way as to maintain a distribution of its assets in those accounts corresponding to the proportions in which the various Member States contribute to the EDF.

Article 47

The signatures of the Commission staff who are empowered to carry out operations on the EDF's accounts shall be lodged with the banks concerned when the accounts are opened or, in the case of staff who are authorised subsequently, when they

Article 66 RAP

*Conditions of use of imprest accounts
(Article 70 of the Financial Regulation)*

~~1. Where, owing to the limited amounts involved, it is materially impossible or inefficient to carry out payment operations by budgetary procedures, imprest accounts may be set up for the payment of such expenditure.~~

~~2. The imprest administrator may provisionally validate and pay expenditure, on the basis of a detailed framework set out in the instructions from the authorising officer responsible. Those instructions shall specify the rules and conditions under which the provisional validation and payments shall be carried out and, where appropriate, the terms for signing legal commitments within the meaning of Article 97(1)(e).~~

~~3. The creation of an imprest account and the appointment of an imprest administrator shall be the subject of a decision by the accounting officer, on a duly substantiated proposal from the authorising officer responsible. That decision shall set out the respective responsibilities and obligations of the imprest administrator and the authorising officer.~~

~~Amendment of the operating terms for an imprest account shall also be the subject of a decision by the accounting officer on a duly substantiated proposal from the authorising officer responsible.~~

~~In Union Delegations, imprest accounts shall be set up for the payment of expenditure from both the Commission section of the Budget and the European External Action Service (hereinafter "EEAS") section of the Budget, ensuring full traceability of expenditure.~~

are designated.

SECTION 5

PAYING MANAGER

Article 48

1. In order to make the payments provided for in Article 44, the accounting officer shall appoint a paying manager to execute local payments through the paying agent account.

2. Paying managers shall be chosen from officials or, should the need arise and only in duly substantiated cases, from other members of staff.

Article 49

1. The appointment of the paying manager shall be the subject of a decision by the accounting officer, on a duly substantiated proposal from the authorising officer responsible. That decision shall set out the respective responsibilities and obligations of the paying manager and the authorising officer.

It shall specify at least:

- (a) the frequency with which supporting documents are to be produced and the procedure for producing them;
- (b) the procedure to be followed for replenishing the paying agent account;
- (c) the period of validity of the authorisation given to

Article 67 RAP

*Conditions governing creation and payment
(Article 70 of the Financial Regulation)*

~~1. The decision setting up an imprest account and appointing an imprest administrator and the decision amending the operating terms for an imprest account shall specify in particular:~~

~~(a) the maximum amount which may be initially provided as an imprest, and its purpose;~~

~~(b) whether a bank account or post office giro account is to be opened in the name of the institution;~~

~~(c) the nature and maximum amount of each item of expenditure which may be paid by the imprest administrator to third parties or collected from them;~~

~~(d) the frequency with which supporting documents must be produced, the procedure for producing them and the arrangements for transmitting them to the authorising officer for settlement;~~

~~(e) the procedure to be followed if the imprest has to be replenished;~~

~~(f) that imprest transactions will be settled by the authorising officer by no later than the end of the following month, so that the accounting balance and the bank balance can be reconciled;~~

~~(g) the period of validity of the authorisation given to the imprest administrator by the accounting officer;~~

~~(h) the identity of the appointed imprest administrator.~~

~~2. In proposals for decisions setting up imprest accounts the authorising officer responsible shall ensure that:~~

~~(a) priority is given to the use of budgetary procedures where there is access to~~

the paying manager by the accounting officer;

(d) the identity of the appointed paying manager.

The amendment of the decision referred to in the first subparagraph shall also be the subject of a decision by the accounting officer on a duly substantiated proposal from the authorising officer responsible.

2. The paying manager may, after the instruction from the accounting officer, execute duly authorised payments to third parties within the limits of the positive residual balance of the paying agent account at the bank.

Article 50

Replenishment of local bank accounts

The accounting officer shall replenish paying agent accounts and shall monitor those accounts as regards the opening of bank accounts, the delegation of signatures and the controls on the spot and in the centralised accounts.

Paying agent accounts may be endowed directly by miscellaneous local revenue that arise from:

(a) miscellaneous repayments;

(b) recovery orders.

~~the central computerised accounting system;~~

~~(b) — imprest accounts are used only in substantiated cases.~~

~~The maximum amount which may be paid by the imprest administrator where it is materially impossible or inefficient to carry out payment operations by budgetary procedures shall not exceed EUR 60 000 for each item of expenditure.~~

~~3. — The imprest administrator may make payments to third parties on the basis and within the limits of:~~

~~(a) — prior budgetary and legal commitments signed by the authorising officer responsible;~~

~~(b) — the positive residual balance of the imprest account, in cash or at the bank.~~

~~4. — Payments from imprest accounts may be made by bank credit transfer, including the direct debit system referred to in Article 89 of the Financial Regulation, cheque or other means of payment, including debit cards, in accordance with the instructions laid down by the accounting officer.~~

~~5. — Payments made shall be followed by formal final validation decisions and/or payment orders signed by the authorising officer responsible.~~

Article 68 RAP

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Choice of imprest administrators</i> (Article 70 of the Financial Regulation)</p>
	<p>Imprest administrators shall be chosen from officials or, should the need arise and only in duly substantiated cases, from other members of staff. Imprest administrators shall be chosen on the grounds of their knowledge, skills and particular qualifications as evidenced by diplomas or by appropriate professional experience, or after an appropriate training programme.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 69 RAP</i> <i>Endowment of imprest accounts</i> (Article 70 of the Financial Regulation)</p>
	<p>1. — The accounting officer shall make payments endowing imprest accounts and shall monitor those accounts from the point of view of opening of bank accounts and delegation of signatures and controls on the spot and in the centralised accounts. The accounting officer shall endow the imprest accounts. Imprests shall be paid to the bank account opened for the imprest.</p>
	<p>Imprest accounts may also be endowed directly by miscellaneous local revenue such as that arising from:</p>
	<p>(a) — sales of equipment;</p>
	<p>(b) — publications;</p>
	<p>(c) — miscellaneous repayments;</p>
	<p>(d) — interest.</p>

	<p>The imprest shall be regularized, in terms of expenditure or miscellaneous or assigned revenue, in accordance with the decision setting up the imprest account referred to in Article 67 and the provisions of the Financial Regulation. The amounts in question shall be deducted by the authorising officer when he subsequently replenishes the imprest accounts concerned.</p>
	<p>2. In order, in particular, to avoid any exchange losses, the imprest administrator may make transfers between different bank accounts relating to the same imprest.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 70-RAP</i> <i>Checks by authorising officers and accounting officers</i> <i>(Article 70 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The imprest administrator shall keep an account of the funds at his disposal, in cash and at the bank, and of payments made and amounts received, in accordance with the rules and on the instructions given by the accounting officer. Statements of that account shall be accessible at all times to the authorising officer responsible and a list of transactions shall be established at least once a month and be sent in the following month together with supporting documents by the imprest administrator to the authorising officer responsible for settlement of the imprest operations.</p>

	<p>2. The accounting officer shall carry out, or have carried out by a staff member in his own department or in the authorising department specially empowered for that purpose, checks, which must as a general rule be effected on the spot and without warning, to verify the existence of the funds allocated to the imprest administrators and the bookkeeping and to check that imprest transactions are settled within the time limit set. The accounting officer shall communicate the findings of those checks to the authorising officer responsible.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 71 RAP</i> <i>Procurement procedure</i> <i>{Article 70 of the Financial Regulation}</i></p>
	<p>Payments made from imprest accounts may, within the limits laid down in Article 137(3), consist simply in the payment of costs against invoices, without prior acceptance of a tender.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 72 RAP</i> <i>Creation of imprest accounts</i> <i>{Article 70 of the Financial Regulation}</i></p>
	<p>For the payment of certain categories of expenditure, one or more imprest accounts may be set up in each local unit outside the Union in accordance with Article 70 of the Financial Regulation. A local unit shall be, for instance, a Union delegation, office or branch office in a third country.</p>

	<p>The decision setting up such an imprest account shall lay down its operating terms in accordance with Article 70 of the Financial Regulation and on the basis of the specific needs of each local unit.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 73 RAP</i> <i>Imprest administrators and persons empowered to administer accounts in the Union delegations</i> <i>(Article 70 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>In exceptional circumstances and for the purposes of continuity of service, the duties of EEAS imprest administrator in the Union Delegations may be performed by staff of the Commission. Under the same conditions, the staff of the EEAS may be designated as imprest administrators for the Commission in the Union delegations.</p>
	<p>In Union Delegations the rules and conditions laid down in first subparagraph shall apply to the appointment of persons authorised by the Accounting Officer to carry out banking operations.</p>
	<p>CHAPTER 4 Liability of the financial actors</p>

CHAPTER 4

LIABILITY OF THE FINANCIAL ACTORS

SECTION 1

GENERAL RULES

Article 51

1. Without prejudice to any disciplinary action, the authorising officers by delegation and by sub-delegation may at any time have their delegation or sub-delegation withdrawn temporarily or definitively by the authority which appointed them.
2. Without prejudice to any disciplinary action, the accounting officer may at any time be suspended temporarily or definitively from his duties by the Commission.
3. Without prejudice to any disciplinary action, the paying managers may at any time be suspended temporarily or definitively from their duties by the authority which appointed them.

Article 52

1. The provisions of this Chapter are without prejudice to any liability under criminal law which the financial actors referred to in Article 51 may incur as provided in the applicable national law and in the provisions in force on the protection of

Section 1

General rules

Article 71 FR

Withdrawal of delegation and suspension of duties given to financial actors

1. Authorising officers responsible may at any time have their delegation or subdelegation withdrawn temporarily or definitively by the authority which appointed them.
2. The accounting officer or imprest administrators, or both, may at any time be suspended temporarily or definitively from their duties by the authority which appointed them.
3. This Article shall be without prejudice to any disciplinary action taken in respect of the financial actors referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 72 FR

Liability of the authorising officer for illegal activity, fraud or corruption

1. This Chapter is without prejudice to any liability under criminal law which the financial actors referred to in Article 71 may incur as provided for in applicable national law and in the provisions in force concerning the protection of the Union's financial interests and the fight against corruption involving Union officials or officials of Member States.
2. Without prejudice to Articles 73, 74 and 75 of this Regulation, each

<p>the financial interests of the Communities and on the fight against corruption involving staff or officials of Member States.</p> <p>2. Each authorising officer, accounting officer or paying manager shall be liable to disciplinary action and payment of compensation as laid down in the Staff Regulations, without prejudice to Articles 53 to 56 of this Regulation.</p> <p><i>In the event of fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity which may harm the interests of the Community, the matter shall be submitted to the competent authorities or bodies.</i></p>	<p>authorising officer responsible, accounting officer or imprest administrator shall be liable to disciplinary action and payment of compensation as laid down in the Staff Regulations. In the event of illegal activity, fraud or corruption which may harm the interests of the Union, the matter shall be submitted to the authorities and bodies designated by the applicable legislation, in particular to OLAF.</p> <p>3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the liability of the authorising officers, the accounting officers and the imprest administrators in the event of illegal activity, fraud or corruption.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 74 RAP</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bodies responsible in matters of fraud</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Articles 66(8) and 72(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The authorities and bodies referred to in Articles 66(8) and 72(2) of the Financial Regulation shall be understood as the bodies designated in the Staff Regulations and the decisions of the Union institutions concerning the terms and conditions for internal investigations in relation to the prevention of fraud, corruption and any other illegal activity detrimental to the Union's interests.</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Section 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rules applicable to authorising officers responsible</p>

SECTION 2

RULES APPLICABLE TO AUTHORISING OFFICERS

Article 53

The obligation for the authorising officer to pay compensation as referred to in Article 52(2) shall apply in particular if:

(a) the authorising officer, whether intentionally or through gross negligence on his part, determines entitlements to be recovered or issues recovery orders, commits expenditure or signs a payment order without complying with this Regulation;

(b) the authorising officer, whether intentionally or through gross negligence on his part, omits to draw up a document establishing an amount receivable, neglects to issue a recovery order or is late in issuing it or is late in issuing a payment order, thereby rendering the Commission liable to civil action by third parties.

Article 54

1. Where an authorising officer by delegation or by sub-delegation considers that a decision which it is his responsibility to take is irregular or contrary to the principles of sound financial management, he shall inform the delegating authority in writing. If the delegating authority then gives a reasoned instruction in writing to the authorising officer by delegation or by sub-delegation to take the decision in

Article 73 FR

Rules applicable to authorising officers

[there may be an error in the visualisation of this article]

1. The authorising officer responsible shall be liable for payment of compensation as laid down in the Staff Regulations.

2. The obligation to pay compensation shall apply in particular if the authorising officer responsible, whether intentionally or through gross negligence on his or her part:

(a) determines entitlements to be recovered or issues recovery orders, commits expenditure or signs a payment order without complying with this Regulation or the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation;

(b) omits to draw up a document establishing an amount receivable, neglects to issue a recovery order or is late in issuing it or is late in issuing a payment order, thereby rendering the institution liable to civil action by third parties.

3. An authorising officer by delegation or subdelegation who considers that a decision, which is his or her responsibility to take, is irregular or contrary to the principle of sound financial management shall inform the delegating authority in writing. If the delegating authority then gives a reasoned instruction in writing to the authorising officer by delegation or subdelegation to take that decision, that authorising officer shall not be held liable.

4. In the event of subdelegation within his or her service, the authorising officer by delegation shall continue to be responsible for the efficiency and effectiveness of

<p>question, the latter may not be held liable.</p> <p>2. In the event of sub-delegation within his services, the authorising officer by delegation continues to be responsible for the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal management and control systems put in place and for the choice of the authorising officer by sub-delegation.</p> <p>2a. In the event of sub-delegation to the Heads of Union Delegations, the authorising officer by delegation shall be responsible for the definition of the internal management and control systems put in place, their efficiency and effectiveness. The Heads of Union Delegations shall be responsible for the adequate setting up and functioning of those systems, in accordance with the instructions of the authorising officer by delegation, and for the management of the funds and the operations they carry out within the Union Delegation under their responsibility. Before taking up their duties, they must complete specific training courses on the tasks and responsibilities of authorising officers and the implementation of EDF resources, in accordance with Article 37(3).</p> <p>Heads of Union Delegations shall report on their responsibilities pursuant to the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Article 38a(3).</p> <p>Each year, Heads of Union Delegations provide to the authorising officer by delegation the assurance on the internal management and control systems put in place in their Delegation, as well as on the management of operations sub-</p>	<p>the internal management and control systems put in place and for the choice of the authorising officer by subdelegation.</p> <p>5. In the event of subdelegation to the Heads of Union Delegations, the authorising officer by delegation shall be responsible for the definition of the internal management and control systems put in place, as well as their efficiency and effectiveness. The Heads of Union Delegations shall be responsible for the adequate setting up and functioning of those systems, in accordance with the instructions of the authorising officer by delegation, and for the management of the funds and the operations they carry out within the Union Delegation under their responsibility. Before taking up their duties, they shall complete specific training courses on the tasks and responsibilities of authorising officers and the implementation of the budget.</p> <p>Heads of Union Delegations shall report on their responsibilities pursuant to the first subparagraph of this paragraph in accordance with Article 67(3).</p> <p>Each year, Heads of Union Delegations shall provide to the Commission's authorising officer by delegation assurance on the internal management and control systems put in place in their Delegation, as well as on the management of operations subdelegated to them, and the results thereof, in order to allow the authorising officer to make the statement of assurance provided for in Article 66(9).</p> <p>6. Each institution shall set up a specialised financial irregularities panel or participate in a joint panel established by several institutions. The panels shall function independently and determine whether a financial irregularity has occurred and what the consequences, if any, should be.</p> <p>On the basis of the opinion of this panel, the institution shall decide whether to initiate proceedings for disciplinary action or payment of compensation. If the panel</p>
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delegated to them and the results thereof, in order to allow the authorising officer to establish his statement of assurance, as provided for in Article 38.

3. The specialised financial irregularities panel set up by the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 shall have competence to determine, in relation to the EDF, whether a financial irregularity has occurred and what the consequences, if any, should be. In respect of the management of EDF resources by the Commission, cases shall be referred to that panel as provided for in Article 75 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.

On the basis of the panel's opinion, the Commission shall decide whether to initiate proceedings entailing liability to disciplinary action or to payment of compensation. If the panel detects systemic problems, it shall send a report with recommendations to the authorising officer by delegation, provided the latter is not the person involved, as well as to the internal auditor.

4. Where Heads of Union Delegations act as authorising officers by sub-delegation in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 17, the specialised financial irregularities panel set up by the Commission pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Article shall be competent for cases referred to in that paragraph 3.

If the panel detects systemic problems, it shall send a report with recommendations to the authorising officer, the High

detects systemic problems, it shall send a report with recommendations to the authorising officer and to the authorising officer by delegation, unless the latter is the person involved, as well as to the internal auditor.

7. Where Heads of Union Delegations act as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with Article 56(2), the specialised financial irregularities panel set up by the Commission pursuant to paragraph 6 of this Article shall be competent for cases referred to in Article 56(2).

If the panel detects systemic problems, it shall send a report with recommendations to the authorising officer, the High Representative and the Commission's authorising officer by delegation, unless the latter is the person involved, as well as to the internal auditor.

On the basis of the opinion of the panel, the Commission may request the High Representative to initiate, in the High Representative's capacity as appointing authority, proceedings for disciplinary action or payment of compensation against authorising officers by subdelegation if irregularities concern the competences of the Commission subdelegated to them. In such a case, the High Representative shall take appropriate action in accordance with the Staff Regulations in order to enforce decisions on disciplinary action or the payment of compensation, as recommended by the Commission.

The Member States shall fully support the Union in the enforcement of any liability, under Article 22 of the Staff Regulations, of temporary staff to whom point (e) of Article 2 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities applies.

<p>Representative and to the authorising officer by delegation, provided the latter is not the person involved, as well as to the internal auditor.</p> <p>On the basis of the opinion of the panel, the Commission may request the High Representative to initiate, in the High Representative's capacity as appointing authority, proceedings entailing liability to disciplinary action or to payment of compensation against authorising officers by sub-delegation if irregularities concern the competencies of the Commission sub-delegated to them. In such a case the High Representative will take appropriate action in accordance with the Staff Regulations in order to enforce decisions on disciplinary action and/or the payment of compensation, as recommended by the Commission.</p> <p><i>The Member States shall fully support the Union in the enforcement of any liability under Article 22 of the Staff Regulations of temporary staff to whom Article 2, point (e), of the Conditions of Employment of other servants of the Communities applies.</i></p>	<p>8. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules applicable to authorising officers by delegation, including confirmation of instructions and the role of the Financial Irregularities Panel.</p>
	<p><i>Article 50 RAP Code of professional standards (Articles 66(7), 73(5) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The staff designated by the authorising officer responsible to verify financial operations shall be chosen on the grounds of their knowledge, skills and particular qualifications as evidenced by diplomas or by appropriate professional experience,</p>

	or after an appropriate training programme.
	2. Each institution shall draw up a code of professional standards which determine, on matters of internal control:
	(a) the level of technical and financial competence required of the staff referred to in paragraph 1;
	(b) the obligation for such staff to undergo continuous training;
	(c) the mission, role and tasks allocated to them;
	(d) the rules of conduct, in particular the standards of ethics and integrity that they must comply with and the rights they enjoy.
	3. Heads of Union Delegations acting as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 56(2) of the Financial Regulation shall be subject to the Commission code of professional standards referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article for the implementation of the financial management tasks subdelegated to them.
	4. Each institution shall put in place the appropriate structures to distribute to authorising departments and update periodically appropriate information concerning the control standards and the methods and techniques available for that purpose.
	<p><i>Article 75 RAP</i></p> <p><i>Financial irregularities</i></p> <p><i>(Articles 66(7) and 73(6) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	<p>Without prejudice to the powers of OLAF, the Financial Irregularities Panel referred to in Article 29 (hereinafter “the Panel”) shall be competent in respect of any infringement of a provision of the Financial Regulation or of a provision relating to financial management or the checking of operations resulting from an act or omission of a member of staff.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 76 RAP</i> <i>Financial Irregularities Panel</i> <i>(Articles 66(7) and 73(6) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Cases of financial irregularities as referred to in Article 75 of this Regulation shall be referred to the Panel by the appointing authority for an opinion referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 73(6) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>Where Heads of Union Delegations act as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with Article 56(2) of the Financial Regulation, the responsible authorising officer may refer directly to the Panel for an opinion on cases of financial irregularities as referred to in Article 75 of this Regulation.</p>
	<p>An authorising officer by delegation may refer a matter to the panel if he considers that a financial irregularity has occurred. The Panel shall deliver an opinion evaluating whether irregularities within the meaning of Article 75 have occurred, how serious they are and what their consequences might be. Where the Panel's analysis suggests that the case referred to it is a matter for OLAF, it shall transmit the file to the appointing authority without delay and shall inform OLAF at once.</p>
	<p>When the Panel is directly informed of a matter by a member of staff in accordance with Article 66(8) of the Financial Regulation, it shall transmit the file to the appointing authority and shall inform the member of staff accordingly. The</p>

	appointing authority may request the Panel's opinion on the case.
	2. The institution or, in the case of a joint Panel, the participating institutions shall, depending on its or their own internal organisation, specify the operating arrangements of the Panel and its composition, which shall include an external participant with the required qualifications and expertise.
	<i>Article 77 RAP Confirmation of instructions (Article 73(3) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. An authorising officer by delegation or subdelegation who receives a binding instruction which he considers to be irregular or contrary to the principle of sound financial management, in particular because the instruction cannot be carried out with the resources allocated to him, shall, in writing, so inform the authority from which he received the delegation or subdelegation. If the instruction is confirmed in writing and that confirmation is received in good time and is sufficiently clear, in that it refers explicitly to the points which the authorising officer by delegation or subdelegation has challenged, the authorising officer may not be held liable. He shall carry out the instruction, unless it is manifestly illegal or constitutes a breach of the relevant safety standards.
	2. Paragraph 1 shall also apply in cases where an authorising officer learns, in the course of acting on a binding instruction, that the circumstances of the case may give rise to an irregular situation.
	Any instructions confirmed in the circumstances described in Article 73(3) of the Financial Regulation shall be recorded by the authorising officer by delegation responsible and mentioned in his annual activity report.

Section 3

Rules applicable to accounting officers and ~~impres~~ administrators

SECTION 3

RULES APPLICABLE TO ACCOUNTING OFFICERS AND PAYING MANAGERS

Article 55

An accounting officer shall be liable to disciplinary action and payment of compensation, as laid down and in accordance with the procedures in the Staff Regulations. He may in particular render himself liable by any of the following forms of misconduct:

- (a) he loses or damages monies, assets and documents in his keeping;
- (b) he wrongly alters bank accounts or postal giro accounts;
- (c) he recovers or pays amounts which are not in conformity with the corresponding recovery or payment orders;
- (d) he fails to collect revenue due.

Article 74 FR

Rules applicable to accounting officers

1. An accounting officer shall be liable to disciplinary action and payment of compensation, as laid down in, and in accordance with, the procedures in the Staff Regulations. An accounting officer may, in particular, become liable as a result of any of the following forms of misconduct on his or her part:

- (a) losing or damaging funds, assets or documents in his or her keeping;
- (b) wrongly altering bank accounts or postal giro accounts;
- (c) recovering or paying amounts which are not in conformity with the corresponding recovery or payment orders;
- (d) failing to collect revenue due.

~~2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the liability of accounting officers in the event of other forms of misconduct.~~

Article 56

A paying manager shall be liable to disciplinary action and payment of compensation, as laid down and in accordance with the procedures in the Staff Regulations. He may in particular render himself liable by any of the following forms of misconduct:

- (a) he loses or damages monies, assets and documents in his keeping;
- (b) he cannot provide proper supporting documents for the payments he/she has made;
- (c) he makes payments to persons other than those entitled;
- (d) he fails to collect revenue due.

CHAPTER 5

REVENUE OPERATIONS

SECTION 1

MAKING AVAILABLE OF EDF RESOURCES

Article 57

Article 75 FR

Rules applicable to imprest administrators

~~1. An imprest administrator officer shall be liable to disciplinary action and payment of compensation, as laid down in, and in accordance with, the procedures in the Staff Regulations. An imprest administrator may in particular become liable as a result of any of the following forms of misconduct on his or her part:~~

- ~~—— (a) losing or damaging funds, assets or documents in his or her keeping;~~
- ~~—— (b) not providing proper supporting documents for the payments he or she has made;~~
- ~~—— (c) making payments to persons other than those entitled to such payments;~~
- ~~—— (d) failing to collect revenue due.~~

~~2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the liability of imprest administrators in the event of other forms of misconduct.~~

TITLE V

REVENUE OPERATIONS

Article 21 11th EDF FR

Annual contribution and its instalments

1. In accordance with Article 7 of the Internal Agreement, the ceiling for the annual amount of the contributions for the year $n + 2$ and the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 1$ shall be determined according to the procedure set out in the paragraphs 2 to 7. The annual contributions shall be paid in three instalments. These shall be determined according to the procedure set out in the paragraphs 2 to 7.

2. The Commission shall present a proposal by 15 October of the year n , containing:

- the ceiling for the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 2$;
- the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 1$;
- the amount of the first instalment of the contribution for the year $n + 1$.

The Council shall decide on this proposal by 15 November of the year n .

The Member States shall pay the first instalment of the contribution for the year $n + 1$ at the latest by 21 January of the year $n + 1$.

3. The Commission shall present a proposal by 15 June of the year $n + 1$, containing:

- the amount of the second instalment of the contribution for the year $n + 1$;
- a revised annual amount of the contribution for the

[there may be an error in the visualisation of this article]

1. In accordance with Article 7 of the Internal Agreement, the ceiling for the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 2$ and the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 1$, as well as its payment in three instalments, shall be determined according to the procedure set out in paragraphs 2 to 7 of this Article.

The instalments to be paid by each Member State shall be set in such a way as to be in proportion to that Member State's contributions to the 11th EDF as fixed in Article 1(2) of the Internal Agreement.

2. The Commission shall present a proposal by 20 October of the year n , containing:

- the ceiling for the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 2$;
- the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 1$;
- the amount of the first instalment of the contribution for the year $n + 1$.

The Council shall decide on this proposal by 15 November of the year n .

The Member States shall pay the first instalment of the contribution for the year $n + 1$ at the latest by 21 January of the year $n + 1$.

3. The Commission shall present a proposal by 15 June of the year $n + 1$, containing:

year $n + 1$ in line with actual needs, in case where, in accordance with Article 7(3) of the Internal Agreement, the annual amount deviate from actual needs.

The Council shall decide on the proposal at the latest 21 calendar days following the presentation by the Commission of its proposal.

Member States shall pay the second instalment at the latest 21 calendar days following the date on which the Council decision was notified to them.

4. By 15 June of the year $n + 1$, the Commission, taking into account the EIB's forecasts concerning the management and operation of the Investment Facility, including interest rates subsidies, shall establish and communicate to the Council a statement of the commitments, payments and the annual amount of the calls for contributions made in the year n and to be made in the year $n + 1$ and $n + 2$. These amounts for the years $n + 1$ and $n + 2$ shall be based on the capacity to deliver effectively the proposed level of resources.

5. The Commission shall present a proposal by 10 October of the year $n + 1$, containing:

- the third instalment of the annual contribution for the year $n + 1$;
- a revised annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 1$ in line with actual needs, in case where in accordance with Article 7(3) of the Internal

– the amount of the second instalment of the contribution for the year $n + 1$;

– a revised annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 1$ in line with actual needs, in cases where, in accordance with Article 7(3) of the Internal Agreement, the annual amount deviates from actual needs.

The Council shall decide on the proposal at the latest 21 calendar days following the presentation by the Commission of its proposal.

The Member States shall pay the second instalment at the latest by 27 July of the year $n + 1$.

4. By 15 June of the year $n + 1$, the Commission, taking into account the EIB's forecasts concerning the management and operation of the Investment Facility, including those interest rates subsidies which are implemented by the EIB, shall establish and communicate to the Council a statement of the commitments, payments, and the annual amount of the calls for contributions made in the year n and to be made in the years $n + 1$ and $n + 2$. The amounts for the years $n + 1$ and $n + 2$ shall be based on the capacity to deliver effectively the proposed level of resources.

5. The Commission shall present a proposal by 10 October of the year $n + 1$, containing:

– the third instalment of the annual contribution for the year $n + 1$;

– a revised annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 1$ in line with actual needs, in cases where in accordance with Article 7(3) of the Internal Agreement the annual amount deviates from actual needs.

Agreement the annual amount deviate from actual needs.

The Council shall decide on the proposal at the latest 21 calendar days following the presentation by the Commission of its proposal.

Member States shall pay the third instalment at the latest 21 calendar days following the date on which the Council decision was notified to them.

6. The sum of the instalments relating to a certain year cannot exceed the annual amount of the contribution determined for that year. The annual amount of the contribution cannot exceed the ceiling determined for that year. The ceiling cannot be increased except in accordance with Article 7(4) of the Internal Agreement. A possible increase of the ceiling shall be made part of the proposals referred to under paragraphs 2 to 5 above.

7. The ceiling for the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 2$, the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 1$ and the instalments of the contributions shall specify, in accordance with Articles 1 to 5:

- (a) the amount managed by the Commission and
- (b) the amount managed by the EIB, including interest rates subsidies.

The Council shall decide on the proposal at the latest 21 calendar days following the presentation by the Commission of its proposal.

The Member States shall pay the third instalment at the latest by 21 November of the year $n + 1$.

6. The sum of the instalments relating to a certain year cannot exceed the annual amount of the contribution determined for that year. The annual amount of the contribution cannot exceed the ceiling determined for that year. The ceiling cannot be increased except in accordance with Article 7(4) of the Internal Agreement. A possible increase of the ceiling shall be made part of the proposals referred to under paragraphs 2, 3 and 5 of this Article.

7. The ceiling for the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 2$, the annual amount of the contribution for the year $n + 1$ and the instalments of the contributions shall specify:

- (a) the amount managed by the Commission and
- (b) the amount managed by the EIB, including the interest rates subsidies managed by it.

Article 58

1. The instalments to be paid by each Member State and referred to in Article 57 shall be set in such a way as to be in proportion to that State's contributions to the EDF as fixed in Article 1(2) of the Internal Agreement.

2. Calls for contributions shall first use up the amounts laid down for previous EDFs, one after the other.

Article 59

1. The financial contributions of the Member States shall be expressed in euro.

2. Each Member State shall pay the amount of its contribution in euro.

3. In respect of the amount due to the Commission under Article 57(7)(a), financial contributions shall be credited by each Member State to a special account entitled 'Commission of the European Communities — European Development Fund' opened with the bank of issue of that Member State or the financial institution designated by it. The amount of such contributions shall remain in those special accounts until the payments provided for in Article 37 of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement or in the measures implementing the Overseas Association Decision need to be made.

In respect of the amount due to the EIB under Article 57(7)(b),

Article 22 11th EDF FR

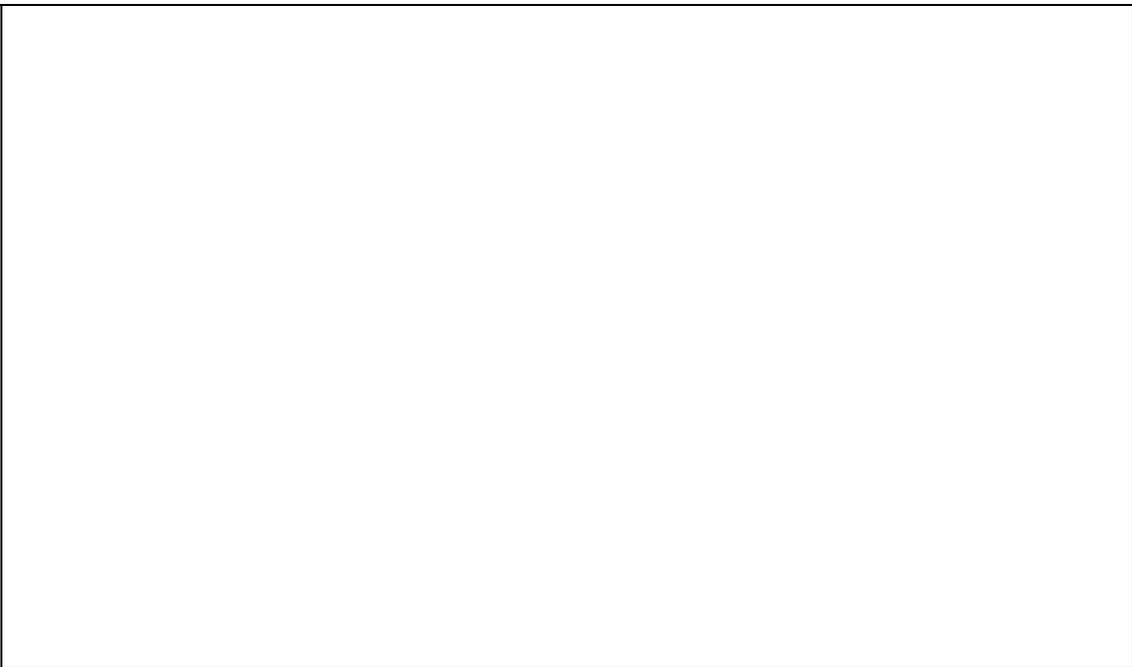
Payment of the instalments

1. Calls for contributions shall first use up the amounts laid down for previous European Development Funds, one after the other.
2. The contributions of the Member States shall be expressed in euro and shall be paid in euro.
3. The contribution referred to in Article 21(7)(a) shall be credited by each Member State to a special account entitled 'European Commission - European Development Fund' opened with the central bank of that Member State or the financial institution designated by it. The amount of such contributions shall remain in those special accounts until the payments need to be made. The Commission shall endeavour to make any withdrawals from the special accounts in such a way as to maintain a distribution of assets in those accounts corresponding to the contribution key pursuant to Article 1(2)(a) of the Internal Agreement.

The contribution referred to in Article 21(7)(b) of this Regulation shall be credited by each Member State in accordance with Article 53(1).

financial contributions shall be credited by each Member State, in accordance with Article 146.

Where necessary, the Commission shall provide appropriate technical assistance in the implementation of the Council decisions referred to in Article 57.



Article 60

1. Where an instalment of contributions payable under this Article is not paid by the concerned deadline fixed by paragraphs 2 to 5 of Article 57, the Member State concerned shall be required to pay interest in respect of the unpaid amount.

2. The interest for unpaid amounts shall be charged at a rate of two percentage points above the interest rate applied by the European Central Bank to its main refinancing operations on the first working day of the month in which the amount falls due, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*. That rate shall be increased by a quarter of a percentage point for each month of delay.

The interest shall be payable for the entire period of delay and shall be calculated from the first calendar day following the deadline for payment of the concerned instalment.

3. In respect of the amount due to the Commission under Article 57(7)(a), late payment interest shall be credited to one of the accounts provided for in Article 1(6) of the Internal Agreement.

In respect of the amount due to the EIB under Article 57(7)(b), late payment interest shall be credited to the Investment Facility.

Article 23 11th EDF FR

Interest for unpaid contribution amounts

1. On expiry of the time-limits laid down in Article 21(2), (3) and (5), the Member State concerned shall be obliged to pay interest in accordance with the following conditions:

(a) the interest rate shall be the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its principal refinancing operations, as published in the C series of the *Official Journal of the European Union*, in force on the first calendar day of the month in which the time-limit expires, increased by two percentage points. That rate shall be increased by a quarter of a percentage point for each month of delay.

(b) the interest shall be payable for the period elapsing from the calendar day following expiry of the time-limit for payment up to the day of payment.

2. In respect of the contribution referred to in Article 21(7)(a), the interest shall be credited to one of the accounts provided for in Article 1(6) of the Internal Agreement.

In respect of the contribution referred to in Article 21(7)(b), the interest shall be credited to the Investment Facility in accordance with Article 53(1).

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 61</i></p> <p>Upon expiry of the financial protocol set out in Annex Ib to the ACP-EC Agreement, that part of the contributions which the Member States remain obliged to pay in accordance with Article 57 shall be called up by the Commission, as required, in accordance with the conditions laid down in this Regulation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 24 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Calling on unpaid contributions</p> <p>Upon expiry of the financial protocol set out in Annex Ic to the Cotonou Agreement, that part of the contributions which the Member States remain obliged to pay in accordance with Article 21 shall be called on by the Commission and the EIB, as required, in accordance with the conditions laid down in this Regulation.</p>
	<p>CHAPTER 5²⁴</p>
	<p>Revenue operations</p>
	<p>Section 1 Making own resources available</p>
	<p>Article 76 FR</p>
	<p>Own resources</p>
	<p>1. — An estimate of revenue constituted by own resources, as referred to in Decision 2007/436/EC, Euratom, shall be entered in the budget in euro. It shall be made available in accordance with Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1150/2000.</p>
	<p>2. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules applicable to own resources.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 78 RAP</i> <i>Rules applying to own resources</i> <i>(Article 76 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>The authorising officer shall draw up a schedule indicating when the own resources defined in the Decision on the system of the Union's own resources will be made available to the Commission.</p>
	<p>Own resources shall be established and recovered in accordance with the rules adopted pursuant to the Decision referred to in the first paragraph.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">SECTION 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ESTIMATES OF AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 62</i></p> <p>1. An estimate of the amount receivable shall first be made by the authorising officer responsible in respect of any measure or situation which may give rise to or modify an amount owing to the EDF.</p> <p>2. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, no estimate of the amount receivable shall be made before Member States make available to the Commission the amounts of their contributions to the EDF, as defined in Articles 57 and 58. The authorising officer responsible shall issue a recovery order in respect of these amounts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 25 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Other revenue operations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Articles 77 to 79, Article 80(1) and (2) and Articles 81 to 82 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, concerning the estimate of the amount receivable, the establishment of amounts receivable, the authorisation and rules of recovery, the limitation period and national treatment of Union entitlements, shall apply. Recovery may be done by way of a Commission decision enforceable pursuant to Article 299 of the Treaty. 2. With regard to Articles 77(3) and 78(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the reference to own resources shall be understood as one to the Member States' contributions defined in Article 21. 3. Article 83(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 shall apply to recoveries established in euro. For recoveries in local currency, it shall apply while the rate shall be that of the central bank of the country issuing the currency in force on the first calendar day of the month in which the recovery order is established. 4. With regard to Article 84(3) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, the list of entitlements shall be established separately for the 11th EDF and shall be added to the report referred to in Article 44(2). 5. Articles 85 and 90 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 shall not apply.
<p style="text-align: center;">3. Article 77 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i> to the implementation of paragraph 1.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Section 2 Estimate of amounts receivable</p>

SECTION 3

ESTABLISHMENT OF AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Article 63

1. Establishment of an amount receivable is the act by which the authorising officer by delegation or sub-delegation:

- (a) verifies that the debt exists;
- (b) determines or verifies the reality and the amount of the debt;
- (c) verifies the conditions in which the debt is due.

2. The EDF resources made available to the Commission and any amount receivable that is identified as being certain, of a fixed amount and due shall be established by a recovery order to the accounting officer followed by a debit note sent to the debtor, both drawn up by the authorising officer responsible.

3. Amounts wrongly paid shall be recovered.

4. *Article 86 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply mutatis mutandis as regards the conditions in which interest on late payment is due to the EDF.*

Article 77 FR

Estimate of amounts receivable

1. When the authorising officer responsible has sufficient and reliable information in respect of any measure or situation which may give rise to an amount owing to the Union, the authorising officer responsible shall make an estimate of the amount receivable.

2. The estimate of the amount receivable shall be adjusted by the authorising officer responsible as soon as he or she is aware of an event modifying the measure or the situation which gave rise to the estimate being made.

When establishing the recovery order on a measure or situation that had previously given rise to an estimate of amounts receivable, that estimate shall be adjusted accordingly by the authorising officer responsible.

If the recovery order is drawn up for the same amount as the original estimate of amounts receivable, that estimate shall be reduced to zero.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, no estimate of the amount receivable shall be made before Member States make available to the Commission the amounts of own resources defined in Decision 2007/436/EC, Euratom which are paid at fixed intervals by the Member States. The authorising officer responsible shall issue a recovery order in respect of those amounts.

~~4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the estimate of amounts receivable.~~

SECTION 4

AUTHORISATION OF RECOVERY

Article 64

1. The authorisation of recovery is the act whereby the authorising officer by delegation or sub-delegation responsible instructs the accounting officer, by issuing a recovery order, to recover an amount receivable which he has established.

2. Without prejudice to the responsibilities of the ACP States or the OCTs, the Commission may formally establish an amount as being receivable from persons other than States by means of a decision which shall be enforceable under the same conditions as laid down in Article 256 of the Treaty.

3. Articles 81 and 84 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the implementation of paragraphs 1 and 2.

Article 79 RAP

*Estimate of amounts receivable
(Article 77 of the Financial Regulation)*

1. Estimates of amounts receivable shall specify the type of revenue and the budget item to which they are to be booked and, as far as possible, the particulars of the debtor and the estimated amount.

When drawing up an estimate of amounts receivable, the authorising officer responsible shall check in particular that:

- (a) the revenue is booked to the correct budget item;
- (b) the estimate is in order and complies with the provisions applicable and the principle of sound financial management.

2. Subject to Articles 181(2) and 183(2) of the Financial Regulation and Article 7(2) of this Regulation, an estimate of amounts receivable shall not have the effect of making commitment appropriations available. In the cases referred to in Article 21 of the Financial Regulation, appropriations may be made available only after the sums due have actually been recovered by the Union.

Section 3

Establishment of amounts receivable

SECTION 5

RECOVERY

Article 65

1. The accounting officer shall act on recovery orders for amounts receivable duly established by the authorising officer responsible. He shall exercise due diligence to ensure that the EDF receives its revenue and shall ensure that its rights are safeguarded.
2. The accounting officer shall recover amounts by offsetting them against equivalent claims that the EDF or the Community have on any debtor who himself has a claim on the EDF or the Community that is certain, of a fixed amount and due.
3. As regards the direct labour and indirect decentralised operations referred to in Title VI, where claims from the EDF on the National Authorising Officer are not recovered within the prescribed time-limits, the authorising officer responsible shall take all the necessary measures to obtain actual repayment of the sums due, including, where appropriate, suspension of the use of that type of arrangement for that State or OCTs.
4. Where the authorising officer by delegation is planning to waive or partially waive recovery of an established amount

Article 78 FR

Establishment of amounts receivable

1. The establishment of an amount receivable is the act by which the authorising officer responsible:
 - (a) verifies that the debt exists;
 - (b) determines or verifies the reality and the amount of the debt;
 - (c) verifies the conditions according to which the debt is due.
2. The own resources made available to the Commission and any amount receivable that is identified as being certain, of a fixed amount and due shall be established by a recovery order to the accounting officer followed by a debit note sent to the debtor, both drawn up by the authorising officer responsible.
3. Amounts wrongly paid shall be recovered.
- ~~4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the establishment of amounts receivable, including procedures and supporting documents, and of default interest.~~

<p>receivable, he/she shall ensure that the waiver is in order and complies with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality. The waiver decision shall be substantiated. The authorising officer may delegate the decision only in accordance with Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.</p> <p>5. The authorising officer may cancel or adjust an established amount receivable.</p> <p>6. Entitlements of the EDF in respect of third parties and entitlements of third parties in respect of the EDF shall be subject to a limitation period of five years.</p> <p><i>7. Articles 82 to 85 and 87 to 89 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the implementation of paragraphs 1 to 6.</i></p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 80 RAP Procedure (Article 78 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The establishment by the authorising officer responsible of an amount receivable shall constitute recognition of the right of the Union in respect of a debtor and establishment of entitlement to demand that the debtor pay the debt.</p>
	<p>2. The recovery order shall be the operation by which the authorising officer responsible instructs the accounting officer to recover the amount established.</p>
	<p>3. The debit note shall be to inform the debtor that:</p>

	(a) the Union has established the amount receivable;
	(b) if payment of the debt is made before the deadline, no default interest will be due;
	(c) failing reimbursement by the deadline referred to in point (b) the debt shall bear interest at the rate referred to in Article 83, without any prejudice to any specific regulations applicable;
	(d) failing reimbursement by the deadline referred to in point (b) the institution shall effect recovery either by offsetting or by enforcement of any guarantee lodged in advance;
	(e) the accounting officer may effect recovery by offsetting before the deadline referred to in point b), where it is necessary to protect the Union's financial interests when he has justified grounds to believe that the amount due to the Commission would be lost, after the debtor has been informed of the reasons and date of the recovery by offsetting;
	(f) if, after taking all the steps set out in points (a) to (e) of this subparagraph, the amount has not been recovered in full, the institution shall effect recovery by enforcement of a decision secured either in accordance with Article 79(2) of the Financial Regulation or by legal action.
	The Authorising officer shall print out the debit note and send it to the debtor. The Accounting Officer shall be informed of that dispatch through the financial information system.
	<i>Article 81 RAP</i> <i>Establishment of amounts receivable</i>

	<i>(Article 78 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	To establish an amount receivable the authorising officer responsible shall ensure that:
	(a) the receivable is certain, meaning that it is not subject to any condition;
	(b) the receivable is of fixed amount, expressed precisely in cash terms;
	(c) the receivable is due and is not subject to any payment time;
	(d) the particulars of the debtor are correct;
	(e) the amount to be recovered is booked to the correct budget item;
	(f) the supporting documents are in order; and
	(g) the principle of sound financial management is complied with, in particular with regard to the criteria referred to in point (a) of Article 91(1).
	<i>Article 82 RAP</i> <i>Supporting documents for the establishment of amounts receivable</i> <i>(Article 78 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The establishment of an amount receivable shall be based on supporting documents certifying the Union's entitlement.
	2. Before establishing an amount receivable the authorising officer responsible shall personally check the supporting documents or, on his own responsibility, shall ascertain that this has been done.

	<p>3. The supporting documents shall be kept by the authorising officer in accordance with Article 48.</p>
	<p><i>Article 83 RAP</i> <i>Default interest</i> <i>(Article 78 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Without prejudice to any specific provisions deriving from the application of sector-specific regulations, any amount receivable not repaid on the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b) shall bear interest in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article.</p>
	<p>2. The interest rate for amounts receivable not repaid on the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b) shall be the rate applied by the European Central Bank to its principal refinancing operations, as published in the C series of the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i>, in force on the first calendar day of the month in which the deadline falls, increased by:</p>
	<p>(a) eight percentage points where the obligating event is a public supply and service contract referred to in Title V;</p>
	<p>(b) three and a half percentage points in all other cases.</p>
	<p>3. Interest shall be calculated from the calendar day following the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b) and specified in the debit note up to the calendar day on which the debt is repaid in full.</p>
	<p>The recovery order corresponding to the amount of the default interest shall be issued when this interest is actually received.</p>

	<p>4. In the case of fines, where the debtor provides a financial guarantee which is accepted by the accounting officer instead of payment, the interest rate applicable from the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b) shall be the rate referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article as in force on the first day of the month in which the decision imposing a fine has been adopted and increased only by one and a half percentage points.</p>
	<p>Section 4 Authorisation of recovery</p>
	<p>Article 79 FR</p>
	<p>Authorisation of recovery</p>
	<p>1. The authorisation of recovery is the act by which the authorising officer responsible instructs the accounting officer, by issuing a recovery order, to recover an amount receivable which that authorising officer responsible has established.</p>
	<p>2. The institution may formally establish an amount as being receivable from persons other than Member States by means of a decision which shall be enforceable within the meaning of Article 299 TFEU.</p>
	<p>If the efficient and timely protection of the Union's financial interests so requires, the Commission may also, in exceptional circumstances, adopt such an enforceable decision for the benefit of other institutions at their request with respect to claims arising in relation to staff to whom the Staff Regulations apply.</p>
	<p>The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the establishment of the recovery</p>

	order.
	<i>Article 84 RAP Establishment of the recovery order (Article 79 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The recovery order shall specify:
	(a) the financial year to which the revenue is to be booked;
	(b) the references of the act or legal commitment which is the source of the debt and gives rise to the entitlement to recovery;
	(c) the budget article and any other subdivision that may apply, including, where appropriate, the references of the corresponding budget commitment;
	(d) the amount to be recovered, expressed in euro;
	(e) the name and address of the debtor;
	(f) the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b);
	(g) the possible method of recovery, including in particular recovery by offsetting or enforcement of any guarantee lodged.
	2. The recovery order shall be dated and signed by the authorising officer responsible, then sent to the accounting officer.
	3. The accounting officer of each institution shall keep a list of amounts due to be recovered. Union entitlements shall be grouped in the list according to the date of issue of the recovery order. He shall transfer this list to the accounting officer of

	the Commission.
	The accounting officer of the Commission shall prepare a consolidated list showing the amount due per institution and per date of issue of the recovery order. The list shall be added to the Commission's Report on budgetary and financial management.
	4. In order to reinforce the protection of the Union's financial interests, the Commission shall establish a list of Union entitlements stating the names of the debtors and the amount of the debt, where the debtor has been ordered to reimburse by a Court decision that has the force of <i>res judicata</i> and where no or no significant reimbursement has been made for one year following its pronouncement. The list shall be published, with due regard to the protection of personal data in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.
	As far as personal data referring to natural persons are concerned, the information published shall be removed once the amount of the debt has been fully reimbursed. The same shall apply to personal data referring to legal persons for whom the official title identifies one or more natural persons.
	The decision to include the debtor on the list of Union entitlements shall be taken in compliance with the principle of proportionality and shall take into account, in particular the significance of the amount.
	<i>Article 85 RAP</i> <i>Enforceable decision for the benefit of other Institutions</i> <i>(Article 79(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The exceptional circumstances referred to in article 79(2) of the Financial Regulation are met when the possibility to have a voluntary payment and to recover the debt by offsetting as provided for in Article 80(1) of the Financial Regulation

	<p>have been exhausted by the institution concerned and the debt represents a significant amount.</p>
	<p>2. In the case referred to in paragraph 1, the Institutions concerned other than those mentioned under Article 299 of the TFEU may request the Commission to adopt an enforceable decision.</p>
	<p>3. In all cases, the enforceable decision shall specify that the amounts claimed shall be entered in the section of the budget corresponding to the Institution concerned, which shall act as Authorising officer. The revenue shall be entered as general revenue except if it falls within the specified cases of assigned revenues as provided for in Article 21(3) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>4. The requesting institution shall inform the Commission of any event likely to alter the recovery and shall intervene in support of the Commission in case of appeal against the enforceable decision.</p>
	<p>5. The Commission and the Institution concerned shall agree on the practical modalities for the implementation of this Article.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 88 RAP</i> <i>Recovery procedure failing voluntary payment</i> <i>(Articles 79 and 80 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Without prejudice to Article 87, if the full amount has not been recovered by the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b) and specified in the debit note, the accounting officer shall inform the authorising officer responsible and shall without delay launch the procedure for effecting recovery by any means offered by the law, including, where appropriate, by enforcement of any guarantee lodged in advance.</p>

	<p>2. Without prejudice to Article 87, where the recovery method referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article cannot be used and the debtor has failed to pay in response to the letter of formal notice sent by the accounting officer, the accounting officer shall enforce a recovery decision secured either in accordance with Article 79(2) of the Financial Regulation or by legal action.</p>
	<p>Section 5 Recovery</p>
	<p>Article 80 FR</p>
	<p>Rules on recovery</p>
	<p>1. The accounting officer shall act on recovery orders for amounts receivable duly established by the authorising officer responsible. The accounting officer shall exercise due diligence to ensure that the Union receives its revenue and shall ensure that the Union's rights are safeguarded.</p>
	<p>The accounting officer shall recover amounts by offsetting them against equivalent claims that the Union has on any debtor who in turn has a claim on the Union. Such claims shall be certain, of a fixed amount and due.</p>
	<p>2. Where the authorising officer by delegation plans to waive or partially waive recovery of an established amount receivable, he or she shall ensure that the waiver is in order and is in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality. The waiver decision shall be substantiated. The authorising officer may delegate the waiver decision.</p>

	<p>The authorising officer by delegation may cancel an established amount receivable in full or in part. The partial cancellation of an established amount receivable does not imply a waiver of an established Union entitlement.</p>
	<p>The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the manner of recovery, including recovery by offsetting, the recovery procedure failing voluntary payment, additional time for payment, recovery of fines and other penalties, waiver of recovery and cancellation of an established amount receivable.</p>
	<p>3. — The Member States shall in the first instance be responsible for carrying out controls and audits and for recovering amounts unduly spent, as provided for in the sector specific rules. To the extent that Member States detect and correct irregularities on their own account, they shall be exempt from financial corrections by the Commission concerning those irregularities.</p>
	<p>4. — The Commission shall make financial corrections on Member States in order to exclude from Union financing expenditure incurred in breach of applicable law. The Commission shall base its financial corrections on the identification of amounts unduly spent, and the financial implications for the budget. Where such amounts cannot be identified precisely, the Commission may apply extrapolated or flat rate corrections in accordance with the sector specific rules.</p>
	<p>— The Commission shall, when deciding on the amount of a financial correction, take account of the nature and gravity of the breach of applicable law and the financial implications for the budget, including the case of deficiencies in</p>

	management and control systems.
	— The criteria for establishing financial corrections and the procedure to be applied may be laid down in the sector specific rules.
	5. — The methodology for applying extrapolated or flat rate corrections shall be laid down in accordance with the sector specific rules with a view to enabling the Commission to protect the financial interests of the Union.
	<i>Article 86 RAP Collection formalities (Article 80 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Upon the recovery of an amount receivable, the accounting officer shall make an entry in the accounts and shall inform the authorising officer responsible.
	2. A receipt shall be issued in respect of any cash payments made to the accounting officer or imprest administrator.
	3. Partial reimbursement by a debtor subject to several recovery orders shall first be posted on the oldest entitlement unless otherwise specified by the debtor.
	Any partial payments shall first cover the interest.
	<i>Article 87 RAP Recovery by offsetting (Article 80 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Where the debtor has a claim on the Union that is certain as defined in point (a) of Article 81, of a fixed amount and due, relating to a sum established by a

	<p>payment order, the accounting officer shall, following the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b) recover established amounts receivable by offsetting.</p>
	<p>In exceptional circumstances, where it is necessary to safeguard the financial interests of the Union, when the accounting officer has justified grounds to believe that the amount due to the Union would be lost, the accounting officer shall recover by offsetting before the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b).</p>
	<p>The Accounting officer shall also recover by offsetting before the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b) when the debtor agrees.</p>
	<p>2. Before proceeding with any recovery in accordance with paragraph 1, the accounting officer shall consult the authorising officer responsible and inform the debtors concerned.</p>
	<p>Where the debtor is a national authority or one of its administrative entities, the accounting officer shall also inform the Member State concerned at least 10 working days in advance of his intention to resort to recovery by offsetting. However, in agreement with the Member State or administrative entity concerned, the accounting officer may proceed with the recovery by offsetting before the deadline has passed.</p>
	<p>3. The offsetting referred to in paragraph 1 shall have the same effect as a payment and discharge the Union for the amount of the debt and, where appropriate of the interest due.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 88 RAP</i> <i>Recovery procedure failing voluntary payment</i> <i>(Articles 79 and 80 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	<p>1. Without prejudice to Article 87, if the full amount has not been recovered by the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b) and specified in the debit note, the accounting officer shall inform the authorising officer responsible and shall without delay launch the procedure for effecting recovery by any means offered by the law, including, where appropriate, by enforcement of any guarantee lodged in advance.</p>
	<p>2. Without prejudice to Article 87, where the recovery method referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article cannot be used and the debtor has failed to pay in response to the letter of formal notice sent by the accounting officer, the accounting officer shall enforce a recovery decision secured either in accordance with Article 79(2) of the Financial Regulation or by legal action.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 89 RAP</i> <i>Additional time for payment</i> <i>(Article 80 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>The accounting officer, in collaboration with the authorising officer responsible, may allow additional time for payment only at the written request of the debtor, with due indication of the reasons, and provided that the following two conditions are fulfilled:</p>
	<p>(a) the debtor undertakes to pay interest at the rate specified in Article 83 for the entire additional period allowed, starting from the deadline referred to in Article 80(3)(b);</p>
	<p>(b) in order to safeguard the rights of the Union, the debtor lodges a financial guarantee covering the debt outstanding in both the principal sum and the interest, which is accepted by the institution's accounting officer.</p>

	<p>The guarantee referred to in point (b) of the first paragraph may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by a third party approved by the institution's accounting officer.</p>
	<p>In exceptional circumstances, following a request by the debtor, the accounting officer may waive the requirement of a guarantee referred to in point (b) of the first paragraph when, on the basis of his assessment, the debtor is willing and able to make the payment in the additional time period but is not able to lodge such guarantee and is in a distressed situation.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 90 RAP</i> <i>Recovery of fines or other penalties</i> <i>(Articles 80 and 83 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. — Where an action is brought before the Court of Justice of the European Union against a Commission decision imposing a fine or other penalties under the TFEU or Euratom Treaty and until such time as all legal remedies have been exhausted, the debtor shall either provisionally pay the amounts concerned on the bank account designated by the accounting officer or provide a financial guarantee acceptable to the accounting officer. The guarantee shall be independent of the obligation to pay the fine or penalty payment or other penalties and shall be enforceable upon first call. It shall cover the claim as to principal and the interest due as specified in Article 83(4).</p>
	<p>2. — The Commission shall secure the provisionally cashed amounts by having them invested in financial assets thus ensuring the security and liquidity of the monies whilst also aiming at yielding a positive return.</p>
	<p>3. — After the exhaustion of all legal remedies and where the fine or penalty has</p>

	been confirmed any of the following measures shall be taken:
	(a) — the provisionally collected amounts and the interest and other amounts they have yielded shall be entered into the budget in accordance with Article 83 of the Financial Regulation at the latest during the financial year following the year in which all legal remedies have been exhausted;
	(b) — where a financial guarantee has been lodged, the latter shall be enforced and the corresponding amounts entered in the budget;
	Where the amount of the fine or of the penalty has been increased by the Court, points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph shall apply up to the amounts of the decision of the Commission and the accounting officer shall collect the amount corresponding to the increase, which will be entered into the budget.
	4. — After all legal remedies have been exhausted and where the fine or penalty has been cancelled or reduced any of the following measures shall be taken:
	(a) — The amounts unduly collected together with the interest yielded shall be repaid to the third party concerned. In cases where the overall return yielded for the relevant period has been negative, the nominal value of the amounts unduly collected shall be repaid;
	(b) — where a financial guarantee has been lodged, the latter shall be released accordingly.
	<i>Article 91 RAP Waiving of recovery of an established amount receivable (Article 80 of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	1. The authorising officer responsible may waive recovery of all or part of an established amount receivable only in the following cases:
	(a) where the foreseeable cost of recovery would exceed the amount to be recovered and the waiver would not harm the image of the Union;
	(b) where the amount receivable cannot be recovered in view of its age or the insolvency of the debtor;
	(c) where recovery is inconsistent with the principle of proportionality.
	2. In the case referred to in point (c) of paragraph 1, the authorising officer responsible shall act in accordance with predetermined procedures established within each institution and shall apply the following criteria which are compulsory and applicable in all circumstances:
	(a) the facts, having regard to the gravity of the irregularity giving rise to the establishment of the amount receivable (fraud, repeat offence, intent, diligence, good faith, manifest error);
	(b) the impact that waiving recovery would have on the operation of the Union and its financial interests (amount involved, risk of setting a precedent, undermining of the authority of the law).
	Depending on the circumstances of the case, the authorising officer responsible may also have to take the following additional criteria into account:
	(a) any distortion of competition that would be caused by the waiving of recovery;
	(b) the economic and social damage that would be caused were the debt to be

	recovered in full.
	3. The waiver decision referred to in Article 80(2) of the Financial Regulation shall be substantiated and shall refer to the diligence exercised to secure recovery and the points of law and fact on which the waiver is based. The authorising officer responsible shall waive recovery in accordance with Article 84.
	4. The waiving of recovery of an established amount receivable may not be delegated by the institution in any of the following cases:
	(a) where the amount to be waived is EUR 1 000 000 or more;
	(b) where the amount to be waived is EUR 100 000 or more, where this represents 25 % or more of the established amount receivable.
	Beneath the thresholds set out in the first subparagraph, each institution shall lay down in its internal rules the conditions and procedure for delegating the power to waive recovery of an established debt.
	5. Each institution shall send to the European Parliament and Council each year a report on the waivers referred to in paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Article involving EUR 100 000 or more. In the case of the Commission, that report shall be annexed to the summary of the annual activity reports referred to in Article 66(9) of the Financial Regulation.
	<i>Article 92 RAP Cancellation of an established amount receivable (Article 80 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. In the event of a mistake, the authorising officer responsible shall cancel totally or partially the established amount receivable in accordance with Articles 82

	and 84 and include adequate reasons.
	2. Each institution shall lay down in its internal rules the conditions and procedure for delegating the power to cancel an established amount receivable.
	Article 81 FR
	Limitation period
	1. Without prejudice to the provisions of specific regulations and the application of Decision 2007/436/EC, Euratom, entitlements of the Union in respect of third parties and entitlements of third parties in respect of the Union shall be subject to a limitation period of five years.
	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the limitation period.
	<i>Article 93 RAP Rules for limitation periods (Article 81 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The limitation period for entitlements of the Union in respect of third parties shall begin to run on the expiry of the deadline communicated to the debtor in the debit note as specified in Article 80(3)(b).
	The limitation period for entitlements of third parties in respect of the Union shall begin to run on the date on which the payment of the third party's entitlement is due according to the corresponding legal commitment.
	2. The limitation period for entitlements of the Union in respect of third parties

	shall be interrupted by any act of an institution, or a Member State acting at the request of an institution, notified to the third party and aiming at recovering the debt.
	The limitation period for entitlements of third parties in respect of the Union shall be interrupted by any act notified to the Union by its creditors or on behalf of its creditors aiming at recovering the debt.
	3. A new limitation period of five years shall begin to run on the day following the interruptions referred to in paragraph 2.
	4. Any legal action relating to an amount receivable as referred to in paragraph 1, including actions brought before a court which later declares itself not to have jurisdiction, shall interrupt the limitation period. The new limitation period of five years shall not begin until a judgment having the force of <i>res judicata</i> is given or there is an extrajudicial settlement between the same parties on the same action.
	5. Where the accounting officer allows the debtor additional time for payment in accordance with Article 89, this shall be considered as an interruption of the limitation period. The new limitation period of 5 years shall begin to run on the day following the expiry of the extended time for payment.
	6. Entitlements shall not be recovered after the expiry of the limitation period, as established in paragraphs 1 to 5.
	Article 82 FR
	National treatment for Union entitlements
	In the event of insolvency proceedings, Union entitlements shall be given the same preferential treatment as entitlements of the same nature due to public bodies in

	the Member States where the recovery proceedings are being conducted.
	Article 83 FR
	Fines, penalties and accrued interest imposed by the Commission
	1. — Amounts received by way of fines, penalties and sanctions, and any accrued interest or other income generated by them shall not be recorded as budgetary revenue as long as the decisions imposing them may be overruled by the Court of Justice of the European Union.
	2. — The amounts referred to in paragraph 1 shall be recorded as budgetary revenue as soon as possible and at the latest in the year following the exhaustion of all legal remedies. Amounts that are to be returned to the entity that paid them, following a judgment of the Court of Justice of the European Union, shall not be recorded as budgetary revenue.
	3. — Paragraph 1 shall not apply to decisions on clearance of accounts or financial corrections.
	4. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the amounts received by way of fines, penalties and accrued interest.
	<i>Article 90 RAP</i> <i>Recovery of fines or other penalties</i> <i>(Articles 80 and 83 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. — Where an action is brought before the Court of Justice of the European Union

	<p>against a Commission decision imposing a fine or other penalties under the TFEU or Euratom Treaty and until such time as all legal remedies have been exhausted, the debtor shall either provisionally pay the amounts concerned on the bank account designated by the accounting officer or provide a financial guarantee acceptable to the accounting officer. The guarantee shall be independent of the obligation to pay the fine or penalty payment or other penalties and shall be enforceable upon first call. It shall cover the claim as to principal and the interest due as specified in Article 83(4).</p>
	<p>2. — The Commission shall secure the provisionally cashed amounts by having them invested in financial assets thus ensuring the security and liquidity of the monies whilst also aiming at yielding a positive return.</p>
	<p>3. — After the exhaustion of all legal remedies and where the fine or penalty has been confirmed any of the following measures shall be taken:</p>
	<p>(a) — the provisionally collected amounts and the interest and other amounts they have yielded shall be entered into the budget in accordance with Article 83 of the Financial Regulation at the latest during the financial year following the year in which all legal remedies have been exhausted;</p>
	<p>(b) — where a financial guarantee has been lodged, the latter shall be enforced and the corresponding amounts entered in the budget;</p>
	<p>Where the amount of the fine or of the penalty has been increased by the Court, points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph shall apply up to the amounts of the decision of the Commission and the accounting officer shall collect the amount corresponding to the increase, which will be entered into the budget.</p>
	<p>4. — After all legal remedies have been exhausted and where the fine or penalty has been cancelled or reduced any of the following measures shall be taken:</p>

	<p>(a) — The amounts unduly collected together with the interest yielded shall be repaid to the third party concerned. In cases where the overall return yielded for the relevant period has been negative, the nominal value of the amounts unduly collected shall be repaid;</p>
	<p>(b) — where a financial guarantee has been lodged, the latter shall be released accordingly.</p>

<p>CHAPTER 6</p> <p>EXPENDITURE OPERATIONS</p> <p><i>SECTION 1</i></p> <p>GENERAL PROVISIONS</p> <p><i>Article 66</i></p> <p>Every item of expenditure shall be committed, validated, authorised and paid.</p> <p><i>SECTION 2</i></p> <p>COMMITMENT OF EXPENDITURE</p> <p><i>Article 67</i></p>	<p>TITLE VI</p> <p>EXPENDITURE OPERATIONS</p> <p><i>Article 26 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p>Financing decisions</p> <p>The commitment of expenditure shall be preceded by a financing decision adopted by the Commission.</p> <p>Article 84 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply with the exception of paragraph 2 thereof.</p>
<p>The commitment of expenditure shall be preceded by a financing decision adopted by the Commission or by the authorities to which the Commission has delegated powers.</p>	
	<p>CHAPTER 6²⁵</p> <p>Expenditure operations</p>
	<p>Article 84 FR</p>

	Financing decisions
	1. Every item of expenditure shall be committed, validated, authorised and paid.
	2. Except in the case of appropriations which can be implemented without a basic act in accordance with point (e) of the first subparagraph of Article 54(2), the commitment of expenditure shall be preceded by a financing decision adopted by the institution or the authorities to which powers have been delegated by the institution.
	3. The financing decision referred to in paragraph 2 shall specify the objective pursued, the expected results, the method of implementation and its total amount. It shall also contain a description of the actions to be financed and an indication of the amount allocated to each action, and an indicative implementation timetable.
	In the case of indirect management, the financing decision shall also specify the entity or person entrusted pursuant to point (c) of Article 58(1), the criteria used to select the entity or person and the tasks entrusted to that entity or person.
	4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on financing decisions.
	<i>Article 94 RAP Financing decision (Article 84 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The financing decision shall set out the essential elements of an action

	involving expenditure from the budget.
	2. The financing decision shall in particular set out the following:
	(a) for grants:
	(i) the reference to the basic act and the budgetary line;
	(ii) the priorities of the year, the objectives to be fulfilled and the foreseen results with the appropriations authorised for the financial year;
	(iii) the essential eligibility, selection and award criteria to be used to select the proposals;
	(iv) the maximum possible rate of co-financing and if different rates are envisaged the criteria to be followed for each rate;
	(v) the timetable and the indicative amount of the calls for proposals;
	(b) for procurement:
	(i) the global budgetary envelope reserved for the procurements during the year;
	(ii) the indicative number and type of contracts envisaged and if possible their subject in generic terms;
	(iii) the indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures;
	(c) for trust funds referred to in Article 187 of the Financial Regulation:
	(i) the reference to the basic act and the budgetary line;

	(ii) the appropriations reserved to the trust fund for the year together with the amounts planned over its duration;
	(iii) the objectives of the trust fund and its duration;
	(iv) the rules of governance of the trust fund;
	(v) the possibility to entrust budget implementation tasks to the entities and persons referred to in Article 187(2) of the Financial Regulation;
	(d) for prizes:
	(i) the reference to the basic act and the budgetary line;
	(ii) the objectives to be fulfilled and the foreseen results;
	(iii) the essential conditions for participation and award criteria;
	(iv) the timetable of the contest and the amount of the prize or prizes;
	(e) for financial instruments:
	(i) the reference to the basic act and the budgetary line;
	(ii) the objectives to be fulfilled and the foreseen results;
	(iii) the amount allocated to the financial instrument;
	(iv) the indicative implementation timetable.
	3. Where the work programme referred to in Article 128 of the Financial Regulation contains the information set out in point (a) of paragraph 2 of this Article

	for the grants financed from appropriations authorised for the financial year, the decision adopting it shall be considered to be the financing decision for those grants.
	As regards procurement, trust funds, prizes and financial instruments, where the implementation of the corresponding appropriations authorised for the financial year is provided for by a work programme containing the information referred to in points (b), (c), (d) and (e) of paragraph 2 of this Article, the decision adopting this work programme shall also be considered to be the financing decision for the procurement, trust funds, prizes and financial instruments involved.
	If the work programme does not contain such information for one or more actions, it must be modified accordingly or a specific financing decision must be adopted for the actions concerned.
	4. Without prejudice to any specific provision of a basic act, any substantial change in a financing decision already adopted shall follow the same procedure as the initial decision.

Article 68

1. The financial commitment by the Commission is the operation reserving the funds necessary to cover subsequent payments to honour a legal commitment.

2. The legal commitment by the Commission is the act whereby the authorising officer responsible enters into or establishes an obligation with regard to third parties which results in a charge to the EDF.

3. The financial commitment and the legal commitment shall be adopted by the same authorising officer. That rule may be waived in the following cases:

(a) administrative expenditure incurred by the Commission within the meaning of Article 69(3) in respect of which the financial commitments have been divided in accordance with Article 69(2);

(b) global commitments relating to financing agreements under Article 70(3).

Article 69

1. The Commission's financial commitment is individual when the beneficiary and the amount of the expenditure are known.

The Commission's financial commitment is global when at least one of the elements necessary to identify the individual commitment is still not known.

Article 27 11th EDF FR

Rules applicable to commitments

1. Article 85, with the exception of point (c) of paragraph 3 thereof, Articles 86, 87, 185, Article 189(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 concerning commitments and the implementation of external actions shall apply. Article 95(2), Article 97(1)(a) and (e) and Article 98 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 shall not apply.
2. With regard to the application of Article 189(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the period to conclude individual contracts and grants agreements which implement the action may be extended beyond three years following the date of the conclusion of the financing agreement in the case where ACP States and OCTs entrust budget-implementation tasks pursuant to Article 17(3) of this Regulation.
3. Where the 11th EDF resources are implemented in indirect management with ACP States or OCTs, the responsible authorising officer may, upon accepting justification, extend the two-year period referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 86(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012; and the three-year period referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 189(2) thereof.
4. At the end of the extended periods referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article or the periods referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 86(5) and in the second subparagraph of Article 189(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the unused balances shall be, as applicable, decommitted.
5. Where measures are adopted under Articles 96 and 97 of the Cotonou Agreement, the running of the extended periods referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, in the third subparagraph of Article 86(5) and the second subparagraph of Article 189(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012

<p>2. Financial commitments for administrative expenditure of the Commission may be divided over several years into annual instalments. The corresponding legal commitments shall provide for that division.</p> <p>3. The following shall be regarded as administrative expenditure for the purposes of point (a) of the third paragraph of Article 68 and paragraph 2 of this Article:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) expenditure on human resources other than regular staff; (b) training expenditure; (c) mission expenses; (d) representation expenses; (e) meeting expenses; (f) expenses relating to freelance interpreters and/or translators; (g) expenses relating to exchanges of officials; (h) cost of recurring rentals of movable and immovable property; (i) cost of miscellaneous insurance; (j) cost of cleaning and maintenance; (k) costs related to the use of telecommunications services; (l) cost of water, gas and electricity; 	<p>may be suspended.</p> <p>6. For the purposes of point (c) of paragraph 1 and of point (b) of paragraph 2 of Article 87 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, compliance and regularity shall be assessed against the relevant provisions, in particular the Treaties, the Cotonou Agreement, the Overseas Association Decision, the Internal Agreement, this Regulation, and all acts adopted in implementation of those provisions.</p> <p>7. Each legal commitment shall expressly provide for the Commission and the Court of Auditors to have the power of verification and audit and for OLAF to have the power of investigations, on the basis of documents and on the spot, over all beneficiaries, contractors, and subcontractors who have received 11th EDF funds.</p>
<p>(m) outlay for periodical publications.</p>	

	Section 1 Commitment of expenditure
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Article 70

1. The authorising officer responsible shall make a financial commitment before entering into a legal commitment, binding upon the Commission, with third parties.

2. Financing decisions taken by the Commission, in accordance with the ACP-EC Agreement or the Overseas Association Decision, which authorise it to grant financial aid from the EDF, shall give rise to financial commitments by the Commission.

3. The following shall constitute legal commitments by the Commission:

(a) a financing agreement between the Commission, acting on behalf of the Community, and the beneficiary ACP States or the beneficiary OCTs or the bodies they have designated;

(b) a contract or grant agreement between the Commission and national or international public-sector bodies or natural or legal persons responsible for carrying out the actions.

4. Each financing agreement, contract or grant agreement shall provide expressly for the Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditors, to exercise their powers of control, on documents and on the spot, over all contractors and subcontractors who have received financing from EDF resources.

Article 85 FR

Types of commitments

1. A budgetary commitment is the operation by which the appropriation necessary to cover subsequent payments to honour legal commitments is reserved.

A legal commitment is the act whereby the authorising officer enters into or establishes an obligation which results in a charge.

Budgetary commitments and legal commitments shall be adopted by the same authorising officer, except in duly justified cases as provided for in the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation.

~~2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the types of commitment, adoption of global commitments, single signature, and administrative expenditure covered by provisional commitments.~~

3. Budgetary commitments shall fall into one of the following categories:

(a) individual: the budgetary commitment is individual when the beneficiary and the amount of the expenditure are known;

(b) global: the budgetary commitment is global when at least one of the elements necessary to identify the individual commitment is still not known;

~~(c) provisional: the budgetary commitment is provisional when it is intended to cover the expenditure referred to in Article 170 or routine administrative expenditure and either the amount or the final payees are not definitively known.~~

	4. Budgetary commitments for actions extending over more than one financial year may be broken down over several years into annual instalments only where the basic act so provides or where they relate to administrative expenditure.

Article 71

When adopting a financial commitment, the authorising officer responsible shall ensure that the following:

- (a) the expenditure has been charged to the correct accounting item;
- (b) the funds are available;
- (c) the expenditure is in accordance with the relevant provisions, in particular of the ACP-EC Agreement, the Overseas Association Decision, the Internal Agreement, this Regulation, and all acts adopted in implementation of those provisions;
- (d) the principle of sound financial management is complied with.

Article 95 RAP

*Global and provisional commitments
(Article 85 of the Financial Regulation)*

1. The global budgetary commitment shall be implemented either by the conclusion of a financing agreement, itself providing for the subsequent conclusion of one or more legal commitments, or by the conclusion of one or more legal commitments.

Financing agreements in the field of direct financial assistance to third countries, including budget support, which constitute legal commitments may give rise to payments without the conclusion of other legal commitments.

~~2. The provisional budgetary commitment shall be implemented either by the conclusion of one or more legal commitments giving rise to an entitlement to subsequent payments or, in cases relating to expenditure on staff management or relating to communication expenditures engaged in by the institutions for the coverage of Union events, directly by payments.~~

Article 72

When registering a legal commitment, the authorising officer shall ensure the following:

- (a) the commitment is covered by the corresponding financial commitment;
- (b) the expenditure is regular and in accordance with the relevant provisions, in particular of the ACP-EC Agreement, the Overseas Association Decision, the Internal Agreement, this Regulation, and all acts adopted in implementation of those provisions;
- (c) the principle of sound financial management is respected.

SECTION 3

COMMITMENT OF EXPENDITURE UNDER CENTRALISED OR JOINT MANAGEMENT

Article 73

Where EDF resources are managed by the Commission on a centralised basis or jointly, the commitment of expenditure shall be subject to the provisions of this Section.

Article 74

1. Legal commitments relating to individual financial commitments shall be concluded by the Commission by 31 December of year N at the latest, year N being the year in

Article 96 RAP

*Adoption of a global commitment
(Article 85 of the Financial Regulation)*

1. A global commitment shall be made on the basis of a financing decision.

The global commitment shall be made at the latest before the decision on the selection of recipients is taken and, where implementation of the appropriations concerned involves the adoption of a work programme within the meaning of Article 188, at the earliest after that programme has been adopted.

2. 2. Where the global commitment is implemented by the conclusion of a financing agreement, the second subparagraph of paragraph 1 shall not apply.

which the Commission's individual financial commitment was adopted, subject to Article 68(3).

2. As a general rule, global financial commitments shall cover the total cost of the corresponding individual legal commitments concluded by the Commission up to 31 December of year N + 1, year N being the year in which the Commission's global financial commitment was adopted, subject to Article 68(3).

However, where the global commitments referred to in Article 70(3)(a) are implemented, the Commission shall conclude the corresponding individual contracts and agreements no later than three years following the date of conclusion of the financing agreement.

Individual contracts and agreements relating to audit and evaluation may be concluded later. Riders to contracts already concluded may also be concluded later.

At the end of the periods referred to in paragraph 1 and the first and second subparagraphs of this paragraph, the authorising officer responsible shall decommit the unused balance of those financial commitments.

Article 75

1. The amount of each individual legal commitment adopted by the Commission following a global commitment shall, prior to signature, be registered by the authorising officer

responsible in the EDF accounts and booked to the global financial commitment.

2. The legal commitments entered into for actions extending over more than one financial year and the corresponding financial commitments shall have a final date for implementation set in accordance with the principle of sound financial management, save in the case of the administrative expenditure referred to in Article 69(3).

Any parts of such commitments which have not been executed six months after that date shall be decommitted and the corresponding appropriations cancelled.

The amount of a financial commitment corresponding to a legal commitment for which no payment has been made in a period of three years following the signing of the legal commitment shall be decommitted and the corresponding appropriations cancelled.

3. Paragraph 2 shall apply without prejudice to the decisions that the Council may adopt under Articles 96 and 97 of the ACP-EC Agreement.

Article 76

The termination of a project and the decommitment of the funds committed in accordance with Articles 73, 74 and 75 shall be carried out when the legal commitments entered into by the Commission in connection with that project with

respect to third parties are concluded and the related payments and collections have been recorded in the EDF accounts.

SECTION 4

**COMMITMENT OF EXPENDITURE UNDER DECENTRALISED
MANAGEMENT**

Article 77

Where EDF resources are managed on a decentralised basis, the commitment of expenditure by the Commission shall be subject to the provisions of this Section.

Article 78

1. Financing agreements with the beneficiary ACP States or OCTs shall be concluded by 31 December of year N + 1 at the latest, N being the year in which the Commission's global financial commitment was adopted.

Where financing agreements are not concluded by the deadline laid down in the first subparagraph, the corresponding appropriations shall be cancelled.

2. The Commission shall be under an obligation to effect payment from EDF resources whenever the authorising officer responsible endorses contracts, grant agreements and programme estimates, as provided for in Article 101(3).

The authorising officer responsible shall register in the EDF accounts, prior to signature for endorsement, the amount of each individual legal commitment which he/she has endorsed

Article 97 RAP

Single signature

(Article 85 of the Financial Regulation)

1. The rule that there shall be a single signatory for the budget commitment and the corresponding legal commitment may be departed from only in the following cases:

~~(a) where the commitments are provisional;~~

(b) where global commitments relate to financing agreements with third countries;

(c) where the institution's decision constitutes the legal commitment;

(d) where the global commitment is implemented by a number of legal commitments, for which different authorising officers are responsible;

~~(e) where, in connection with imprest accounts available for external action, legal commitments must be signed by members of staff of the local units referred to in Article 72 on the instruction of the authorising officer responsible, who remains, however, fully responsible for the underlying transaction.~~

(f) where an institution has delegated authorising officer powers to the director of an interinstitutional European office pursuant to Article 199(1) of the Financial Regulation.

2. If the authorising officer responsible who signed the budget commitment is not available and remains unavailable for a period incompatible with the time-limits for concluding the legal commitment, that legal commitment shall be concluded by the person designated under the deputation rules adopted by each institution, provided that that person has the status of authorising officer in accordance with Article 65(3) of the Financial Regulation.

following a global commitment. He shall book this amount to the global financial commitment.

3. Paragraph 1 shall apply without prejudice to the decisions that the Council may adopt under Articles 96 and 97 of the ACP-EC Agreement.

Article 79

In accordance with the principle of sound financial management referred to in Article 11 and acting within its powers, the Commission shall endeavour to ensure that:

- (a) the legal commitments implementing the financing agreements referred to in Article 78(1) are concluded no later than three years following the date of conclusion of the corresponding financing agreement. Individual contracts and agreements relating to audit and evaluation, and riders to contracts already concluded, may be concluded later;
- (b) the amount of an individual financing commitment corresponding to a legal commitment implementing a financing agreement referred to in Article 78(1) and for which no payment has been made in a period of three years following the signing of the legal commitment shall be decommitted.

At the end of any deadline fixed in the financing agreements for conclusion of the legal commitments referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph, the authorising officer responsible shall decommit the unused balance of the

Article 98-RAP

Administrative expenditure covered by provisional commitments (Article 85 of the Financial Regulation)

~~Items regarded as routine administrative expenditure which may give rise to provisional commitments shall include the following:~~

- ~~(a) expenditure on staff, whether or not covered by the Staff Regulations, on other human resources and pensions and on the remuneration of experts;~~
- ~~(b) expenditure relating to Members of the institution;~~
- ~~(c) training expenditure;~~
- ~~(d) expenditure on competitions, selection and recruitment;~~
- ~~(e) mission expenses;~~
- ~~(f) representation expenses;~~
- ~~(g) meeting expenses;~~
- ~~(h) freelance interpreters and translators;~~
- ~~(i) exchanges of officials;~~
- ~~(j) recurring rentals of movable and immovable property or recurring payments relating to building contracts within the meaning of article 121 of this Regulation or loan instalments pursuant to Article 203(8) of the Financial Regulation;~~
- ~~(k) miscellaneous insurance;~~
- ~~(l) cleaning, maintenance and security;~~
- ~~(m) welfare and medical expenditure;~~
- ~~(n) the use of telecommunications services;~~

corresponding financial commitments.

Legal commitments as referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph shall be contracts, grant agreements or programme estimates concluded by the ACP State or OCTs or its authorities or contracts and grant agreements concluded by the Commission acting in their name and on their behalf. For the purposes of application of this subparagraph, the Commission shall, in agreement with the beneficiary ACP States and OCTs, incorporate relevant provisions in the financing agreements referred to in Article 78(1).

Article 80

The termination of a project and the decommitment of the funds committed in accordance with Articles 78 and 79 shall be carried out by the ACP State or OCTs or its authorities, and/or by the Commission acting in their name and on their behalf in connection with that project with respect to third parties, after conclusion of the legal commitments entered into and after the related payments and collections have been recorded in the EDF accounts.

~~(e) — financial charges;~~

~~(p) — legal expenses;~~

~~(q) — damages, including interest;~~

~~(r) — work equipment;~~

~~(s) — water, gas and electricity;~~

~~(t) — publications on paper or in electronic versions;~~

~~(u) — communications activities engaged in by the institutions for the coverage of Union events.~~

SECTION 4

COMMITMENT OF EXPENDITURE UNDER DECENTRALISED MANAGEMENT

Article 77

Where EDF resources are managed on a decentralised basis, the commitment of expenditure by the Commission shall be subject to the provisions of this Section.

Article 78

1. Financing agreements with the beneficiary ACP States or OCTs shall be concluded by 31 December of year N + 1 at the latest, N being the year in which the Commission's global financial commitment was adopted.

Where financing agreements are not concluded by the deadline laid down in the first subparagraph, the corresponding appropriations shall be cancelled.

2. The Commission shall be under an obligation to effect payment from EDF resources whenever the authorising officer responsible endorses contracts, grant agreements and programme estimates, as provided for in Article 101(3).

The authorising officer responsible shall register in the EDF accounts, prior to signature for endorsement, the amount of each individual legal commitment which he/she has endorsed

Article 86 FR

Rules applicable to commitments

[there may be an error in the visualisation of this article]

1. In respect of any measure which may give rise to expenditure chargeable to the budget, the authorising officer responsible shall make a budgetary commitment before entering into a legal commitment with third parties or transferring funds to a trust fund on the basis of Article 187.

2. The obligation to make a budgetary commitment before entering into a legal commitment as provided for in paragraph 1, shall not be applicable to legal commitments concluded following a declaration of a crisis situation in the framework of a business continuity plan, in accordance with the procedures adopted by the Commission or by any other institution under its administrative autonomy.

3. In the case of humanitarian aid operations, civil protection operations and crisis management aid, the obligation set out in paragraph 1 shall not apply if efficient delivery of the Union's intervention requires that the Union enter into a legal commitment with third parties immediately and prior booking of the individual budgetary commitment is not possible. The booking of the budgetary commitment shall be done without delay after entering into a legal commitment with third parties.

4. Subject to the special provisions of Title IV of Part Two, global budgetary commitments shall cover the total cost of the corresponding individual legal commitments concluded up to 31 December of year n + 1.

following a global commitment. He shall book this amount to the global financial commitment.

3. Paragraph 1 shall apply without prejudice to the decisions that the Council may adopt under Articles 96 and 97 of the ACP-EC Agreement.

Article 79

In accordance with the principle of sound financial management referred to in Article 11 and acting within its powers, the Commission shall endeavour to ensure that:

(a) the legal commitments implementing the financing agreements referred to in Article 78(1) are concluded no later than three years following the date of conclusion of the corresponding financing agreement. Individual contracts and agreements relating to audit and evaluation, and riders to contracts already concluded, may be concluded later;

(b) the amount of an individual financing commitment corresponding to a legal commitment implementing a financing agreement referred to in Article 78(1) and for which no payment has been made in a period of three years following the signing of the legal commitment shall be decommitted.

At the end of any deadline fixed in the financing agreements for conclusion of the legal commitments referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph, the authorising officer responsible shall decommit the unused balance of the

Subject to Articles 85(4) and 203(2), individual legal commitments relating to individual or provisional budgetary commitments shall be concluded by 31 December of year n.

At the end of the periods referred to in the first and second subparagraphs, the unused balance of such budgetary commitments shall be decommitted by the authorising officer responsible.

The amount of each individual legal commitment adopted following a global budgetary commitment shall, prior to signature, be registered by the authorising officer responsible in the budgetary accounts and booked to the global budgetary commitment.

5. The budgetary and legal commitments entered into for actions extending over more than one financial year shall, except in the case of staff expenditure, have a final date for implementation set, in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

Any parts of such commitments which have not been executed six months after that date shall be decommitted in accordance with Article 15.

The amount of a budgetary commitment corresponding to a legal commitment for which no payment within the meaning of Article 90 has been made within two years of the signing of the legal commitment shall be decommitted, except where that amount relates to a case under litigation before judicial courts or arbitral bodies or where there are special provisions laid down in sector-specific rules.

~~6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance~~

<p>corresponding financial commitments.</p> <p>Legal commitments as referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph shall be contracts, grant agreements or programme estimates concluded by the ACP State or OCTs or its authorities or contracts and grant agreements concluded by the Commission acting in their name and on their behalf. For the purposes of application of this subparagraph, the Commission shall, in agreement with the beneficiary ACP States and OCTs, incorporate relevant provisions in the financing agreements referred to in Article 78(1).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 80</i></p> <p>The termination of a project and the decommitment of the funds committed in accordance with Articles 78 and 79 shall be carried out by the ACP State or OCTs or its authorities, and/or by the Commission acting in their name and on their behalf in connection with that project with respect to third parties, after conclusion of the legal commitments entered into and after the related payments and collections have been recorded in the EDF accounts.</p>	<p>with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on budgetary and legal commitments including registration of individual commitments.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 99 RAP</i> <i>Registration of individual legal commitments</i> <i>(Article 86 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	In the case of a global budget commitment followed by one or several individual legal commitments, the authorising officer responsible shall register in the central accounts the amounts of this or these successive individual legal commitments.
	The registration in the accounts shall indicate the references of the global commitment against which the individual commitments are being booked.
	The authorising officer responsible shall register the amounts in the accounts before signing the corresponding individual legal commitment, except in the cases referred to in the fourth subparagraph of Article 86(4) of the Financial Regulation.
	In all cases, the authorising officer responsible shall check that the aggregated amount does not exceed the amount of the global commitment covering them.
	Article 87 FR
	Checks applicable to commitments
	1. When adopting a budgetary commitment, the authorising officer responsible shall ensure that:
	(a) the expenditure has been charged to the correct item in the budget;
	(b) the appropriations are available;
	(c) the expenditure is in compliance with the Treaties, the budget, this Regulation, the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation and all acts adopted pursuant to the Treaties and any other regulation;

	(d) the principle of sound financial management is respected. The appropriateness of pre-financing payments, their amount and the overall payment schedule shall be commensurate with the planned duration, the progress in implementation and the financial risks that such prefinancing entails.
	2. When registering a legal commitment by physical or electronic signature, the authorising officer shall ensure that:
	(a) the commitment is covered by the corresponding budgetary commitment;
	(b) the expenditure is regular and in compliance with the Treaties, the budget, this Regulation, the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation and with all acts adopted pursuant to the Treaties and any other regulation;
	(c) the principle of sound financial management is respected.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the checks applicable to commitments.
	<i>Article 28 11th EDF FR</i>
	Validation, authorisation and payment of expenditure

	Articles 88, 89, Article 90, with the exception of the second subparagraph of paragraph 4 thereof; and Article 91 and Article 184(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.
	Section 2 Validation of expenditure
<p style="text-align: center;">SECTION 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VALIDATION OF EXPENDITURE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 81</i></p> <p>1. Validation of expenditure is the act whereby the authorising officer responsible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) verifies the existence of the creditor's entitlement; (b) determines or verifies the reality and the amount of the claim; (c) verifies the conditions in which payment is due. <p>2. <i>Articles 97 to 101 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the validation of expenditure.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 88 FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Validation of expenditure</p> <p>1. The validation of expenditure is the act whereby the authorising officer responsible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) verifies the existence of the creditor's entitlement; (b) determines or verifies the reality and the amount of the claim; (c) verifies the conditions according to which payment is due. <p>2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the establishment of detailed rules on validation of expenditure, including passing for payment of staff expenditure and for interim and balance payments of procurement contracts and grants, certified correct for pre-financing payments, and "passed for payment" and "certified correct" forms.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 100 RAP</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Validation and «passing for payment» (Article 88 of the Financial Regulation)</p>

	<p>1. Validation of any expenditure shall be based on supporting documents within the meaning of Article 110 attesting the creditor's entitlement, on the basis of a statement of services actually rendered, supplies actually delivered or work actually carried out, or on the basis of other documents justifying payment, including recurring payments of subscriptions or training courses.</p>
	<p>2. The authorising officer responsible shall personally check the supporting documents or shall, on his own responsibility, ascertain that this has been done, before taking the decision validating the expenditure.</p>
	<p>3. The validation decision shall be expressed by the signing of a «passed for payment» voucher by the authorising officer responsible or by technically competent member of staff, duly empowered by a formal decision of the authorising officer and under his responsibility in accordance with Article 65(5) of the Financial Regulation. Such empowerment decisions shall be kept for future reference.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 101 RAP</i> <i>Certified correct for pre-financing payments</i> <i>(Article 88 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>For pre-financing payments, the authorising officer responsible or a technically competent member of staff, duly empowered by the authorising officer responsible shall certify with the endorsement "certified correct" that the conditions required in the legal commitment for the payment of the pre-financing are met.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 102 RAP</i> <i>Passing for payment of procurement contracts for interim and balance payments</i> <i>(Article 88 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	For interim and balance payments corresponding to procurement contracts, the endorsement «passed for payment» shall certify that:
	(a) the institution has received and formally registered an invoice drawn up by the contractor;
	(b) the invoice itself, or an internal document accompanying the invoice received, has been endorsed «certified correct» and signed by the authorising officer responsible or by a technically competent member of staff , duly empowered by the authorising officer responsible;
	(c) all aspects of the invoice have been checked by the authorising officer responsible or on his responsibility with a view to determining in particular the amount to be paid and the validity of the payment as discharge of the debt.
	The endorsement «certified correct», referred to in point (b) of the first paragraph shall certify that the services provided for in the contract have been properly provided, or that the supplies provided for in the contract have been properly delivered, or that the work provided for in the contract has been properly carried out. For supplies and work, the official or other servant technically competent shall draw up a provisional acceptance certificate, then a final acceptance certificate at the end of the guarantee period laid down in the contract. Those two certificates shall count as the «certified correct» endorsement.

	For recurring payments including payment of subscriptions or training courses, the endorsement «certified correct», shall certify that the entitlement of the creditor is in accordance with relevant documents justifying payment.
	<i>Article 103 RAP</i> <i>Passing for payment of grants for interim and balance payments</i> <i>(Article 88 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	For interim and balance payments corresponding to grants, the endorsement «passed for payment» shall certify that:
	(a) the institution has received and formally registered a payment request drawn up by the beneficiary;
	(b) the payment request itself, or an internal document accompanying the cost statement received, has been endorsed «certified correct» and signed by an official or other servant technically competent, duly empowered by the authorising officer responsible;
	(c) all aspects of the payment request have been checked by the authorising officer responsible or on his responsibility with a view to determining in particular the amount to be paid and the validity of the payment as discharge of the debt.

	By endorsement referred to in point (b) of the first paragraph, the official or other servant technically competent, duly empowered by the authorising officer responsible, certifies that the action or work programme carried out by the beneficiary is in all respects in compliance with the grant agreement or decision, including, where applicable that the costs declared by the beneficiary are eligible.
	<i>Article 104 RAP</i> <i>Passing for payment of staff expenditure</i> <i>(Article 88 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	For payments corresponding to staff expenditure, the endorsement «passed for payment» shall certify that the following supporting documents exist:
	(a) in respect of monthly salary:
	(i) the complete list of staff, giving all the components of remuneration;
	(ii) a form (personal information sheet) based on decisions taken in each individual case, showing, whenever such change occurs, any change in any component of remuneration;
	(iii) in the case of recruitments or appointments, a certified true copy of the recruitment or appointment decision which accompanies the validation of the first salary payment;
	(b) in respect of other remunerations such as staff paid on an hourly or daily basis: a statement signed by the authorised member of staff showing the days and hours worked;
	(c) in respect of overtime: a statement signed by the authorised member of staff

	certifying the amount of overtime worked;
	(d) in respect of mission expenses:
	(i) the travel order signed by the competent authority;
	(ii) the statement of mission expenses, signed by the member of staff on mission and by the administrative superior to whom the appropriate powers have been delegated, if the mission expenses differ from the mission order;
	(e) in respect of some other administrative expenditure related to staff including subscriptions or training courses which, according to the contract, are to be paid in advance: the supporting documents referring to the decision on which the expenditure is based and giving all the components of the calculation.
	The statement of mission expenses referred to in point (d)(ii) of the first subparagraph shall indicate the place of mission, the dates and times of departure and arrival at the place of mission, travel expenses, subsistence expenses, and other expenses duly authorised on production of supporting documents.
	<p><i>Article 105 RAP</i></p> <p><i>Material form of «passed for payment»</i></p> <p><i>(Article 88 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	<p>In a non-computerised system, «passed for payment» shall take the form of a stamp incorporating the signature of the authorising officer responsible or of a technically competent member of staff, duly empowered by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 100. In a computerised system, «passed for payment» shall take the form of an electronically secured validation by the authorising officer responsible or of a technically competent member of staff, duly empowered by the authorising officer responsible.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 106 RAP</i> <i>Material form of «certified correct»</i> <i>(Article 88 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>In a non-computerised system, «certified correct» shall take the form of a stamp incorporating the signature of the authorising officer responsible or of a technically competent member of staff, duly empowered by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 101. In a computerised system, "certified correct" may take the form of an electronically secured validation by the technically competent member of staff, duly empowered by the authorising officer responsible.</i></p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Section 3 Authorisation of payments</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">SECTION 6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AUTHORISATION OF EXPENDITURE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 82</i></p> <p>1. Authorisation of expenditure is the act whereby the authorising officer responsible, having verified that the funds are available and by issuing a payment order, instructs the accounting officer to pay an amount of expenditure which he has validated.</p> <p>2. Where periodic payments are made with regard to services rendered, including rental services, or goods delivered, and subject to his risk analysis, the authorising officer may order the application of a direct debit system.</p> <p>3. Articles 102 and 103 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i> to the implementation of this Article.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 89 FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Authorisation of expenditure</p> <p>1. The authorisation of expenditure is the act by which the authorising officer responsible, having verified that the appropriations are available, instructs the accounting officer, by issuing a payment order, to pay an amount of expenditure which the authorising officer responsible has validated.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Where periodic payments are made with regard to services rendered, including rental services, or goods delivered, and subject to the authorising officer's risk analysis, the authorising officer may order the application of a direct debit system.</p> <p>2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the authorisation of expenditure, including the establishment of mandatory details for payment orders, and on checks by the authorising officer of payment orders.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 107 RAP</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Checks on payments by the authorising officer</i> <i>(Article 89 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>When drawing up the payment order, the authorising officer responsible shall ensure that:</p>
	<p>(a) the payment order has been properly issued, meaning that a corresponding validation decision has been taken previously in the form of «passed for payment»,</p>

	that the particulars of the payee are correct and that the amount is due;
	(b) the payment order corresponds to the budgetary commitment against which it is booked;
	(c) the expenditure is charged to the correct item in the budget;
	(d) appropriations are available.
	<i>Article 108 RAP</i> <i>Mandatory details on payment orders and transmission to the accounting officer</i> <i>(Article 89 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The payment order shall state:
	(a) the financial year to which the expenditure is to be booked;
	(b) the budget article and any other subdivision that may apply;
	(c) the references of the legal commitment giving rise to an entitlement to payment;
	(d) the references of the budgetary commitment against which it is to be booked;
	(e) the amount to be paid, expressed in euro;
	(f) the name, address and bank account details of the payee;
	(g) the object of the expenditure;

	(h) the means of payment;
	(i) the entry of items in the inventory in accordance with Article 248.
	2. The payment order shall be dated and signed by the authorising officer responsible, then sent to the accounting officer.
	Section 4 Payment of expenditure

PAYMENT OF EXPENDITURE

Article 83

1. Payment shall be made on production of proof that the relevant action is in accordance with the basic act or the contract. Payment shall cover one or more of the following operations:

- (a) payment of the entire amount due;
- (b) payment of the amounts due in any of the following ways:
 - (i) pre-financing, which may be divided into a number of payments;
 - (ii) one or more interim payments;
 - (iii) payment of the balance of the amounts due.

2. A distinction shall be made in the accounts between the different types of payment referred to in paragraph 1 at the time they are made.

3. Articles 104 and 105 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Article 84

The accounting officer shall make the payment of expenditure within the limits of the funds available.

Article 90 FR

Types of payments

1. Payment shall be made on production of proof that the relevant action is in accordance with the provisions of the basic act or the contract and shall cover one or more of the following operations:

(a) payment of the entire amount due;

(b) payment of the amount due in any of the following ways:

(i) pre-financing, which may be divided into a number of payments after the signature of the delegation agreement, the contract or grant agreement or after notification of the grant decision;

(ii) one or more interim payments as a counterpart of a partial execution of the action;

(iii) payment of the balance of the amounts due where the action is completely executed.

2. A distinction shall be made in budgetary accounting between the different types of payment referred to in paragraph 1 at the time each payment is made.

3. The accounting rules referred to in Article 152 shall include the rules for clearing the pre-financing in the accounts and for the acknowledgment of the eligibility of costs.

4. Pre-financing payments shall be cleared regularly by the authorising officer responsible, according to the economic nature and the timing of the underlying

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 85</i></p> <p>Payments shall be effected through the bank accounts referred to in Article 44. The detailed rules for opening, administering and using such accounts shall be determined by the accounting officer.</p> <p>Those rules shall in particular require the joint signatures on transfer orders and all bank payments of two members of staff duly authorised by the accounting officer.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 86</i></p> <p>For payments made by the paying manager, the authorising officer responsible shall ensure that checks are carried out before their execution.</p>	<p>project.</p> <p>Where the authorising officer responsible deems it inefficient to request a financial statement from beneficiaries and contractors, he or she shall, for grants or contracts above EUR 5000000, obtain information from them on cumulative spending at least once a year.</p> <p>For the purposes of the second subparagraph, appropriate provisions shall be included in the contracts, grant decisions and agreements as well as in the delegation agreements</p> <p>This paragraph is without prejudice to the specific rules laid down in Title IV of Part Two.</p> <p>5. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the types of payments and supporting documents.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 109 RAP</i> <i>Types of payment</i> <i>(Article 90 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Pre-financing shall provide a float. It may be split into a number of payments in accordance with sound financial management.</p>
	<p>2. An interim payment, which may be repeated, may cover expenditure incurred for the implementation of the decision or agreement or to pay for services, supplies or works completed and/or delivered at interim stages of the contract. It may clear pre-financing in whole or in part, without prejudice to the provisions of</p>

	the basic act.
	3. The closure of the expenditure shall take the form of the payment of the balance which may not be repeated and which clears all preceding expenditure, or a recovery order.
	<i>Article 110 RAP Supporting documents (Article 90 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Pre-financing, including in cases where it is split into a number of payments, shall be paid either on the basis of the contract, the decision, agreement or the basic act, or on the basis of supporting documents which make it possible to check that the terms of the contract, decision or agreement in question are complied with. If a date of payment for pre-financing is determined in those instruments, payment of the due amount shall not be dependent upon further demand.
	2. Interim payments and payments of balances shall be based on supporting documents which make it possible to check that the action financed has been carried out in accordance with the basic act or the decision, or in accordance with the terms of the contract or agreement.
	3. The authorising officer responsible shall lay down, in compliance with the principle of sound financial management, the nature of the supporting documents referred to in this Article in accordance with the basic act, decisions, contracts and agreements. Interim and final technical and financial implementation reports, shall constitute supporting documents for the purposes of paragraph 2.
	4. The supporting documents shall be kept by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 48.

	Article 91 FR
	Payment limited to funds available
	Payment of expenditure shall be made by the accounting officer within the limits of the funds available.

SECTION 8

TIME LIMITS FOR EXPENDITURE OPERATIONS

Article 87

1. The validation, authorisation and payment of expenditure shall be completed within a period of no more than 90 days from the date on which payment is due. The national or regional authorising officer shall authorise the expenditure and notify the Commission's authorising officer responsible accordingly no later than 45 days before that time limit expires.

2. Creditors paid late are entitled to receive default interest in accordance with Article 106 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.

3. Claims for delayed payments for which the Commission is responsible in accordance with Article 37 of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement shall be borne by the Commission from the account or accounts provided for in Article 1(6) of the Internal Agreement.

Article 29 11th EDF FR

Time limits for payment

1. Subject to paragraph 2, Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply to payments carried out by the Commission.
2. Where 11th EDF resources are implemented in indirect management with ACP States or OCTs and the Commission executes payments on their behalf, the time limit referred to in point (b) of Article 92(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply to all payments not referred to in point (a) thereof. The financing agreement shall contain the necessary provisions to ensure the timely collaboration of the contracting authority.
3. Claims for delayed payments for which the Commission is responsible shall be charged to the account or accounts provided for in Article 1(6) of the Internal Agreement.

Section 5

Time limits for expenditure operations

Article 92 FR

	Time limits
	1. Payments shall be made within:
	(a) 90 calendar days for delegation agreements, contracts, grant agreements and decisions involving technical services or actions which are particularly complex to evaluate and for which payment depends on the approval of a report or a certificate;
	(b) 60 calendar days for all other delegation agreements, contracts, grant agreements and decisions for which payment depends on the approval of a report or a certificate;
	(c) 30 calendar days for all other delegation agreements, contracts, grant agreements and decisions.
	2. The authorising officer responsible may suspend the time limit for payment where:
	(a) the amount of the payment request is not due; or
	(b) the appropriate supporting documents have not been produced.
	If information comes to the notice of the authorising officer responsible which puts in doubt the eligibility of expenditure in a payment request, he or she may suspend the time limit for payment for the purpose of verifying, including by means of on-the-spot checks, that the expenditure is indeed eligible.

	3. The creditors concerned shall be informed in writing of the reasons for that suspension.
	4. Where the suspension exceeds two months, the creditor may request a decision by the authorising officer responsible on whether the suspension is to be continued.
	5. Except in the case of Member States, on expiry of the time limits laid down in paragraph 1, the creditor shall be entitled to interest.
	6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on time limits for payment and on the specification of the circumstances in which creditors in receipt of a late payment are entitled to receive default interest charged to the line from which the principal was paid.
	<i>Article 111 RAP Payment time limits and default interest (Article 92 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The time allowed for making payments shall be understood as including validation, authorisation and payment of expenditure.
	It shall begin to run from the date on which a payment request is received.
	A payment request shall be registered by the authorised department of the authorising officer responsible as soon as possible and is deemed to be received on the date it is registered.

	The date of payment is deemed to be the date on which the institution's account is debited.
	2. A payment request shall include the following essential elements:
	(a) creditor's identification;
	(b) amount;
	(c) currency;
	(d) date;
	Where at least one essential element is missing, the payment request shall be rejected.
	The creditor shall be informed in writing of the rejection and the reasons for it as soon as possible and in any case within 30 calendar days from the date on which the payment request was received.
	3. In the case of suspension as referred to in Article 92(2) of the Financial Regulation, the remaining time allowed for payment shall begin to run again from the date on which the requested information or revised documents are received or the necessary further verification, including on-the-spot checks, is carried out.
	4. On expiry of the time-limits laid down in Article 92(1) of the Financial Regulation, the creditor shall be entitled to interest in accordance with the following conditions:
	(a) the interest rates shall be those referred to in Article 83(2) of this Regulation;

	<p>(b) the interest shall be payable for the period elapsing from the calendar day following expiry of the time-limit for payment laid down in Article 92(1) of the Financial Regulation up to the day of payment.</p>
	<p>However, when the interest calculated in accordance with the first subparagraph is lower than or equal to EUR 200, it shall be paid to the creditor only upon a demand submitted within two months of receiving late payment.</p>
	<p>5. Each institution shall submit to the European Parliament and Council a report on the compliance with the time-limits and on the suspension of the time-limits laid down in Article 92 of the Financial Regulation. The report of the Commission shall be annexed to the summary of the annual activity reports referred to in Article 66(9) of the Financial Regulation.</p>

CHAPTER 8

INTERNAL AUDITOR

Article 89

The internal auditor of the EDF shall be the internal auditor of the Commission. He shall perform his duties in accordance with the relevant international standards. He shall be answerable to the Commission for verifying the proper operation of systems and procedures for implementing EDF resources managed by the Commission under Article 2. The internal auditor may not be either authorising officer or accounting officer.

For the purposes of the internal auditing of the EEAS, Heads of Union Delegations, acting as authorising officers by sub-delegation in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 17 shall be subject to the verifying powers of the internal auditor of the Commission for the financial management sub-delegated to them.

Article 90

1. The internal auditor shall advise the Commission on dealing with risks, by issuing independent opinions on the quality of management and control systems and by issuing recommendations for improving the conditions of implementation of operations and promoting sound financial

TITLE VII

VARIOUS IMPLEMENTATION PROVISIONS

Article 30 11th EDF FR

Internal auditor

The internal auditor of the Commission shall be the internal auditor of the 11th EDF. Articles 99 and 100 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 996/2012 shall apply.

management.

He shall be responsible in particular for the following:

(a) assessing the suitability and effectiveness of internal management systems and the performance of departments in implementing policies, programmes and actions by reference to the risks associated with them;

(b) assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal control and audit systems applicable to every operation for the implementation of EDF resources.

2. The internal auditor shall enjoy full and unlimited access to all the information required to perform his duties, if necessary on the spot, including in the Member States and in third countries.

3. The internal auditor shall report to the Commission on his findings and recommendations. The Commission shall ensure that action is taken on recommendations resulting from audits. The internal auditor shall also submit to the Commission an annual internal audit report indicating the number and type of audits carried out, the recommendations made and the action taken on those recommendations.

4. Each year the Commission shall forward a report to the discharge authority summarising the number and type of internal audits carried out, the recommendations made and the action taken on those recommendations.

<p>5. Articles 109 to 115 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i> to the implementation of this Article.</p>	
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<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IT SYSTEMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 88</i></p> <p>1. Where revenue and expenditure operations are managed by means of computer systems, documents may be signed by a computerised or electronic procedure.</p> <p>2. Articles 107 and 108 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i> to the implementation of this Article.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 31 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">IT systems, electronic transmission and e-Government</p> <p>The provisions in Articles 93, 94 and 95 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, concerning the electronic management of operations and documents, shall apply to the 11th EDF <i>mutatis mutandis</i>.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 32 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Good administration and redress</p> <p>Articles 96 and 97 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 98</i></p> <p>Within the limits of the powers conferred on it by the ACP-EC Agreement the Commission shall take steps to use the central database set up pursuant to Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and containing details of candidates and tenderers who are, according to the rules defined in Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement, in a situation that excludes them from participation in procedures for the award of contracts relating to operations financed by the EDF.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 33 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Use of the central exclusion database</p> <p>The central exclusion database set up pursuant to Article 108(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 966/2012 which contains details of candidates and tenderers, and applicants and beneficiaries who are in one of the situations referred to in Article 106; point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 109(1); and point (a) of Article 109(2) of that Regulation shall be used for the implementation of the 11th EDF.</p> <p>Articles 108(2) and (5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Articles 142 and 144 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 on the use of the central exclusion database and on the access to it shall apply mutatis mutandis.</p> <p>With regard to Article 108(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the Union's financial interests shall include the implementation of the 11th EDF.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 17, fifth paragraph</i></p>	
<p>Detailed arrangements may be agreed between the Commission and the European External Action Service (EEAS) in order to facilitate the implementation by Union Delegations of the resources foreseen for support expenditure linked to the EDF under Article 6 of the Internal Agreement. Those arrangements shall not contain any derogation from the provisions of this Regulation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 34 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Administrative arrangements with the EEAS</p> <p>Detailed arrangements may be agreed between the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Commission services in order to facilitate the implementation by Union Delegations of the resources foreseen for support expenditure linked to the 11th EDF under Article 6 of the Internal Agreement.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 7 IT Systems and E-Government</p>

	Article 93 FR
	Electronic management of operations
	1. Where revenue and expenditure operations are managed by means of computer systems, documents may be signed by a computerised or electronic procedure.
	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the electronic management of operations.
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 112 RAP</i> <i>Description of IT systems</i> <i>(Article 93 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	Where computer systems and subsystems are used to process budget implementation operations, a full and up-to-date description of each system or subsystem shall be required.
	Each description shall define the content of all data fields and describe how the system treats each individual operation. It shall show in detail how the system guarantees the existence of a complete audit trail for each operation.
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 113 RAP</i> <i>Periodical save</i></p>

	<i>(Article 93 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The data in computer systems and subsystems shall be saved periodically and kept in a safe place.
	Article 94 FR
	Transmission of documents
	Subject to the prior agreement of the institutions and Member States concerned, any transmission of documents between them may be done by electronic means.
	Article 95 FR
	e-Government
	1. Under shared management, all official exchanges of information between the Member States and the Commission shall be carried out by means indicated in the sector specific rules. Those rules shall provide for interoperability of data gathered or received, and transmitted in the management of the budget.
	2. The institutions and the executive agencies, as well as the bodies referred to in Article 208, shall establish and apply uniform standards for the electronic exchange of information with third parties participating in procurement and grant procedures. In particular, they shall, to the greatest possible extent, design and implement solutions for the submission, storage and processing of data submitted in grant and procurement procedures, and to this end, shall put in place a single

	"electronic data interchange area" for applicants, candidates and tenderers.
	3. The Commission shall report regularly to the European Parliament and the Council on progress in the implementation of e-Government.
	<i>CHAPTER 8</i>
	<i>Administrative principles</i>
	Article 96 FR
	Good administration
	1. The authorising officer responsible shall make known without delay the need to supply evidence and/or documentation, their form and prerequisite content, as well as, where appropriate, the indicative timetable for completion of award procedures.
	2. Where, due to an obvious clerical error on the part of the applicant or tenderer, the applicant or tenderer omits to submit evidence or to make statements, the evaluation committee or, where appropriate, the authorising officer responsible shall, except in duly justified cases, ask the applicant or tenderer to provide the missing information or clarify supporting documents. Such information or clarifications shall not substantially change the proposal or alter the terms of the tender.
	Article 97 FR

	Indication of means of redress
	Where a procedural act of an authorising officer adversely affects the rights of an applicant or tenderer, beneficiary or contractor, it shall contain an indication of the available means of administrative and/or judicial redress for challenging this act.
	In particular, the nature of the redress, the body or bodies before which it can be brought, as well as time limits for their exercise shall be indicated.
	<i>CHAPTER 9²⁶</i>
	<i>Internal auditor</i>
	Article 98 FR
	Appointment of the internal auditor
	1. — Each institution shall establish an internal auditing function which shall be performed in compliance with the relevant international standards. The internal auditor appointed by the institution shall be accountable to the latter for verifying the proper operation of budgetary implementation systems and procedures. The internal auditor may be neither authorising officer nor accounting officer.
	2. — For the purposes of the internal auditing of the EEAS, Heads of Union Delegations, acting as authorising officers by subdelegation in accordance with Article 56(2), shall be subject to the verifying powers of the internal auditor of the

	Commission for the financial management subdelegated to them.
	—— The internal auditor of the Commission shall also act as the internal auditor of the EEAS in respect of the implementation of the EEAS section of the budget, subject to Article 213.
	3. —— The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the appointment of the internal auditor.
	<i>Article 114 RAP Appointment of the internal auditor (Article 98 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. —— Each institution shall appoint its internal auditor in accordance with arrangements adapted to its specific features and requirements. The institution shall inform the European Parliament and Council of the appointment of the internal auditor.
	2. —— Each institution shall determine, in accordance with its specific features and its requirements, the scope of the mission of the internal auditor and shall lay down in detail the objectives and procedures for the exercise of the internal audit function with due respect for international internal audit standards.
	3. —— The institution may appoint as internal auditor, by virtue of their particular competence, an official or other servant covered by the Staff Regulations chosen from nationals of the Member States.
	4. —— If two or more institutions appoint the same internal auditor they shall make the necessary arrangements for him to be declared liable for his actions as laid down

	in Article 119.
	5. The institution shall inform the European Parliament and Council when the duties of the internal auditor are terminated.
	Article 99 FR
	Powers and duties of the internal auditor
	1. The internal auditor shall advise his or her institution on dealing with risks, by issuing independent opinions on the quality of management and control systems and by issuing recommendations for improving the conditions of implementation of operations and promoting sound financial management.
	The internal auditor shall be responsible, in particular, for:
	(a) assessing the suitability and effectiveness of internal management systems and the performance of departments in implementing policies, programmes and actions by reference to the risks associated with them;
	(b) assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the internal control and audit systems applicable to each budgetary implementation operation.
	2. The internal auditor shall perform his or her duties in relation to all the institution's activities and departments. He or she shall enjoy full and unlimited access to all information required to perform his or her duties, if necessary on the spot access, including in the Member States and in third countries.

	The internal auditor shall take note of the annual report of the authorising officers and any other pieces of information identified.
	3. The internal auditor shall report to the institution on his or her findings and recommendations. The institution shall ensure that action is taken with regard to recommendations resulting from audits. The internal auditor shall also submit to the institution an annual internal audit report indicating the number and type of internal audits carried out, the recommendations made and the action taken with regard to those recommendations.
	4. The institution shall make available the contact details of the internal auditor to any natural or legal person involved in expenditure operations, for the purposes of confidentially contacting the internal auditor.
	5. Each year the institution shall forward a report to the European Parliament and the Council containing a summary of the number and type of internal audits carried out, the recommendations made and the action taken on those recommendations.
	6. The reports and findings of the internal auditor, as well as the report of the institution, shall be accessible to the public only after validation by the internal auditor of the action taken for their implementation.
	7. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the powers and duties of the internal auditor.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 115 RAP</i> <i>Resources for the internal auditor</i> <i>(Article 99 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>The institution shall provide the internal auditor with the resources required for the proper performance of his audit function and a mission charter detailing his tasks, duties and obligations.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 116 RAP</i> <i>Work programme</i> <i>(Article 99 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The internal auditor shall adopt his work programme and shall submit it to the institution.</p>
	<p>2. The institution may ask the internal auditor to carry out audits not included in the work programme referred to in paragraph 1.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 117 RAP</i> <i>Reports of the internal auditor</i> <i>(Article 99 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The internal auditor shall submit to the institution the annual internal audit report provided for in Article 99(3) of the Financial Regulation, indicating the number and type of internal audits carried out, the principal recommendations made and the action taken on those recommendations.</p>
	<p>That annual report shall also mention any systemic problems detected by the specialised panel set up pursuant to Article 73(6) of the Financial Regulation.</p>

	2. Each institution shall consider whether the recommendations made in the reports of its internal auditor are suitable for an exchange of best practices with the other institutions.
	3. The internal auditor shall, during the elaboration of his report, particularly focus on the overall compliance with the principle of sound financial management and shall ensure that appropriate measures have been taken in order to steadily improve and enhance its application.
	Article 100 FR
	Independence of the internal auditor
	1. Special rules applicable to the internal auditor shall be laid down by the institution and shall be such as to guarantee that the internal auditor is totally independent in the performance of his or her duties, and to establish the internal auditor's responsibility.
	If the internal auditor is a member of staff, he or she shall exercise exclusive audit functions in full independence and assume responsibility as laid down in the Staff Regulations and set out in the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation.
	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the independence and the liability of the internal auditor, including the right for the internal auditor to bring an action before the Court of Justice of the European Union.
	<i>Article 118 RAP</i>

	<p><i>Independence</i> (Article 100 of the Financial Regulation)</p>
	<p>The internal auditor shall enjoy complete independence in the conduct of his audits. He may not be given any instructions nor be restricted in any way as regards the performance of the functions which, by virtue of his appointment, are assigned to him under the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p><i>Article 119 RAP</i> <i>Liability of the internal auditor</i> (Article 100 of the Financial Regulation)</p>
	<p>The institution alone, proceeding in accordance with this Article, may act to have the internal auditor, as an official or other servant subject to the Staff Regulations, declared liable for his actions.</p>
	<p>The institution shall take a reasoned decision to open an investigation. That decision shall be communicated to the interested party. The institution may put in charge of the investigation, under its direct responsibility, one or more officials of a grade equal to or higher than that of the member of staff concerned. In the course of the investigation, the views of the interested party shall be heard.</p>
	<p>The investigation report shall be communicated to the interested party, who shall then be heard by the institution on the subject of that report.</p>
	<p>On the basis of the report and the hearing, the institution shall adopt either a reasoned decision terminating the proceedings or a reasoned decision in accordance with Articles 22, 86 and Annex IX of the Staff Regulations. Decisions imposing</p>

	disciplinary measures or financial penalties shall be notified to the interested party and communicated, for information purposes, to the other institutions and the Court of Auditors.
	The interested party may bring an action in respect of such decisions before the Court of Justice of the European Union, as provided for in the Staff Regulations.
	<i>Article 120 RAP</i> <i>Action before the Court of Justice of the European Union</i> <i>(Article 100 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Without prejudice to the remedies allowed by the Staff Regulations, the internal auditor may bring an action directly before the Court of Justice of the European Union in respect of any act relating to the performance of his duties as internal auditor. Such an action must be lodged within three months running from the calendar day on which the act in question is notified.
	Such actions shall be investigated and heard as provided for in Article 91(5) of the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union.
10TH EDF IMPLEMENTATION REGULATION	TITLE VIII FUNDING INSTRUMENTS <i>Article 35 11th EDF FR</i>

General provisions on funding instruments

1. For the purpose of providing financial assistance under this Title, cooperation between the Union, and the ACP States and OCTs may take the form, inter alia, of:
 - (a) triangular arrangements by which the Union coordinates with any third country its assistance to an ACP State, OCT or region,
 - (b) administrative cooperation measures such as twinning between the public institutions, local authorities, national public bodies or private law entities entrusted with public service tasks of a Member State, and those of an ACP State or OCT, as well as cooperation measures involving public-sector experts dispatched from the Member States and their regional and local authorities,
 - (c) contributions to the costs necessary to set up and administer a public-private partnership,
 - (d) sector policy support programmes, by which the Union provides support to an ACP State's or OCT's sector programme, and
 - (e) interest rate subsidies in accordance with Article 37.
2. In addition to the funding instruments provided for in Articles 36 to 42, financial assistance may also be provided through the following:
 - (a) debt relief, under internationally agreed debt relief programmes;
 - (b) in exceptional cases, sectoral and general import programmes, which may take the form of:
 - sectoral import programmes in kind;
 - sectoral import programmes providing foreign exchange to finance imports for the sector in question; or
 - general import programmes providing foreign exchange to finance general

imports of a wide range of products.

3. Financial assistance may also be provided through contributions to international, regional or national funds, such as those established or managed by the European Investment Bank, Member States or by ACP States or OCTs and regions or by international organisations, for attracting joint financing from a number of donors, or to funds set up by one or more donors for the purpose of the joint implementation of projects.

Reciprocal access by EU financial institutions to financial instruments set up by other organisations shall be promoted, as appropriate.

4. In implementing its support to transition and reform in ACP States and OCTs, the Union shall draw on and share the experiences of Member States and lessons learned.

<p style="text-align: center;">TITLE V</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PROCUREMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GENERAL PROVISIONS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>SECTION 1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>SCOPE AND AWARD PRINCIPLES</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 91</i></p> <p>1. Public contracts are contracts for pecuniary interest concluded in writing between one or more economic operators and one or more contracting authorities within the meaning of Article 92 in order to obtain, against payment of a price paid in whole or in part from EDF resources, the supply of movable or immovable assets, the execution of works or the provision of services.</p> <p>Those contracts comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) supply contracts; (b) works contracts; (c) service contracts. <p>2. Framework contracts are contracts concluded between one</p>	
	<p><i>Article 36 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p>Procurement</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Article 101 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 defining public contracts shall apply. 2. The contracting authorities for the purposes of this Regulation shall be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Commission on behalf of, and on account of, one or more ACP States or OCTs; (b) entities and persons referred to in Article 185 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and entrusted with the corresponding budget-implementation tasks. 3. For procurement contracts awarded by the contracting authorities referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, or on their behalf, the provisions of Chapter 1 of Title V of Part One and of Chapter 3 of Title IV of Part Two of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply with the exception of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Article 103, the second subparagraph of Article 104(1) and Article 111 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012; (b) Article 127(3) and (4), Article 128, Articles 134 to 137, Article 139(3) to (6), Article 148(4), Article 151(2), Article 160, Article 164, the second sentence of Article 260; and Article 262 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012. <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Article 124(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 shall apply to building contracts.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">The first subparagraph of this paragraph shall not apply to the contracting authorities referred to in point (b) of paragraph 2 where, following the checks referred to in Article 61 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the Commission has authorised them to use their own</p>

or more contracting authorities and one or more economic operators, the purpose of which is to establish the terms governing contracts to be awarded during a given period, in particular with regard to price and, where appropriate, the quantity envisaged. They shall be governed by the provisions of this Title concerning the award procedure, including advertising.

Article 92

1. The following shall be contracting authorities for the purposes of this Title:

- (a) the beneficiary ACP States or bodies duly mandated by them in so included official regional bodies, or their representatives;
- (b) the Commission, in the case of contracts awarded on its own account;
- (c) the Commission, on behalf of and for the account of one or more beneficiary ACP States;
- (d) a national or international public sector body or natural or legal persons who have signed a financing agreement or grant agreement with one or more ACP countries or with the Commission for the implementation of a programme or project.

2. The procurement procedures shall be laid down in the financing agreements referred to in Article 70(3).

procurement procedures.

- 4. For procurement contracts awarded by the Commission on its own account as well as the implementing actions relating to crisis management aid and civil protection and humanitarian aid operations, the provisions of Title V of Part One of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.
- 5. In the event of failure to comply with the procedures referred to in paragraph 3, expenditure on the operations in question shall not be eligible for 11th EDF financing, subject to the principle of proportionality.
- 6. The procurement procedures referred to in paragraph 3 shall be laid down in the financing agreement.
- 7. With regard to Article 263(1)(a) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012:
 - (a) "a prior information notice" is the notice by which the contracting authorities make known, by way of indication, the estimated total value and subject of contracts and framework contracts which they intend to award during a financial year, but excluding contracts under the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice;
 - (b) "a contract notice" is the means by which the contracting authorities make known their intention to launch a procedure for the award of a contract or framework contract or to set up a dynamic purchasing system in accordance with Article 131 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012;
 - (c) "an award notice" is the notice which gives the outcome of the procedure for the award of contracts, framework contracts or contracts based on a dynamic purchasing system.

	TITLE V
	PROCUREMENT
	CHAPTER 1
	General provisions
	Section 1
	Scope and award principles

SECTION 2

PUBLICATION

Article 93

Within the limits of the powers conferred on it by the ACP-EC Agreement and in accordance with the conditions laid down in Annex IV thereto, the Commission shall take the necessary steps to have international tendering procedures published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* and on the Internet.

CHAPTER 2

PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES

Article 94

1. The conditions for participation and the procedures for the award of contracts relating to operations financed by the EDF to assist ACP States shall be those defined in Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement.

The procedures for the award of contracts relating to operations financed by the EDF to assist OCTs shall be defined in the measures implementing the Overseas Association Decision.

2. Where the Commission acts as contracting authority for the

Article 101 FR

Definition of public contracts

1. Public contracts are contracts for pecuniary interest concluded in writing between one or more economic operators and one or more contracting authorities within the meaning of Articles 117 and 190, in order to obtain, against payment of a price paid in whole or in part from the budget, the supply of movable or immovable assets, the execution of works or the provision of services.

Such contracts comprise:

- (a) building contracts;
- (b) supply contracts;
- (c) works contracts;
- (d) service contracts.

2. Framework contracts are contracts concluded between one or more economic operators and one or more contracting authorities, the purpose of which is to establish the terms governing contracts to be awarded during a given period, in particular with regard to price and, where appropriate, the quantity envisaged. They shall be governed by the provisions of this Title concerning the award procedure, including advertising.

3. Except for Articles 106 to 109, this Title shall not apply to grants, or to contracts for technical assistance concluded with the EIB or the European

implementation of humanitarian aid or emergency aid within the framework of the ACP-EC Agreement or the Overseas Association Decision, it shall be required to comply with the relevant Community rules on procurement.

Article 95

The documents relating to the call for tenders shall give a full, clear and precise description of the subject of the contract and specify the exclusion, selection and award criteria applicable to the contract.

Investment Fund.

~~4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the definition and scope of procurement contracts, including framework contracts and specific contracts.~~

Article 121 RAP

Definitions and scope

(Article 101 of the Financial Regulation)

1. Building contracts cover the purchase, long lease, usufruct, leasing, rental or hire purchase, with or without option to buy, of land, existing buildings or other real estate.
2. Supply contracts cover the purchase, leasing, rental or hire purchase, with or without option to buy, of products. A contract for the supply of products and, incidentally, for siting and installation shall be considered a supply contract.
3. Works contracts cover either the execution, or both the execution and design, of works or a work related to one of the activities referred to in Annex I to Directive 2004/18/EC or the realisation, by whatever means, of a work corresponding to the requirements specified by the contracting authority. A 'work' shall mean the outcome of building or civil engineering works taken as a whole that is sufficient of itself to fulfil an economic or technical function.
4. Service contracts cover all intellectual and non-intellectual services other than those covered by supply contracts, works contracts and building contracts.

A contract covering two or more types of procurement (works, services or supplies) shall be awarded in accordance with the provisions applicable to the type of procurement that characterises the main subject of the contract in question.

In the case of mixed contracts consisting of services and supplies, the main object

shall be determined by a comparison of the values of the respective services or supplies.

Any references to nomenclatures in the context of public procurement shall be made using the 'Common Procurement Vocabulary (CPV)' as set out in Regulation (EC) No 2195/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁷.

5. The terms «work contractor», «supplier» and «service provider» covers any natural or legal person or public entity or consortium of such persons and/or bodies which offers to execute works, supply products and provide services. The term «economic operator» shall mean «work contractors», «suppliers» and «service providers». «Tenderers» shall mean economic operators who have submitted a tender. «Candidates» shall mean those who have asked to be allowed to take part in a restricted procedure, a competitive dialogue, or a negotiated procedure. "Vendors" shall mean economic operators registered in a list of vendors according to Article 136(1)(b).

Consortia of economic operators shall be authorised to submit tenders or to be candidates. Contracting authorities may not demand that consortia must have a given legal form in order to be allowed to submit a tender or request to take part, but the consortium selected may be required to adopt a given legal form after it has been awarded the contract if this change is necessary for proper performance of the contract.

6. Departments of the Union institutions shall be considered to be contracting authorities, save where they conclude between themselves administrative arrangements for the provision of services, the supply of products, for the execution of works or for the implementation of building contracts.

7. Technical assistance shall mean support and capacity-building activities necessary for the implementation of a programme or an action, in particular preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, audit and control activities.

8. All exchanges with contractors, including the conclusion of contracts and any amendments thereto, may be done through electronic exchange systems set up by the contracting authority.

9. These systems shall meet the following requirements:

(a) only authorised persons may have access to the system and to documents transmitted through it;

²⁷

OJ L 340, 16.12.2002, p. 1.

*Article 122 RAP
Framework contracts and specific contracts
(Article 101 of the Financial Regulation)*

1. The duration of a framework contract may not exceed four years, save in exceptional cases duly justified in particular by the subject of the framework contract.

Specific contracts based on framework contracts shall be awarded in accordance with the terms of the framework contract, only between the contracting authorities and the contractors of the framework contract.

When awarding specific contracts, the parties may not make substantial changes to the framework contract.

2. Where a framework contract is concluded with a single economic operator, the specific contracts shall be awarded within the limits of the terms laid down in the framework contract.

In duly justified circumstances, contracting authorities may consult in writing the contractor, requesting it to supplement its tender if necessary.

3. Where a framework contract is to be concluded with several economic operators, it shall be concluded with at least three operators, provided that there is a sufficient number of economic operators who satisfy the selection criteria or a sufficient number of admissible tenders which meet the award criteria.

A framework contract with several economic operators may take the form of separate contracts which contain identical terms.

Specific contracts based on framework contracts concluded with several economic operators shall be awarded in accordance with the following arrangements:

(a) in case of framework contracts without reopening of competition by

application of the terms laid down in the framework contract;

(b) in case of framework contracts with reopening of competition, after the parties have again competed on the basis of the same and, if necessary, more precisely formulated terms, and, where appropriate, on the basis of other terms referred to in the specification for the framework contract.

For every specific contract to be awarded in accordance with the arrangements in point (b) of the third subparagraph, contracting authorities shall consult in writing the contractors of the framework contract, fixing a time limit which is sufficiently long to allow tenders to be submitted. Tenders shall be submitted in writing. Contracting authorities shall award each specific contract to the tenderer who has submitted the best tender on the basis of the award criteria set out in the specification for the framework contract.

4. In sectors subject to a rapid price and technological evolution, framework contracts without reopening of competition shall contain a clause either on a mid-term review or on a benchmarking system. After the mid-term review, if the conditions initially laid down are no longer adapted to the price or technological evolution, the contracting authority may not use the framework contract concerned and shall take appropriate measures to terminate it.

5. Only specific contracts based on framework contracts shall be preceded by a budgetary commitment.

*Article 122 RAP
Framework contracts and specific contracts
(Article 101 of the Financial Regulation)*

1. The duration of a framework contract may not exceed four years, save in exceptional cases duly justified in particular by the subject of the framework contract.

Specific contracts based on framework contracts shall be awarded in accordance with the terms of the framework contract, only between the contracting authorities and the contractors of the framework contract.

When awarding specific contracts, the parties may not make substantial changes to the framework contract.

2. Where a framework contract is concluded with a single economic operator, the specific contracts shall be awarded within the limits of the terms laid down in the framework contract.

In duly justified circumstances, contracting authorities may consult in writing the contractor, requesting it to supplement its tender if necessary.

3. Where a framework contract is to be concluded with several economic operators, it shall be concluded with at least three operators, provided that there is a sufficient number of economic operators who satisfy the selection criteria or a sufficient number of admissible tenders which meet the award criteria.

A framework contract with several economic operators may take the form of separate contracts which contain identical terms.

Specific contracts based on framework contracts concluded with several economic operators shall be awarded in accordance with the following arrangements:

(a) in case of framework contracts without reopening of competition by

	<p>application of the terms laid down in the framework contract;</p> <p>(b) in case of framework contracts with reopening of competition, after the parties have again competed on the basis of the same and, if necessary, more precisely formulated terms, and, where appropriate, on the basis of other terms referred to in the specification for the framework contract.</p> <p>For every specific contract to be awarded in accordance with the arrangements in point (b) of the third subparagraph, contracting authorities shall consult in writing the contractors of the framework contract, fixing a time limit which is sufficiently long to allow tenders to be submitted. Tenders shall be submitted in writing. Contracting authorities shall award each specific contract to the tenderer who has submitted the best tender on the basis of the award criteria set out in the specification for the framework contract.</p> <p>4. In sectors subject to a rapid price and technological evolution, framework contracts without reopening of competition shall contain a clause either on a mid-term review or on a benchmarking system. After the mid-term review, if the conditions initially laid down are no longer adapted to the price or technological evolution, the contracting authority may not use the framework contract concerned and shall take appropriate measures to terminate it.</p> <p>5. Only specific contracts based on framework contracts shall be preceded by a budgetary commitment.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 186 RAP</i> <i>Technical assistance</i> <i>(Articles 101 and 125 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>'Technical assistance' shall mean support and capacity-building activities necessary for the implementation of a programme or an action, in particular preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, audit and control activities.</p>

	Article 102 FR
	Principles applicable to public contracts
	1. All public contracts financed in whole or in part by the budget shall respect the principles of transparency, proportionality, equal treatment and non-discrimination.
	2. All public procurement contracts shall be put out to tender on the broadest possible basis, except when use is made of the negotiated procedure referred to in point (d) of Article 104(1).
	Contracting authorities shall not use framework contracts improperly or in such a way that their purpose or effect is to prevent, restrict or distort competition.
	Section 2 Publication
	Article 103 FR
	Publication of public contracts
	1. All contracts exceeding the thresholds provided for in Article 118 or Article 190 shall be published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> by the contracting authorities.
	Contract notices shall be published in advance except in the cases referred to in Article 104(2), and for the service contracts covered by Annex II B to Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on the

	coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, public supply contracts and public service contracts ²⁸ .
	Publication of certain information after the contract has been awarded may be dispensed with where it would hinder application of the law, would be contrary to the public interest, would harm the legitimate business interests of public or private undertakings or would distort fair competition between them.
	2. Contracts with a value below the thresholds provided for in Article 118 or Article 190 and the service contracts referred to in Annex II B to Directive 2004/18/EC shall be advertised by appropriate means.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the requirements for the advertising of contracts and publication of notices.
	<i>Article 123 RAP</i> <i>Advertising of contracts covered by Directive 2004/18/EC</i> <i>(Article 103 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Publication for contracts with a value equal to or above the thresholds laid down in Article 170(1) shall consist in a contract notice, without prejudice to Article 134, and an award notice. A prior information notice shall be compulsory only where the contracting authority intends to make use of the possibility of shortening time limits for receipt of tenders in accordance with Article 152(4).
	2. The prior information notice is the notice by which the contracting

	<p>authorities make known, by way of indication, the estimated total value and subject of contracts and framework contracts which they intend to award during a financial year, but excluding contracts under the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice.</p>
	<p>The prior information notice shall be published either by the Publications Office of the European Union (hereinafter "Publications Office") or by the contracting authorities themselves on their buyer profile.</p>
	<p>The compulsory prior information notice shall be sent to the Publications Office or published on the buyer profile as soon as possible and in any event by no later than 31 March of each financial year.</p>
	<p>Contracting authorities which publish the prior information notice on their buyer profile shall send to the Publications Office, electronically and using the format and transmission procedures specified in point (3) of Annex VIII to Directive 2004/18/EC, a notice announcing the publication of a prior information notice on a buyer profile.</p>
	<p>3. The contract notice is the means by which the contracting authorities make known their intention to launch a procedure for the award of a contract or framework contract or to set up a dynamic purchasing system in accordance with Article 131. Without prejudice to contracts concluded after a negotiated procedure as referred to in Article 134, the contract notice shall be compulsory for the contracts with an estimated value equal to or above the thresholds laid down in Article 170(1).</p>
	<p>It shall not be compulsory for specific contracts based on framework contracts.</p>
	<p>In an open procedure the contract notice shall specify the date, time and, where appropriate, place of the meeting of the opening committee, which shall be open to the tenderers.</p>

	<p>Contracting authorities shall state whether or not they authorise variants and shall specify the minimum capacity levels they demand if they make use of the possibility provided for in the second subparagraph of Article 146(2). They shall set out the selection criteria referred to in Article 146 that they intend to use, the minimum number of candidates they plan to invite to tender and, where appropriate, the maximum number, and the objective and non-discriminatory criteria they intend to apply in order to limit the number, in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 128(1).</p>
	<p>Where there is unrestricted, direct and full access to the call for tenders by electronic means, in particular in the dynamic purchasing systems referred to in Article 131, the Internet address at which these documents can be consulted shall appear in the contract notice.</p>
	<p>Contracting authorities wishing to organise a contest shall issue a notice announcing their intention.</p>
	<p>Where appropriate, contracting authorities shall specify in the contract notice that the procurement procedure is an interinstitutional procurement procedure. In such cases, the contract notice shall indicate the institutions, executive agencies or bodies referred to in Article 208 of the Financial Regulation which are involved in the procurement procedure, the institution responsible for the procurement procedure and the global volume of the contracts for all those institutions, executive agencies or bodies.</p>
	<p>4. The award notice shall give the outcome of the procedure for the award of contracts, framework contracts or contracts based on a dynamic purchasing system. In the case of contracts with a value equal to or above the thresholds laid down in Article 170(1), the award notice shall be compulsory. It shall not be compulsory for specific contracts based on framework contracts.</p>

	<p>The award notice shall be sent to the Publications Office no later than 48 calendar days from the date on which the contract or framework contract is signed. However, notices relating to contracts based on a dynamic purchasing system may be grouped together on a quarterly basis. In such cases, they shall be sent to the Publications Office no later than 48 days after the end of each quarter.</p>
	<p>Contracting authorities which have held a design contest shall send the Publications Office a notice of the results of the contest.</p>
	<p>In case of interinstitutional procedures, the award notice shall be sent by the contracting authority responsible for the procedure.</p>
	<p>The award notice shall also be sent to the Publications Office in the case of a contract or a framework contract with a value equal to or above the thresholds laid down in Article 170(1) and awarded pursuant to a negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice, in sufficient time for the publication to occur before the signature of the contract, in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in Article 171(1).</p>
	<p>Without prejudice to Article 21, information relating to the value and contractors of specific contracts based on a framework contract during a financial year shall be published on the internet website of the contracting authority no later than 30 June following the end of that financial year if, as a result of the conclusion of a specific contract or of the aggregate volume of the specific contracts, the thresholds referred to in Article 170(1) are exceeded.</p>
	<p>5. The notices shall be drawn up in accordance with the standard forms adopted by the Commission pursuant to Directive 2004/18/EC.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 124 RAP</i> <i>Advertising of contracts not covered by Directive 2004/18/EC</i></p>

	<i>(Article 103 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Contracts with a value below the thresholds laid down in Article 170(1) shall be advertised by appropriate means in order to ensure competitive tendering and impartiality of the procurement procedure. Such advertising shall involve:
	(a) a contract notice as referred to in Article 123(3), or a notice of a call for expressions of interest for contracts covering a similar subject with a value greater than the amount referred to in Article 137(1);
	(b) appropriate <i>ex-ante</i> publicity on internet for contracts with a value greater than the amount referred to in Article 137(2).
	2. A list of contractors to whom building contracts and contracts declared secret in accordance with Article 134(1)(j) of this Regulation are awarded shall be published only once a year, with an indication of the subject and value of the contracts awarded. That list shall be sent to the European Parliament and Council. In the case of the Commission, it shall be annexed to the summary of the annual activity reports referred to in Article 66(9) of the Financial Regulation.
	3. Information relating to contracts with a value greater than the amount referred to in Article 137(1) that have not been the subject of an individual award notice shall be sent to the Publications Office. The annual lists of contractors shall be sent by no later than 30 June of the following financial year.
	4. Information relating to contracts with a value greater than the amount referred to in Article 137(2) shall be published on the Internet site of the institution no later than 30 June of the following financial year.
	<i>Article 125 RAP Publication of notices</i>

	<i>(Article 103 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The Publications Office shall publish the notices referred to in Articles 123 and 124 in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> no later than twelve calendar days after their dispatch.
	The period specified in the first subparagraph shall be reduced to five calendar days in the case of the fast-track procedures referred to in Article 154.
	2. The contracting authorities must be able to provide evidence of the date of dispatch.
	<i>Article 126 RAP Other forms of advertising (Article 103 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	In addition to the advertising provided for in Articles 123, 124 and 125, contracts may be advertised in any other way, notably in electronic form. Any such advertising shall refer to the notice published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> , as provided for in Article 125, if one has been published, and may not precede the publication of that notice, which alone is authentic.
	Such advertising may not introduce any discrimination between candidates or tenderers nor contain details other than those contained in the contract notice, if one has been published.
	Section 3 Procurement procedures

	Article 104 FR
	Procurement procedures
	1. Procurement procedures shall take one of the following forms:
	(a) the open procedure;
	(b) the restricted procedure;
	(c) contests;
	(d) the negotiated procedure;
	(e) the competitive dialogue.
	Where a public contract or a framework contract is of interest to two or more institutions, executive agencies or bodies referred to in Article 208 and 209, and whenever there is a possibility for realising efficiency gains, the contracting authorities concerned shall seek to carry out the procurement procedure on an interinstitutional basis.
	Where a public contract or framework contract is necessary for the implementation of a joint action between an institution and one or more contracting authorities from Member States, the procurement procedure may be carried out jointly by the institution and the contracting authorities, in certain situations, which are to be specified in the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation.

	Joint procurement may be conducted with EFTA states, and Union candidate countries, if this possibility has been specifically provided for in a bilateral or multilateral treaty.
	2. For contracts where the value exceeds the thresholds provided for in Articles 118 or 190, use of the negotiated procedure shall be authorised only in cases provided for in the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the types of procurement procedure, joint procurement, low value contracts and payment against invoices.
	<i>Article 127 RAP Types of procurement procedure (Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Contracts shall be awarded by call for tender, using the open, restricted or negotiated procedure after publication of a contract notice or by negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice, where appropriate following a contest.
	2. Procurement procedures are open where all interested economic operators may submit a tender. That applies also in the case of the dynamic purchasing systems referred to in Article 131.
	Procurement procedures are restricted where all economic operators may ask to take part but only candidates satisfying the selection criteria referred to in Article 146 and invited simultaneously and in writing by the contracting authorities may submit a tender or a solution under the competitive dialogue procedure referred to

	in Article 132.
	The selection phase may be repeated for each individual contract, also in the case of a competitive dialogue, or may involve drawing up a list of potential candidates under the procedure referred to in Article 136(1)(a).
	3. In a negotiated procedure, the contracting authorities shall consult tenderers of their choice who satisfy the selection criteria laid down in Article 146, and negotiate the terms of their tenders with one or more of them.
	In negotiated procedures where a contract notice is published, as referred to in Article 135, the contracting authorities shall simultaneously and in writing invite the selected candidates to negotiate.
	4. Contests are procedures which enable the contracting authority to acquire, mainly in the fields of architecture and civil engineering or data processing, a plan or design proposed by a selection board after being put out to competitive tender with or without the award of prizes.
	<i>Article 128 RAP Number of candidates in restricted or negotiated procedures (Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. In a restricted procedure and the procedures referred to in points (a) and (b) of Article 136(1), the number of candidates invited to submit a tender may not be less than five, provided that a sufficient number of candidates satisfy the selection criteria.
	The contracting authority may also provide for a maximum number of candidates, depending on the subject of the contract and on the basis of objective and non-discriminatory selection criteria. In such cases, the range and criteria shall be

	indicated in the contract notice or the call for expressions of interest referred to in Articles 123 and 124.
	In any event, the number of candidates invited to tender must be sufficient to ensure genuine competition.
	2. In negotiated procedures and after a competitive dialogue, the number of candidates invited to negotiate or to tender may not be less than three, provided that a sufficient number of candidates satisfy the selection criteria.
	The number of candidates invited to tender must be sufficient to ensure genuine competition.
	The first and second subparagraphs shall not apply to the following:
	(a) contracts involving very low values, as referred to in Article 137(2);
	(b) contracts for legal services according to the CPV nomenclature;
	(c) contracts declared secret, as referred to in Article 134(1)(j).
	3. Where the number of candidates meeting the selection criteria and the minimum levels is below the minimum number specified in paragraphs 1 and 2, the contracting authority may continue the procedure by inviting the candidate or candidates with the required capacities. However, the contracting authority may not include other economic operators who were not initially invited to be part of the procedure, or candidates who do not have the required capacities.
	<i>Article 129 RAP</i> <i>Arrangements for negotiated procedures</i>

	<i>(Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Contracting authorities shall negotiate with tenderers the tenders they have submitted in order to adapt them to the requirements set out in the contract notice referred to in Article 123 or in the specifications and in any additional documents and in order to find the tender offering best value for money.
	During the negotiation, the contracting authorities shall ensure equal treatment for all tenderers.
	Where contracting authorities may, in accordance with Article 135, award contracts using a negotiated procedure after publishing a contract notice, they may arrange for the negotiated procedure to be conducted in stages so as to reduce the number of tenders to be negotiated, while applying the award criteria set out in the contract notice or specification. The contract notice or specification shall state that use is to be made of this possibility.
	<i>Article 130 RAP Contests (Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The rules for the organisation of a contest shall be communicated to those interested in taking part.
	The number of candidates invited to take part must be sufficient to ensure genuine competition.
	2. The selection board shall be appointed by the authorising officer responsible. It shall be made up exclusively of natural persons who are independent of participants in the contest. Where a particular professional qualification is required

	for participation in a contest, at least one third of the members of the selection board must have the same or an equivalent qualification.
	The selection board shall be autonomous in its opinions. Its opinions shall be adopted on the basis of projects submitted to it anonymously by the candidates and solely in the light of the criteria set out in the contest notice.
	3. The proposals of the selection board, based on the merits of each project, and its observations, shall be recorded in a report signed by its members.
	Candidates shall remain anonymous until the selection board has given its opinion.
	Candidates may be asked by the selection board to answer the questions recorded in the report in order to clarify a project. A full report of the resulting dialogue shall be drawn up.
	4. The contracting authority shall then take a decision giving the name and address of the candidate selected and the reasons for the choice by reference to the criteria announced in the contest notice, especially if it departs from the proposals made in the selection board's opinion.
	<i>Article 131 RAP Dynamic purchasing system (Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The dynamic purchasing system is a completely electronic process for making commonly used purchases, which is open throughout its duration to any economic operator who satisfies the selection criteria and has submitted an indicative tender that complies with the specification and any additional documents. The indicative tenders may be improved at any time provided that they continue to comply with

	the specification.
	2. For the purposes of setting up the dynamic purchasing system, contracting authorities shall publish a contract notice stating that a dynamic purchasing system is being used and containing a reference to the Internet address offering unrestricted, direct and full access to the specification and to any additional documents from the time of publication of the notice up to the expiry of the system.
	They shall indicate in the specification, amongst other matters, the nature of the purchases envisaged under that system, and all the necessary information concerning the purchasing system, the electronic equipment used and the technical connection arrangements and specifications.
	3. Contracting authorities shall give any economic operator, throughout the duration of the dynamic purchasing system, the possibility of submitting an indicative tender with a view to being admitted to the system under the conditions referred to in paragraph 1. They shall complete evaluation within a maximum of 15 days from the date of submission of the indicative tender. However, they may extend the evaluation period provided that no invitation to tender is issued in the meantime.
	The contracting authority shall inform tenderers at the earliest possible opportunity that they have been admitted to the dynamic purchasing system or that their tender has been rejected.
	4. Each specific contract shall be the subject of an invitation to tender. Before issuing this invitation, contracting authorities shall publish a simplified contract notice inviting all interested economic operators to submit an indicative tender, within a time limit that may not be less than 15 days from the date on which the simplified notice is sent. Contracting authorities may not proceed with tendering until they have completed evaluation of all the indicative tenders received by that

	deadline.
	Contracting authorities shall invite all tenderers admitted to the system to submit a tender within a reasonable time. They shall award the contract to the tenderer who has submitted the tender offering best value for money on the basis of the award criteria set out in the contract notice for the establishment of the dynamic purchasing system. Those criteria may, if appropriate, be formulated more precisely in the invitation to tender.
	5. A dynamic purchasing system may not last for more than four years, except in duly justified exceptional cases.
	Contracting authorities may not resort to this system to prevent, restrict or distort competition.
	No charges may be billed to the interested economic operators or to parties to the system.
	<i>Article 132 RAP Competitive dialogue (Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. In the case of particularly complex contracts, where the contracting authority considers that direct use of the open procedure or the existing arrangements governing the restricted procedure will not allow the contract to be awarded to the tender offering best value for money, it may make use of the competitive dialogue referred to in Article 29 of Directive 2004/18/EC.
	A contract is considered to be «particularly complex» where the contracting authority is not objectively able to define the technical means capable of satisfying the needs or objectives or able to specify the legal or financial make-up of the

	project.
	2. Contracting authorities shall publish a contract notice setting out their needs and requirements, which they shall define in that notice and/or in a descriptive document.
	3. Contracting authorities shall open a dialogue with the candidates satisfying the selection criteria set out in Article 146 in order to identify and define the means best suited to satisfying their needs.
	During the dialogue, contracting authorities shall ensure equality of treatment among all tenderers and confidentiality of the solutions proposed or other information communicated by a candidate participating in the dialogue unless the candidate agrees to its disclosure.
	Contracting authorities may provide for the procedure to take place in successive stages in order to reduce the number of solutions to be discussed during the dialogue stage by applying the award criteria in the contract notice or the descriptive document if provision is made for this possibility in the contract notice or the descriptive document.
	4. After informing the participants that the dialogue is concluded, contracting authorities shall ask them to submit their final tenders on the basis of the solution or solutions presented and specified during the dialogue. These tenders shall contain all the elements required and necessary for the performance of the project.
	At the request of the contracting authority, these tenders may be clarified, specified and fine-tuned provided this does not have the effect of changing basic aspects of the tender or of the invitation to tender, variations in which could distort competition or have a discriminatory effect.

	<p>At the request of the contracting authority, the tenderer identified as having submitted the tender offering best value for money may be asked to clarify aspects of the tender or confirm commitments contained in the tender provided this does not have the effect of modifying substantial aspects of the tender or of the call for tenders and does not risk distorting competition or causing discrimination.</p>
	<p>5. The contracting authorities may specify prices or payments to the participants in the dialogue.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 133 RAP</i> <i>Joint procurement</i> <i>(Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>In the case of a joint procurement procedure between one institution and the contracting authority from one or more Member States, EFTA States or Union candidate countries, the procedural provisions applicable to the institution shall apply.</p>
	<p>Where the share pertaining to or managed by the contracting authority of a Member State in the total estimated value of the contract is equal to or above 50%, or in other duly justified cases, the institution may decide that the procedural rules applicable to the contracting authority from a Member State shall apply, provided that they can be considered as equivalent to those of the institution.</p>

	<p>The institution and the contracting authority from Member States, EFTA States or Union candidate countries, concerned by the joint procurement procedure shall agree in particular upon the practical modalities for the evaluation of the requests for participation or the tenders, the award of the contract, the law applicable to the contract and the competent court for hearing disputes.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 134 RAP</i> <i>Use of a negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice</i> <i>(Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Contracting authorities may use the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice, whatever the estimated value of the contract, in the following cases:</p>
	<p>(a) where no tenders, or no suitable tenders, or no request to participate have been submitted in response to an open procedure or restricted procedure after the initial procedure has been completed, provided that the original terms of the contract as specified in the tender documents referred to in Article 138 are not substantially altered;</p>
	<p>(b) where, for technical or artistic reasons, or for reasons connected with the protection of exclusive rights, the contract can be awarded only to a particular economic operator;</p>
	<p>(c) in so far as is strictly necessary where, for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by unforeseeable events not attributable to the contracting authorities, it is impossible to comply with the time limits set for the other procedures and laid down in Articles 152, 153 and 154;</p>
	<p>(d) where a service contract follows a contest and must, under the rules</p>

	<p>applying, be awarded to the successful candidate or to one of the successful candidates; in the latter case, all successful candidates shall be invited to participate in the negotiations;</p>
	<p>(e) for additional services and works not included in the project initially envisaged or in the initial contract but which, through unforeseen circumstances, have become necessary for the performance of the services or works, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 2;</p>
	<p>(f) for new services or works consisting in the repetition of similar services or works entrusted to the economic operator awarded the initial contract by the same contracting authority, provided that these services or works conform to a basic project and that this project was the subject of an initial contract awarded under the open or restricted procedure, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 3;</p>
	<p>(g) for supply contracts:</p>
	<p>(i) in the case of additional deliveries which are intended either as a partial replacement of normal supplies or installations or as the extension of existing supplies or installations, where a change of supplier would oblige the contracting authority to acquire equipment having different technical characteristics which would result in incompatibility or disproportionate technical difficulties in operation and maintenance; the duration of such contracts may not exceed three years;</p>
	<p>(ii) where the products are manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experiment, study or development, with the exception of commercial viability tests and large-scale production aimed at recovering research and development costs;</p>
	<p>(iii) in respect of supplies quoted and purchased on a commodity market;</p>

	(iv) in respect of purchases on particularly advantageous terms, either from a supplier which is definitively winding up its business activities, or from the receivers or liquidators of a bankruptcy, an arrangement with creditors, or a similar procedure under national law;
	(h) for building contracts, after prospecting the local market;
	(i) for contracts for legal services according to the CPV nomenclature, provided that such contracts are appropriately advertised;
	(j) for contracts declared to be secret by the institution or by the authorities delegated by the institution, or for contracts whose performance must be accompanied by special security measures, in accordance with the administrative provisions in force or when the protection of the essential interests of the Union so requires.
	2. For the additional services and works referred to in point (e) of paragraph 1, the contracting authority may make use of the negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice on condition that the award is made to the contractor performing the contract in any of the following cases:
	(a) where such additional contracts cannot be technically or economically separated from the main contract without serious inconvenience for the contracting authority;
	(b) where such services or works, although separable from the performance of the original contract, are strictly necessary for its completion.
	The aggregate value of additional contracts may not exceed 50 % of the amount of the initial contract.

	<p>3. In the cases referred to in point (f) of paragraph 1 of this Article, the option of using the negotiated procedure shall be pointed out as soon as the first operation is put out to competitive tender, and the total estimated amount for the subsequent services or work shall be taken into consideration in calculating the thresholds referred to in Article 170(1). That procedure may be used only during the execution of the original contract and at the latest during the three years following its signing.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 135 RAP</i> <i>Use of a negotiated procedure after prior publication of a contract notice</i> <i>(Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Contracting authorities may use the negotiated procedure after having published a contract notice, whatever the estimated value of the contract, in the following cases:</p>
	<p>(a) where tenders which are irregular or unacceptable, by reference in particular to the selection or award criteria, are submitted in response to an open or restricted procedure, or a competitive dialogue, which has been completed provided that the original terms of the contract as specified in the call for tenders referred to in Article 138 are not substantially altered, without prejudice to the application of paragraph 2 of this Article;</p>
	<p>(b) in exceptional cases involving work, supplies or services where the nature or the risks do not permit prior overall pricing by the tenderer;</p>
	<p>(c) where the nature of the service to be procured, in particular in the case of financial services and intellectual services, is such that contract specifications cannot be established with sufficient precision to permit the award of the contract by selecting the best tender in accordance with the rules governing open or restricted</p>

	procedures;
	(d) for works contracts, where the works are performed solely for purposes of research, testing or development and not with the aim of ensuring profitability or recovering research and development costs;
	(e) for the service contracts referred to in Annex IIB to Directive 2004/18/EC, subject to points (i) and (j) of Article 134(1) of this Regulation and the second paragraph thereof.
	(f) for research and development services other than those where the benefits accrue exclusively to the contracting authority for its use in the conduct of its own affairs, on condition that the service provided is wholly remunerated by the contracting authority;
	(g) for service contracts for the acquisition, development, production or co-production of programme material intended for broadcasting by broadcasters and contracts for broadcasting time.
	2. In the cases referred to in point (a) of paragraph 1, contracting authorities may refrain from publishing a contract notice if they include in the negotiated procedure all the tenderers and only the tenderers satisfying the selection criteria who, during the previous procedure, submitted tenders in accordance with the formal requirements of the procurement procedure.
	<i>Article 136 RAP</i> <i>Procedure involving a call for expressions of interest</i> <i>(Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. For contracts with a value not exceeding that referred to in Article 170(1) and without prejudice to Articles 134 and 135, contracting authorities may use a call for

	expressions of interest to do either of the following:
	(a) to pre-select candidates to be invited to submit tenders in response to future restricted invitations to tender;
	(b) to collect a list of vendors to be invited to submit requests to participate or tenders.
	2. The list drawn up following a call for expressions of interest shall be valid for the following period:
	(a) not more than three years from the date on which the notice referred to in point (a) of Article 124(1) is sent to the Publications Office in the case referred to in point (a) of paragraph 1 of this Article;
	(b) not more than five years from the date on which the notice referred to in point (a) of Article 124(1) is sent to the Publications Office in the case of vendors' list referred to in point (b) of paragraph 1 of this Article.
	The list referred to in the first subparagraph may include sub-lists.
	Any interested person may submit an application at any time during the period of validity of the list, with the exception of the last three months of that period.
	3. Where a contract is to be awarded, the contracting authority shall invite all candidates or vendors entered on the relevant list or sub-list to do either of the following:
	(a) to submit a tender in the case referred to in point (a) of paragraph 1;
	(b) to submit, in case of the list referred to in point (b) of paragraph 1, either of

	the following:
	(i) tenders including documents relating to exclusion and selection criteria;
	(ii) documents relating to exclusion and selection criteria and, in a second step, tenders, for those fulfilling these criteria.
	<i>Article 137 RAP Low-value contracts (Article 104 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. A negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice with consultation of at least three candidates may be used for contracts with a low value not exceeding EUR 60 000.
	If, following consultation of the candidates, the contracting authority receives only one tender that is administratively and technically valid, the contract may be awarded provided that the award criteria are met.
	2. Contracts with a very low value not exceeding EUR 15 000 may be awarded on the basis of a single tender following a negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice.
	3. Payments of amounts not exceeding EUR 1 000 in respect of items of expenditure may consist simply in payment against invoices, without prior acceptance of a tender.
	<i>Article 168 RAP Separate contracts and contracts with lots (Article 104 and 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	1. The estimated value of a contract may not be determined with a view to evading the requirements laid down in this Regulation, nor may a contract be split up for that purpose.
	Whenever appropriate, technically feasible, and cost efficient, contracts with a value equal to or greater than the thresholds laid down in Article 170(1) shall be awarded at the same time in the form of separate lots.
	2. Where the subject of a supply, service or works contract is subdivided into several lots, each one the subject of an individual contract, the total value of all the lots shall be taken into account for the overall evaluation of the applicable threshold.
	Where the total value of all the lots is equal to or exceeds the thresholds laid down in Article 170(1), Article 97(1) and paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 104 of the Financial Regulation shall apply to each of the lots.
	3. Where a contract is to be awarded in the form of separate lots, tenders shall be evaluated separately for each lot. If several lots are awarded to the same tenderer, a single contract covering those lots may be signed.
	Article 105 FR
	Content of tender documents
	Tender documents shall give a full, clear and precise description of the subject of the contract and specify the exclusion, selection and award criteria applicable to the contract.
	The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the content of tender documents, including

	the possibility of, and the conditions for, revision of the price and the technical specifications.
	<i>Article 138 RAP Tender documents (Article 105 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The tender documents shall include at least:
	(a) the invitation to tender or to negotiate or to take part in the dialogue under the procedure referred to in Article 132;
	(b) the attached specification or, in the case of a competitive dialogue as referred to in Article 132, a document describing the needs and requirements of the contracting authority, or the reference for the Internet address at which such specification or document can be consulted;
	(c) the draft contract based on the model contract.
	Point (c) of the first subparagraph shall not apply to cases where, due to exceptional and duly justified circumstances, the model contract cannot be used.
	The tender documents shall contain a reference to the advertising measures taken under Articles 123 to 126.
	2. The invitation to tender or to negotiate or to take part in the dialogue shall at least:
	(a) specify the rules governing the lodging and presentation of tenders, including in particular the closing date and time for submission, any requirement as to the use of a standard reply form, the documents to be attached, including those in evidence

	of financial, economic, technical and professional capacity referred to in Article 146 if they are not specified in the contract notice, and the address to which they must be sent;
	(b) state that submission of a tender implies acceptance of the specification referred to in paragraph 1 to which the tender relates and that this submission binds the contractor to whom the contract is awarded during performance of the contract;
	(c) specify the period during which a tender will remain valid and may not be varied in any respect;
	(d) forbid any contact between the contracting authority and the tenderer during the procedure, save, exceptionally, under the conditions laid down in Article 160, and, where provision is made for an on-the-spot visit, specify the arrangements for such a visit;
	(e) specify, in the case of a competitive dialogue, the date set and the address for the start of the consultation phase.
	3. The specifications shall at least:
	(a) specify the exclusion and selection criteria applying to the contract, save in a competitive dialogue, in the restricted procedure and in the negotiated procedure following publication of a notice as referred to in Article 135; in such cases those criteria shall appear solely in the contract notice or the call for expressions of interest;
	(b) specify the award criteria and their relative weighting or, where appropriate, the decreasing order of importance, if this is not specified in the contract notice;
	(c) set out the technical specifications referred to in Article 139;

	(d) state the minimum requirements which variants must meet in the procedures referred to in Article 149(2) under which the contract is awarded to the tender offering best value for money, where the contracting authority has stated in the contract notice that such variants are permitted;
	(e) state that the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union or, where appropriate, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations or Vienna Convention on Consular Relations applies;
	(f) specify the evidence of access to contracts, as set out in Article 172;
	(g) specify, in the dynamic purchasing systems referred to in Article 131, the nature of the purchases envisaged, as well as all the necessary information concerning the purchasing system, the electronic equipment used and the technical connection arrangements and specifications.
	4. The model contract shall in particular:
	(a) specify the liquidated damages for failure to comply with its clauses;
	(b) specify the details which must be contained in invoices or in the relevant supporting documents in accordance with Article 102;
	(c) state that, when the institutions are contracting authorities, Union law is the law which applies to the contract, complemented, where necessary, by a national law as specified in the contract.
	(d) specify the competent court for hearing disputes.
	For the purposes of point (c) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph, in case of contracts referred to in Article 121(1), the draft contract may refer exclusively to

	national law.
	<p>5. The contracting authorities may demand information from the tenderer on any part of the contract that the tenderer may intend to subcontract to third parties and on the identity of any subcontractors. In addition to the information referred to in Article 143, the contracting authority may also require the candidate or tenderer to submit information on the financial, economic, technical and professional capacities, as referred to in Articles 146, 147 and 148, of the envisaged subcontractor, in particular when subcontracting represents a significant part of the contract.</p>
	<p><i>Article 139 RAP</i> <i>Technical specifications</i> <i>(Article 105 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Technical specifications must afford equal access for candidates and tenderers and not have the effect of creating unjustified obstacles to competitive tendering.</p>
	<p>They shall define the characteristics required of a product, service or material or work with regard to the purpose for which they are intended by the contracting authority.</p>
	<p>2. The characteristics referred to in paragraph 1 shall include:</p>
	<p>(a) the quality levels;</p>
	<p>(b) environmental performance;</p>
	<p>(c) wherever possible, the accessibility criteria for people with disabilities or the</p>

	design for all users;
	(d) the levels and procedures of conformity assessment;
	(e) fitness for use;
	(f) safety or dimensions, including, for supplies, the sales name and user instructions, and, for all contracts, terminology, symbols, testing and test methods, packaging, marking and labelling, production procedures and methods;
	(g) for works contracts, the procedures relating to quality assurance and the rules relating to design and costing, the test, inspection and acceptance conditions for works and methods or techniques of construction and all the other technical conditions which the contracting authority may impose under general or specific regulations in relation to the finished works and to the materials or parts which they involve.
	3. The technical specifications shall be formulated in any of the following ways:
	(a) by reference to European standards, or to European technical approvals or common technical specifications, where such exist, to international standards, to other technical reference systems established by European standardisation bodies or, failing this, their national equivalents; every reference shall be followed by the expression «or equivalent»;
	(b) in terms of performance or of functional requirements, which may include environmental characteristics and shall be sufficiently detailed to enable tenderers to determine the purpose of the contract and the contracting authorities to award the contract;
	(c) by a mixture of those two formulation methods.

	<p>4. Where the contracting authorities make use of the possibility of referring to the specifications referred to in point (a) of paragraph 3, they may not reject a tender on the grounds that it does not comply with those specifications if the tenderer or candidate proves, to the satisfaction of the contracting authority, by any appropriate means, that the tender meets in equivalent manner the requirements set.</p>
	<p>An appropriate means may take the form of a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body.</p>
	<p>5. Where the contracting authorities make use of the possibility provided for in point (b) of paragraph 3, of prescribing specifications in terms of performance or of functional requirements, they may not reject a tender which complies with a national standard transposing a European standard, a European technical approval or common technical specifications, an international standard or technical reference systems established by European standardisation bodies, if those specifications relate to the necessary performance or functional requirements.</p>
	<p>The tenderer must prove to the satisfaction of the contracting authority and by any appropriate means that the tender meets the performance or functional requirements set by the contracting authority. An appropriate means may take the form of a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body.</p>
	<p>6. Where contracting authorities lay down environmental characteristics in terms of performance or of functional requirements, they may use the detailed specifications, or, if necessary, parts thereof, as defined by European, multinational or national eco-labels, or by any other eco-label, provided that the following conditions are satisfied:</p>

	<p>(a) the specifications used are appropriate to define the characteristics of the supplies or services that are the object of the contract;</p>
	<p>(b) the requirements for the label are drawn up on the basis of scientific information;</p>
	<p>(c) the eco-labels are adopted using a procedure in which all the parties concerned, such as government bodies, consumers, manufacturers, distributors and environmental organisations, can participate;</p>
	<p>(d) the eco-labels are accessible to all interested parties.</p>
	<p>7. Contracting authorities may indicate that the products or services bearing the eco-label are presumed to comply with the technical specifications laid down in the contract documents. They shall accept any other appropriate means of proof, such as a technical dossier of the manufacturer or a test report from a recognised body. A recognised body for the purposes of paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 is a test and calibration laboratory or a certification and inspection body which complies with applicable European standards.</p>
	<p>8. Save in exceptional cases, duly warranted by the subject of the contract, those specifications may not refer to a specific make or source, or a particular process, or to trade marks, patents, types or a specific origin or production which would have the effect of favouring or eliminating certain products or economic operators.</p>

	Where it is not possible to provide a sufficiently detailed and intelligible description of the subject of the contract, the reference shall be followed by the expression «or equivalent».
	<i>Article 140 RAP Price revision (Article 105 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The tender documents shall clearly state whether a firm, non-revisable price must be quoted.
	2. If that is not the case, the tender documents shall lay down the conditions and/or formulas for revision of prices during the lifetime of the contract. In such cases the contracting authority shall take particular account of:
	(a) the object of the procurement procedure and the economic situation in which it is taking place;
	(b) the type of tasks and contract and their duration;
	(c) its financial interests.

Article 96

1. Candidates or tenderers shall be excluded from participation in procurement procedures if:

(a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

(b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;

(c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;

(d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;

(e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities'

Article 106 FR

Exclusion criteria applicable for participation in procurement procedures

[there may be a problem in the visualisation of this article]

1. Candidates or tenderers shall be excluded from participation in procurement procedures if:

(a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

(b) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of *res judicata*;

(c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the EIB and international organisations;

(d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;

<p>financial interests;</p> <p>(f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 99.</p> <p>Points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph shall not apply in the case of purchase of supplies on particularly advantageous terms from a supplier which is definitively winding up its business activities, or from the receivers or liquidators of a bankruptcy, through an arrangement with creditors, or through a similar procedure under national law.</p> <p>2. Candidates or tenderers shall certify that they are not in one of the situations listed in paragraph 1. However, the contracting authority may refrain from requiring such certification for very low value contracts.</p> <p>For the purpose of the correct application of paragraph 1, the candidate or tenderer, whenever requested by the contracting authority, must:</p> <p>(a) where the candidate or tenderer is a legal entity, provide information on the ownership or on the management, control and power of representation of the legal entity;</p> <p>(b) where subcontracting is envisaged, certify that the subcontractor is not in one of the situations referred to in paragraph 1.</p> <p>3. Article 133 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the implementation of this</p>	<p>(e) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of <i>res judicata</i> for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;</p> <p>(f) they are subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 109(1).</p> <p>Points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph shall not apply in the case of the purchase of supplies on particularly advantageous terms from a supplier which is definitively winding up its business activities or from the receivers or liquidators of a bankruptcy, through an arrangement with creditors, or through a similar procedure under national law.</p> <p>Points (b) and (e) of the first subparagraph shall not apply where the candidates or tenderers can demonstrate that adequate measures have been adopted against the persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them, who are subject to a judgement as referred to in points (b) or (e) of the first subparagraph.</p> <p>2. In the case of a negotiated procedure where, for technical or artistic reasons, or for reasons connected with the protection of exclusive rights, the contract can be awarded only to a particular economic operator, the institution may decide not to exclude the economic operator concerned on the grounds referred to in points (a), (c) and (d) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1, if it is indispensable to do so in order to ensure the continuity of service of the institution. In such cases, the institution shall duly justify its decision.</p>
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Article.

3. Candidates or tenderers shall certify that they are not in one of the situations listed in paragraph 1. However, the contracting authority may refrain from requiring such certification for very low value contracts.

For the purpose of the correct application of paragraph 1, the candidate or tenderer, whenever requested by the contracting authority, shall:

(a) where the candidate or tenderer is a legal person, provide information on the ownership or on the management, control and power of representation of the legal person and certify that they are not in one of the situations referred to in paragraph 1;

(b) where subcontracting is envisaged, certify that the subcontractor is not in one of the situations referred to in paragraph 1.

~~4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on:~~

~~— (a) the exclusion criteria applicable for participation in calls for tenders, including rules on illegal activities giving rise to exclusion;~~

~~— (b) what evidence may be satisfactory to show that an exclusion situation does not exist;~~

~~— (c) the duration of an exclusion. Such exclusion shall not exceed 10 years.~~

Article 141 RAP

*Illegal activities giving rise to exclusion
(Article 106 of the Financial Regulation)*

	The cases referred to in Article 106(1)(e) of the Financial Regulation shall include all illegal activities detrimental to the Union's financial interests and in particular the following:
	(a) cases of fraud as referred to in Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995 ²⁹ ;
	(b) cases of corruption as referred to in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997 ³⁰ ;
	(c) cases of participation in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA ³¹ ;
	(d) cases of money laundering as defined in Article 1 of Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ³² ;
	(e) cases of terrorist offences, offences linked to terrorist activities, and inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as defined in Articles 1, 3 and 4 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA ³³ .
	<i>Article 142 RAP</i> <i>Application of exclusion criteria and duration of exclusion</i>

²⁹ OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 48.

³⁰ OJ C 195, 25.6.1997, p. 1.

³¹ OJ L 300, 11.11.2008, p. 42

³² OJ L 309, 25.11.2005, p. 15.

³³ OJ L 164, 22.6.2002, p. 3.

	<i>(Articles 106, 107, 108 and 109 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. In order to determine duration of exclusion and to ensure compliance with the principle of proportionality, the institution responsible shall take into account in particular the seriousness of the facts, including their impacts on the Union's financial interests and image and the time which has elapsed, the duration and recurrence of the offence, the intention or degree of negligence of the entity concerned and the measures taken by the entity concerned to remedy the situation.
	When determining the period of exclusion, the institution responsible shall give the candidate or tenderer concerned the opportunity to express its views.
	Where the duration of the period of exclusion is determined, in accordance with the applicable law, by the authorities or bodies referred to in Article 108(2) and (3) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall apply this duration up to the maximum duration laid down in Article 106(4) of the Financial Regulation. The period referred to in Article 106(4) of the Financial Regulation is set at a maximum of five years, calculated from the following dates:
	(a) from the date of the judgment having the force of <i>res judicata</i> in the cases referred to in points (b) and (e) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation;
	(b) from the date on which the infringement is committed or, in the case of continuing or repeated infringements, the date on which the infringement ceases, in the cases referred to in Article 106(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation where the misconduct relates to contracts with the institution concerned.
	For the purposes of point (b) of the third subparagraph, if the grave professional misconduct was established by a decision of a public authority or an international organisation, the date of the decision shall prevail.

	That period of exclusion may be extended to ten years in the event of a repeated offence within five years of the date referred to in points (a) and (b) of the third subparagraph, subject to paragraph 1.
	2. Candidates and tenderers shall be excluded from a procurement and grant procedure as long as they are in one of the situations referred to in points (a) and (d) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation.
	<i>Article 143 RAP Evidence (Articles 106 and 107 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Candidates and tenderers shall provide a declaration on their honour, duly signed and dated, stating that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106 and 107 of the Financial Regulation.
	However, in case of restricted procedure, competitive dialogue and negotiated procedure after publication of a contract notice, whenever the contracting authority limits the number of candidates to be invited to negotiate or submit a tender, all the candidates shall provide the certificates referred to in paragraph 3.
	Depending on its risk assessment, the contracting authority may refrain from requiring the declaration referred to in the first subparagraph for contracts referred to in Article 137(2). However, for contracts referred to in Articles 265(1), 267(1), and 269(1), the contracting authority may refrain from requiring that declaration for contracts with a value less than or equal to EUR 20 000.
	2. The tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded shall provide, within a time limit defined by the contracting authority and preceding the signature of the contract, the evidence referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, confirming the declaration referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article in the following cases:

	(a) for contracts awarded by the institutions on their own account, with a value equal to or greater than the thresholds referred to in Article 170(1);
	(b) for contracts in the field of external actions with a value equal to or greater than the thresholds laid down in Article 265(1)(a), Article 267(1)(a), or Article 269(1)(a).
	For contracts with a value less than the thresholds referred to in points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph, the contracting authority may, where it has doubts as to whether the tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded is in one of the situations of exclusion, require him to provide the evidence referred to in paragraph 3.
	3. The contracting authority shall accept as satisfactory evidence that the candidate or tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded is not in one of the situations described in points (a), (b) or (e) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation, a recent extract from the judicial record or, failing that, an equivalent document recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance showing that those requirements are satisfied. The contracting authority shall accept, as satisfactory evidence that the candidate or tenderer is not in the situation described in point (a) or (d) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation, a recent certificate issued by the competent authority of the State concerned.
	Where the document or certificate referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is not issued in the country concerned and for the other cases of exclusion referred to in Article 106 of the Financial Regulation, it may be replaced by a sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance.

	<p>4. Depending on the national legislation of the country in which the candidate or tenderer is established, the documents referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 shall relate to legal persons and/or natural persons including, where considered necessary by the contracting authority, company directors or any person with powers of representation, decision-making or control in relation to the candidate or tenderer.</p>
	<p>5. Where they have doubts as to whether candidates or tenderers are in one of the situation of exclusion, contracting authorities may themselves apply to the competent authorities referred to in paragraph 3 to obtain any information they consider necessary about that situation.</p>
	<p>6. The contracting authority may waive the obligation of a candidate or tenderer to submit the documentary evidence referred to in paragraph 3 if such evidence has already been submitted to it for the purposes of another procurement procedure and provided that the issuing date of the documents does not exceed one year and that they are still valid.</p>
	<p>In such a case, the candidate or tenderer shall declare on his honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure and confirm that no changes in his situation have occurred.</p>
	<p>7. When requested by the contracting authority, the candidate or tenderer shall submit a declaration on honour from the intended subcontractor that he is not in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106 and 107 of the Financial Regulation.</p>

In case of doubt on this declaration on the honour, the contracting authority shall request the evidence referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4. Paragraph 5 shall apply, where appropriate.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 97</i></p> <p>A contract shall not be awarded to candidates or tenderers who, during the procurement procedure for this contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) are subject to a conflict of interest; (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure or fail to supply this information; (c) find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in Article 96(1), for this procurement procedure. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 107 FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Exclusion criteria applicable to awards</p> <p>1. A contract shall not be awarded to candidates or tenderers who, during the procurement procedure for that contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) are subject to a conflict of interests; (b) are guilty of misrepresenting the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procurement procedure or fail to supply that information; (c) find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in Article 106(1), for the procurement procedure. <p>2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the exclusion criteria applicable during the procurement procedure, and the establishment of what evidence may be considered satisfactory to show that an exclusion situation does not exist. Furthermore, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the duration of an exclusion.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 142 RAP</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Application of exclusion criteria and duration of exclusion (Articles 106, 107, 108 and 109 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. In order to determine duration of exclusion and to ensure compliance with the principle of proportionality, the institution responsible shall take into account in</p>

	<p>particular the seriousness of the facts, including their impacts on the Union's financial interests and image and the time which has elapsed, the duration and recurrence of the offence, the intention or degree of negligence of the entity concerned and the measures taken by the entity concerned to remedy the situation.</p>
	<p>When determining the period of exclusion, the institution responsible shall give the candidate or tenderer concerned the opportunity to express its views.</p>
	<p>Where the duration of the period of exclusion is determined, in accordance with the applicable law, by the authorities or bodies referred to in Article 108(2) and (3) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall apply this duration up to the maximum duration laid down in Article 106(4) of the Financial Regulation. The period referred to in Article 106(4) of the Financial Regulation is set at a maximum of five years, calculated from the following dates:</p>
	<p>(a) from the date of the judgment having the force of <i>res judicata</i> in the cases referred to in points (b) and (e) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation;</p>
	<p>(b) from the date on which the infringement is committed or, in the case of continuing or repeated infringements, the date on which the infringement ceases, in the cases referred to in Article 106(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation where the misconduct relates to contracts with the institution concerned.</p>
	<p>For the purposes of point (b) of the third subparagraph, if the grave professional misconduct was established by a decision of a public authority or an international organisation, the date of the decision shall prevail.</p>
	<p>That period of exclusion may be extended to ten years in the event of a repeated offence within five years of the date referred to in points (a) and (b) of the third subparagraph, subject to paragraph 1.</p>

	<p>2. Candidates and tenderers shall be excluded from a procurement and grant procedure as long as they are in one of the situations referred to in points (a) and (d) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p><i>Article 143 RAP</i> <i>Evidence</i> <i>(Articles 106 and 107 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Candidates and tenderers shall provide a declaration on their honour, duly signed and dated, stating that they are not in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106 and 107 of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>However, in case of restricted procedure, competitive dialogue and negotiated procedure after publication of a contract notice, whenever the contracting authority limits the number of candidates to be invited to negotiate or submit a tender, all the candidates shall provide the certificates referred to in paragraph 3.</p>
	<p>Depending on its risk assessment, the contracting authority may refrain from requiring the declaration referred to in the first subparagraph for contracts referred to in Article 137(2). However, for contracts referred to in Articles 265(1), 267(1), and 269(1), the contracting authority may refrain from requiring that declaration for contracts with a value less than or equal to EUR 20 000.</p>
	<p>2. The tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded shall provide, within a time limit defined by the contracting authority and preceding the signature of the contract, the evidence referred to in paragraph 3 of this Article, confirming the declaration referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article in the following cases:</p>
	<p>(a) for contracts awarded by the institutions on their own account, with a value equal to or greater than the thresholds referred to in Article 170(1);</p>

	<p>(b) for contracts in the field of external actions with a value equal to or greater than the thresholds laid down in Article 265(1)(a), Article 267(1)(a), or Article 269(1)(a).</p>
	<p>For contracts with a value less than the thresholds referred to in points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph, the contracting authority may, where it has doubts as to whether the tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded is in one of the situations of exclusion, require him to provide the evidence referred to in paragraph 3.</p>
	<p>3. The contracting authority shall accept as satisfactory evidence that the candidate or tenderer to whom the contract is to be awarded is not in one of the situations described in points (a), (b) or (e) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation, a recent extract from the judicial record or, failing that, an equivalent document recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance showing that those requirements are satisfied. The contracting authority shall accept, as satisfactory evidence that the candidate or tenderer is not in the situation described in point (a) or (d) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation, a recent certificate issued by the competent authority of the State concerned.</p>
	<p>Where the document or certificate referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article is not issued in the country concerned and for the other cases of exclusion referred to in Article 106 of the Financial Regulation, it may be replaced by a sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance.</p>
	<p>4. Depending on the national legislation of the country in which the candidate or tenderer is established, the documents referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 shall relate to legal persons and/or natural persons including, where considered necessary</p>

	by the contracting authority, company directors or any person with powers of representation, decision-making or control in relation to the candidate or tenderer.
	5. Where they have doubts as to whether candidates or tenderers are in one of the situations of exclusion, contracting authorities may themselves apply to the competent authorities referred to in paragraph 3 to obtain any information they consider necessary about that situation.
	6. The contracting authority may waive the obligation of a candidate or tenderer to submit the documentary evidence referred to in paragraph 3 if such evidence has already been submitted to it for the purposes of another procurement procedure and provided that the issuing date of the documents does not exceed one year and that they are still valid.
	In such a case, the candidate or tenderer shall declare on his honour that the documentary evidence has already been provided in a previous procurement procedure and confirm that no changes in his situation have occurred.
	7. When requested by the contracting authority, the candidate or tenderer shall submit a declaration on honour from the intended subcontractor that he is not in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106 and 107 of the Financial Regulation.
	In case of doubt on this declaration on the honour, the contracting authority shall request the evidence referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4. Paragraph 5 shall apply, where appropriate.
	Article 108 FR
	Central exclusion database

	<p>1. The central exclusion database set up and operated by the Commission, shall contain details of candidates and tenderers which are in one of the situations referred to in Article 106, point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 109(1) and point (a) of Article 109(2). That database shall be common to the institutions, executive agencies and the bodies referred to in Article 208. The European Parliament and the Council shall be annually informed of the number of new cases and of the total number of cases entered into the database.</p>
	<p>2. The authorities of the Member States and third countries as well as the bodies, other than those referred to in paragraph 1, participating in the implementation of the budget in accordance with Articles 58 and 61, shall communicate to the authorising officer responsible information on candidates and tenderers that are in one of the situations referred to in point (e) of the first subparagraph of Article 106(1), where the conduct of the operator concerned was detrimental to the Union's financial interests. That authorising officer shall receive this information and request the accounting officer to enter it into the database.</p>
	<p>The authorities and bodies referred to in the first subparagraph shall have access to the information contained in the database and may take it into account, as appropriate and on their own responsibility, when awarding contracts associated with the implementation of the budget.</p>
	<p>3. The ECB, the EIB and the European Investment Fund shall have access to the information contained in the database for the purpose of protecting their own funds and may take it into account, as appropriate and on their own responsibility, when awarding contracts in accordance with their procurement rules.</p>

	They shall communicate to the Commission information on candidates and tenderers that are in one of the situations referred to in point (e) of the first subparagraph of Article 106(1), where the conduct of the operators concerned was detrimental to the Union's financial interests.
	4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the central exclusion database, including the definition of standardised procedures and technical specifications for the operation of the database.
	5. Access may be granted to authorities of third countries only when the rules laid down in Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 are fulfilled and after an evaluation on a case by case basis.
	<i>Article 142 RAP</i> <i>Application of exclusion criteria and duration of exclusion</i> <i>(Articles 106, 107, 108 and 109 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. In order to determine duration of exclusion and to ensure compliance with the principle of proportionality, the institution responsible shall take into account in particular the seriousness of the facts, including their impacts on the Union's financial interests and image and the time which has elapsed, the duration and recurrence of the offence, the intention or degree of negligence of the entity concerned and the measures taken by the entity concerned to remedy the situation.
	When determining the period of exclusion, the institution responsible shall give the candidate or tenderer concerned the opportunity to express its views.
	Where the duration of the period of exclusion is determined, in accordance with the

	<p>applicable law, by the authorities or bodies referred to in Article 108(2) and (3) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall apply this duration up to the maximum duration laid down in Article 106(4) of the Financial Regulation. The period referred to in Article 106(4) of the Financial Regulation is set at a maximum of five years, calculated from the following dates:</p>
	<p>(a) from the date of the judgment having the force of <i>res judicata</i> in the cases referred to in points (b) and (e) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation;</p>
	<p>(b) from the date on which the infringement is committed or, in the case of continuing or repeated infringements, the date on which the infringement ceases, in the cases referred to in Article 106(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation where the misconduct relates to contracts with the institution concerned.</p>
	<p>For the purposes of point (b) of the third subparagraph, if the grave professional misconduct was established by a decision of a public authority or an international organisation, the date of the decision shall prevail.</p>
	<p>That period of exclusion may be extended to ten years in the event of a repeated offence within five years of the date referred to in points (a) and (b) of the third subparagraph, subject to paragraph 1.</p>
	<p>2. Candidates and tenderers shall be excluded from a procurement and grant procedure as long as they are in one of the situations referred to in points (a) and (d) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 144 RAP Central database (Article 108 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	<p>1. The institutions, executive agencies and bodies referred to in Article 108(1) of the Financial Regulation shall transmit to the Commission, in the format established by the Commission, information identifying third parties which are in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106, 107, 109(1)(b) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation, the grounds for exclusion and the duration of the period of exclusion.</p>
	<p>They shall also transmit information concerning persons with powers of representation, decision making or control over third parties which are legal entities, when these persons have found themselves in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106, 107, 109(1)(b) and 109(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>The authorities and bodies referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 108 of the Financial Regulation shall transmit to the Commission, in the format established by the Commission, information identifying third parties who are in one of the situations referred to in Article 106(1)(e) of the Financial Regulation, where their conduct was detrimental to the Union's financial interests and persons with powers of representation, decision making or control over third parties which are legal entities, such as:</p>
	<p>(a) the type of their conviction;</p>
	<p>(b) the duration of the period of exclusion from procurement procedures, where applicable.</p>
	<p>2. The institutions, agencies, authorities and bodies referred to in paragraph 1 shall designate the persons authorised to communicate to and receive from the Commission the information contained in the database.</p>
	<p>In the case of the institutions, agencies, authorities and bodies referred to in Article 108(1) of the Financial Regulation, the designated persons shall address the information as soon as possible to the accounting officer of the Commission, and</p>

	request, as appropriate, entry, modification or removal of data in the database.
	In the case of the authorities and bodies referred to in Article 108(2) of the Financial Regulation, the designated persons shall address the requisite information to the Commission authorising officer responsible for the programme or action concerned, within three months of the issue of the relevant judgement.
	The accounting officer of the Commission shall enter, modify or remove data in the database. He shall, via a secured protocol, provide on a monthly basis validated data contained in the database to the designated persons.
	3. The institutions, agencies, authorities and bodies referred to in paragraph 1 shall certify to the Commission that the information communicated by them was established and transmitted in accordance with the principles set out in Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and in Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ³⁴ concerning the protection of personal data.
	In particular, they shall inform in advance all third parties or persons referred to in paragraph 1 that their data may be included in the database and communicated by the Commission to the designated persons referred to in paragraph 2. They shall update, where appropriate, the information transmitted, following rectification or erasure or any modification of data.
	Any party entered in the database shall have the right to be informed of the data stored concerning that party, upon request to the accounting officer of the Commission.
	4. Member States shall take appropriate measures to assist the Commission in order to manage the database efficiently, in compliance with Directive 95/46/EC.

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	<p>Appropriate arrangements shall be laid down in the agreements with the authorities of third countries and all bodies referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 108 of the Financial Regulation, in order to ensure compliance with these provisions and with the principles concerning the protection of personal data.</p>
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Article 99

1. Subject to Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement, the contracting authority may impose administrative or financial penalties on the following:

- (a) candidates or tenderers in the cases referred to in Article 97(b);
- (b) contractors who have been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts covered by the EDF.

In all cases, however, the contracting authority must first give the person concerned an opportunity to present his observations.

2. The penalties referred to in paragraph 1 shall be proportionate to the importance of the contract and the seriousness of the misconduct, and may consist in:

- (a) the exclusion of the candidate or tenderer or contractor concerned from the contracts and grants financed by the EDF, for a maximum period of ten years; and/or
- (b) the payment of financial penalties by the candidate or tenderer or contractor up to the value of the contract in question.

3. Article 134b of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply mutatis mutandis to contracts financed from EDF

Article 109 FR

Administrative and financial penalties

1. The contracting authority may impose administrative and/or financial penalties on the following:

- (a) contractors, candidates or tenderers in the cases referred to in point (b) of Article 107(1);
- (b) contractors who have been declared to be in serious breach of their obligations under contracts covered by the budget.

In all cases, however, the contracting authority shall first give the person concerned an opportunity to present his or her observations.

2. The penalties referred to in paragraph 1 shall be proportionate to the importance of the contract and the seriousness of the misconduct, and may consist of:

- (a) the exclusion of the candidate or tenderer or contractor concerned from the contracts and grants financed by the budget, for a maximum period of ten years; and/or
- (b) the payment of financial penalties by the candidate or tenderer or contractor up to the value of that contract.

3. In order to reinforce the protection of the Union's financial interests, institutions may decide, in compliance with the principle of proportionality, to

resources.

publish their decisions imposing administrative or financial penalties referred to in paragraph 1 after the procedure set out in paragraph 1 has been fully complied with.

The decision to publish a decision imposing administrative or financial penalties referred to in the first subparagraph shall take into account, in particular, the seriousness of the misconduct, including its impact on the Union's financial interests and image, the time which has elapsed since the misconduct took place, the duration and recurrence of the misconduct, the intention or degree of negligence of the entity concerned and the measures taken by the entity concerned to remedy the situation.

The decision on the publication shall be included in the decision imposing administrative or financial penalties and shall expressly provide for publication of the decision imposing penalties, or of a summary thereof, on the internet site of the institution.

In order to ensure a deterrent effect, the summary published shall include the name of the person responsible for the misconduct, a short description of that misconduct, the programme concerned and the duration of the exclusion and/or the amount of the financial penalties.

The decision shall be published after the legal remedies against the decision have been exhausted or after the expiry of the deadlines for redress and the publication shall remain on the internet site until the end of the exclusion period or until 6 months after the payment of the financial penalties where these penalties constitute the sole measure decided.

Where natural persons are concerned, the decision to publish shall be taken

	<p>with due consideration of the right to privacy and with due observance of the rights provided for in Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.</p> <p>4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on different administrative and financial penalties for tenderers or candidates who have made false declarations, have made substantial errors, have committed irregularities or fraud or have been found in serious breach of their contractual obligations.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 142 RAP</i> <i>Application of exclusion criteria and duration of exclusion</i> <i>(Articles 106, 107, 108 and 109 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. In order to determine duration of exclusion and to ensure compliance with the principle of proportionality, the institution responsible shall take into account in particular the seriousness of the facts, including their impacts on the Union's financial interests and image and the time which has elapsed, the duration and recurrence of the offence, the intention or degree of negligence of the entity concerned and the measures taken by the entity concerned to remedy the situation.</p>
	<p>When determining the period of exclusion, the institution responsible shall give the candidate or tenderer concerned the opportunity to express its views.</p>
	<p>Where the duration of the period of exclusion is determined, in accordance with the applicable law, by the authorities or bodies referred to in Article 108(2) and (3) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission shall apply this duration up to the maximum duration laid down in Article 106(4) of the Financial Regulation. The period referred to in Article 106(4) of the Financial Regulation is set at a maximum of five years, calculated from the following dates:</p>

	(a) from the date of the judgment having the force of <i>res judicata</i> in the cases referred to in points (b) and (e) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation;
	(b) from the date on which the infringement is committed or, in the case of continuing or repeated infringements, the date on which the infringement ceases, in the cases referred to in Article 106(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation where the misconduct relates to contracts with the institution concerned.
	For the purposes of point (b) of the third subparagraph, if the grave professional misconduct was established by a decision of a public authority or an international organisation, the date of the decision shall prevail.
	That period of exclusion may be extended to ten years in the event of a repeated offence within five years of the date referred to in points (a) and (b) of the third subparagraph, subject to paragraph 1.
	2. Candidates and tenderers shall be excluded from a procurement and grant procedure as long as they are in one of the situations referred to in points (a) and (d) of Article 106(1) of the Financial Regulation.
	<i>Article 145 RAP</i> <i>Administrative and financial penalties</i> <i>(Articles 109 and 131 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Without prejudice to the application of penalties laid down in the contract, candidates or tenderers and contractors who have made false declarations, have made substantial errors or committed irregularities or fraud, or have been found in serious breach of their contractual obligations may be excluded from all contracts and grants financed by the Union budget for a maximum of five years from the date on which the infringement is established as confirmed following a contradictory

	procedure with the candidate, tenderer or the contractor.
	That period may be extended to ten years in the event of a repeated offence within five years of the date referred to in the first subparagraph.
	2. Tenderers or candidates who have made false declarations, have committed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, may also be subject to financial penalties representing 2% to 10% of the total estimated value of the contract being awarded.
	Contractors who have been found in serious breach of their contractual obligations may be subject to financial penalties representing 2% to 10% of the total value of the contract in question.
	That rate may be increased to 4% to 20% in the event of a repeat infringement within five years of the date referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 1.
	3. The institution shall determine the administrative or financial penalties taking into account in particular the elements referred to in Article 142(1).
	Article 110 FR
	Award criteria for contracts
	1. Contracts shall be awarded on the basis of award criteria applicable to the content of the tender after the capability of economic operators not excluded under Articles 106, 107 and point (a) of Article 109(2) has been checked in accordance with the selection criteria contained in the documents relating to the call for tenders.
	2. Contracts shall be awarded by the automatic award procedure or by the best-value-for-money procedure.

	<p>3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the specification of the selection criteria and the award criteria. Furthermore, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the documents that give proof of economic and financial capacity and the evidence of technical and professional capacity and detailed rules on electronic auctions and abnormally low tenders.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 146 RAP Selection criteria (Article 110(1) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The contracting authorities shall draw up clear and non-discriminatory selection criteria.</p>
	<p>2. The selection criteria shall be applied in every procurement procedure for the purposes of assessing the financial, economic, technical and professional capacity of the candidate or the tenderer.</p>
	<p>The contracting authority may lay down minimum capacity levels below which candidates may not be selected.</p>
	<p>3. Any tenderer or candidate may be asked to prove that he is authorised to perform the contract under national law, as evidenced by inclusion in a trade or professional register, or a sworn declaration or certificate, membership of a specific organisation, express authorisation, or entry in the value added tax (hereinafter "VAT") register.</p>
	<p>4. The contracting authorities shall specify in the contract notice or in the call for expressions of interest or the invitation to submit a tender, the references chosen to test the status and the legal capacity of tenderers or candidates.</p>

	<p>5. The information requested by the contracting authority as proof of the financial, economic, technical and professional capacity of the candidate or tenderer and the minimum capacity levels required in accordance with paragraph 2 may not go beyond the subject of the contract and shall take account of the legitimate interests of the economic operators as regards in particular the protection of the firm's technical and business secrets.</p>
	<p>6. The contracting authority may, depending on his assessment of risks, decide not to require proof of the financial, economic, technical and professional capacity of candidates or tenderers in the case of the following contracts:</p>
	<p>(a) contracts awarded by the institutions on their own account, with a value not exceeding the value referred to in Article 137(1);</p>
	<p>(b) contracts awarded in the field of external actions, with a value below the thresholds referred to in Article 265(1)(a), Article 267(1)(a) or Article 269(1)(a).</p>
	<p>Where the contracting authority decides not to require proof of the financial, economic, technical and professional capacity of candidates or tenderers, no pre-financing shall be made unless a financial guarantee of an equivalent amount is provided.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 147 RAP</i> <i>Economic and financial capacity</i> <i>(Article 110(1) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Proof of economic and financial capacity may in particular be furnished by one or more of the following documents:</p>
	<p>(a) appropriate statements from banks or, where appropriate, evidence of</p>

	relevant professional risk indemnity insurance;
	(b) financial statements for at most the last three years for which accounts have been closed;
	(c) a statement of overall turnover and turnover concerning the works, supplies or services covered by the contract during a period which may be no more than the last three financial years available.
	2. The contracting authority may waive the obligation of a candidate or tenderer to submit the documentary evidence referred to in paragraph 1 if such evidence has already been submitted to it for the purposes of another procurement procedure and still complies with paragraph 1.
	If, for some exceptional reason which the contracting authority considers justified, the tenderer or candidate is unable to provide the references requested by the contracting authority, he may prove his economic and financial capacity by any other means which the contracting authority considers appropriate.
	3. An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal.
	The contracting authority may require that the economic operator and the entities referred to in the first subparagraph are jointly liable for the execution of the contract.

	Under the same conditions, a consortium of economic operators as referred to in Article 121(5) may rely on the capacities of members of the consortium or of other entities.
	<i>Article 148 RAP</i> <i>Technical and professional capacity</i> <i>(Article 110(1) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Technical and professional capacity of economic operators shall be evaluated and verified in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. In procurement procedures for supplies requiring siting or installation operations, services and/or works, such capacity shall be assessed with regard in particular to their know-how, efficiency, experience and reliability.
	2. Evidence of the technical and professional capacity of economic operators may, depending on the nature, quantity or scale and purpose of the supplies, services or works to be provided, be furnished on the basis of one or more of the following documents:
	(a) the educational and professional qualifications of the service provider or work contractor and/or those of the firm's managerial staff and, in particular, those of the person or persons responsible for providing the services or carrying out the works;
	(b) a list:
	(i) of the principal services provided and supplies delivered in the past three years, with the sums, dates and recipients, public or private;
	(ii) of the works carried out in the last five years, with the sums, dates

	and place;
	(c) a description of the technical equipment, tools and plant to be employed by the firm for performing a service or works contract;
	(d) a description of the technical equipment and the measures employed to ensure the quality of supplies and services, and a description of the firm's study and research facilities;
	(e) an indication of the technicians or technical bodies involved, whether or not belonging directly to the firm, especially those responsible for quality control;
	(f) in respect of supplies: samples, descriptions and/or authentic photographs and/or certificates drawn up by official quality control institutes or agencies of recognised competence attesting the conformity of the products with the specifications or standards in force;
	(g) a statement of the average annual manpower and the number of managerial staff of the service provider or work contractor in the last three years;
	(h) an indication of the proportion of the contract which the service provider may intend to subcontract;
	(i) for public works contracts and public service contracts, and only in appropriate cases, an indication of the environmental management measures that the economic operator will be able to apply when performing the contract.
	Where the services or supplies referred to in point (b)(i) of the first subparagraph are provided to contracting authorities, evidence of performance shall be in the form of certificates issued or countersigned by the competent authority.

	<p>For the purposes of point (b)(ii) of the first subparagraph the list of the most important works shall be accompanied by certificates of satisfactory execution, specifying whether they have been carried out in a professional manner and have been fully completed.</p>
	<p>3. Where the services or products to be supplied are complex or, exceptionally, are required for a special purpose, evidence of technical and professional capacity may be secured by means of a check carried out by the contracting authority or on its behalf by a competent official body of the country in which the service provider or supplier is established, subject to that body's agreement. Such checks shall concern the supplier's technical capacity and production capacity and, if necessary, its study and research facilities and quality control measures.</p>
	<p>4. Where contracting authorities require the production of certificates drawn up by independent bodies attesting the compliance of the economic operator with certain quality assurance standards, they shall refer to quality assurance systems based on the relevant European standards series certified by accredited bodies. However, contracting authorities shall also accept other evidence of equivalent quality assurance measures from economic operators that have no access to such certificates, or no possibility of obtaining them within the relevant time-limits.</p>
	<p>5. Where contracting authorities require the production of certificates drawn up by independent bodies attesting that the economic operator complies with certain environmental management schemes or standards, they shall refer to the European Union Eco-Management and Audit Scheme or to other environmental management schemes as recognised in accordance with Article 45 of Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁵ or other environmental management standards based on the relevant European or international standards by accredited bodies. They shall recognise equivalent</p>

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OJ L 342, 22.12.2009, p. 1.

	certificates from bodies established in other Member States. They shall also accept other evidence of equivalent environmental management measures from economic operators.
	6. An economic operator may, where appropriate and for a particular contract, rely on the capacities of other entities, regardless of the legal nature of the links which it has with them. It must in that case prove to the contracting authority that it will have at its disposal the resources necessary for performance of the contract, for example by producing an undertaking on the part of those entities to place those resources at its disposal.
	Under the same conditions, a consortium of economic operators as referred to in Article 121(5) may rely on the capacities of members of the consortium or of other entities.
	7. In the case of works contracts, service contracts and siting and installation operations in the context of a supply contract, the contracting authority may require that certain critical tasks be performed directly by the tenderer itself or, where a tender is submitted by a consortium of economic operators as referred to in Article 121(6), a participant in the consortium.
	8. Contracting authorities may conclude that economic operators will not perform the contract to an appropriate quality standard where the contracting authority establishes that they have conflicting interests which may negatively affect the performance of the contract.
	<p><i>Article 149 RAP</i> <i>Award arrangements and criteria</i> <i>(Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	<p>1. Without prejudice to Article 107 of the Financial Regulation, contracts shall be awarded in one of the following two ways:</p>
	<p>(a) under the automatic award procedure, in which case the contract is awarded to the tender which, while being in order and satisfying the conditions laid down, quotes the lowest price;</p>
	<p>(b) under the best-value-for-money procedure.</p>
	<p>2. To determine which tender offers the best value for money the contracting authority shall take into account the price quoted and other quality criteria justified by the subject of the contract such as, technical merit, aesthetic and functional characteristics, environmental characteristics, running costs, profitability completion or delivery times, after-sales service and technical assistance. The contracting authority may lay down minimum levels of quality. Tenders below those levels of quality shall be rejected.</p>
	<p>3. The contracting authority shall specify, in the contract notice or in the specification or in the descriptive document, the weighting it will apply to each of the criteria for determining best value for money. That weighting may be expressed as a range with an appropriate maximum spread.</p>
	<p>The weighting applied to price in relation to the other criteria must not result in the neutralisation of price in the choice of contractor, without prejudice to the scales laid down by the institution for the remuneration of certain services, such as those provided by experts for evaluation purposes.</p>

	<p>If, in exceptional cases, weighting is technically impossible, particularly on account of the subject of the contract, the contracting authority shall merely specify the decreasing order of importance in which the criteria are to be applied.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 150 RAP</i> <i>Use of electronic auctions</i> <i>(Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Contracting authorities may use electronic auctions, in which new prices, revised downwards, and/or new values concerning certain elements of tenders are presented.</p>
	<p>For the purpose of the first subparagraph, contracting authorities shall use a repetitive electronic process (electronic auction), which shall be held after an initial full evaluation of the tenders, enabling them to be ranked using automatic evaluation methods.</p>
	<p>2. In open, restricted or negotiated procedures in the case referred to in Article 135(1)(a), the contracting authorities may decide that the award of a public contract shall be preceded by an electronic auction when the tender specifications can be established with precision.</p>
	<p>In the same circumstances, an electronic auction may be held on the reopening of competition among the parties to a framework contract as referred to in Article 122(3)(b) and on the opening for competition of contracts to be awarded under the dynamic purchasing system referred to in Article 131.</p>
	<p>The electronic auction shall be based either solely on prices, in which case the contract is awarded to the lowest price, or on the prices and/or the values of the features of the tenders indicated in the specification, in which case the contract is</p>

	awarded to the tender offering best value for money.
	3. Contracting authorities which decide to hold an electronic auction shall state that fact in the contract notice.
	The specification shall include the following details:
	(a) the features, the values for which will be the subject of electronic auction, provided that those features are quantifiable and can be expressed in figures or percentages;
	(b) any limits on the values which may be submitted, as they result from the specifications relating to the subject of the contract;
	(c) the information which will be made available to tenderers in the course of the electronic auction and, where appropriate, when it will be made available to them;
	(d) the relevant information concerning the electronic auction process;
	(e) the conditions under which the tenderers will be able to bid and, in particular, the minimum differences which will, where appropriate, be required when bidding;
	(f) the relevant information concerning the electronic equipment used and the arrangements and technical specifications for connection.
	4. Before proceeding with an electronic auction, contracting authorities shall make a full initial evaluation of the tenders in accordance with the award criteria set and with the weighting fixed for them.
	All tenderers who have submitted admissible tenders shall be invited simultaneously

	<p>by electronic means to submit new prices and/or new values; the invitation shall contain all relevant information concerning individual connection to the electronic equipment being used and shall state the date and time of the start of the electronic auction. The electronic auction may take place in a number of successive phases. The electronic auction may not start sooner than two working days after the date on which invitations are sent out.</p>
	<p>5. When the contract is to be awarded on the basis of the tender offering best value for money, the invitation shall be accompanied by the outcome of a full evaluation of the relevant tender, carried out in accordance with the weighting provided for in the first subparagraph of Article 149(3).</p>
	<p>The invitation shall also state the mathematical formula to be used in the electronic auction to determine automatic re-rankings on the basis of the new prices and/or new values submitted. That formula shall incorporate the weighting of all the criteria fixed to determine the tender offering best value for money, as indicated in the contract notice or in the specification. For that purpose, any ranges shall, however, be reduced beforehand to a specified value.</p>
	<p>Where variants are authorised, a separate formula shall be provided for each variant.</p>
	<p>6. Throughout each phase of an electronic auction the contracting authorities shall instantaneously communicate to all tenderers at least sufficient information to enable them to ascertain their relative rankings at any moment. They may also communicate other information concerning other prices or values submitted, provided that that is stated in the specification. They may also at any time announce the number of participants in that phase of the auction. In no case, however, may they disclose the identities of the tenderers during any phase of an electronic auction.</p>

	<p>7. Contracting authorities shall close an electronic auction in one or more of the following ways:</p>
	<p>(a) in the invitation to take part in the auction, they shall indicate the date and time fixed in advance;</p>
	<p>(b) when they receive no more new prices or new values which meet the requirements concerning minimum differences;</p>
	<p>(c) when the number of phases in the auction, fixed in the invitation to take part in the auction, has been completed.</p>
	<p>For the purposes of point (b) of the first subparagraph, the contracting authorities shall state in the invitation to take part in the auction the time which they will allow to elapse after receiving the last submission before they close the electronic auction</p>
	<p>When the contracting authorities have decided to close an electronic auction in accordance with point (c) of the first subparagraph, possibly in combination with the arrangements laid down in point (b) of the first subparagraph, the invitation to take part in the auction shall indicate the timetable for each phase of the auction.</p>
	<p>8. After closing an electronic auction, contracting authorities shall award the contract in accordance with Article 149 on the basis of the results of the electronic auction.</p>

	Contracting authorities may not have improper recourse to electronic auctions nor may they use them in such a way as to prevent, restrict or distort competition or to change the subject-matter of the contract, as put up for tender in the published contract notice and defined in the specification.
	<i>Article 151 RAP Abnormally low tenders (Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. If, for a given contract, tenders appear to be abnormally low, the contracting authority shall, before rejecting such tenders on that ground alone, request in writing details of the constituent elements of the tender which it considers relevant and shall verify those constituent elements, after due hearing of the parties, taking account of the explanations received. These details may relate in particular to compliance with the provisions relating to employment protection and working conditions in force at the place where the work, service or supply is to be performed.
	The contracting authority may, in particular, take into consideration explanations relating to:
	(a) the economics of the manufacturing process, of the provision of services or of the construction method;
	(b) the technical solutions chosen or the exceptionally favourable conditions available to the tenderer;
	(c) the originality of the tender.
	2. Where the contracting authority establishes that a tender is abnormally low as a result of State aid provided, it may reject the tender on that ground alone only if

	the tenderer is unable to prove, within a reasonable time determined by the contracting authority, that the aid in question has been awarded definitively and in accordance with the procedures and decisions specified in the Union rules on State aid.
	Article 111 FR
	Submission of tenders
	1. The arrangements for submitting tenders shall be such as to ensure that there is genuine competition and that the contents of tenders remain confidential until they are all opened simultaneously.
	2. The Commission shall ensure by appropriate means and in application of Article 95 that tenderers may enter the contents of the tenders and any supporting evidence in an electronic format ("e-procurement").
	The Commission shall report to the European Parliament and the Council on the progress of the implementation of this provision by 28 October 2014 and regularly afterwards.
	3. If deemed appropriate and proportionate, the contracting authority may require tenderers to lodge a security in advance as a guarantee that the bids made will not be withdrawn.
	4. With the exception of low value contracts, referred to in Article 104(3), applications and tenders shall be opened by an opening board appointed for this purpose. Any tender or application declared by the board not to satisfy the

	conditions laid down shall be rejected.
	5. All requests to participate or tenders declared by the opening board as satisfying the conditions laid down shall be evaluated, on the basis of the criteria provided in the documents relating to the call for tenders, in order to propose to the contracting authority the award of the contract or to proceed with an electronic auction.
	6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the submission of tenders and the establishment of the time limits for receipt of tenders and requests to participate, the time allowed for access to invitation to tender documents and the time limits in urgent cases. Furthermore, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the different methods of communication and detailed rules on the possibility of a tender guarantee, the opening of tenders, the requests to participate and the Committee for the evaluation of tenders and requests to participate.
	<i>Article 152 RAP</i> <i>Time limits for receipt of tenders and requests to participate</i> <i>(Article 111(1) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The contracting authorities shall lay down in calendar days fixed and peremptory time limits for the receipt of tenders and requests to participate. The time limits shall be long enough to allow interested parties a reasonable and appropriate period to prepare and submit their tenders, taking particular account of the complexity of the contract or the need to visit the site or consult on the spot the documents annexed to the specifications.

	<p>2. In open procedures for contracts with a value equal to or above the thresholds set in Article 170(1), the time limit for receipt of tenders shall be no less than 52 days from the date on which the contract notice is dispatched.</p>
	<p>3. In restricted procedures, in cases of use of the competitive dialogue referred to in Article 132 and in negotiated procedures with publication of a contract notice for contracts above the thresholds set in Article 170(1), the time-limit for receipt of requests to participate shall be no less than 37 days from the date on which the contract notice is dispatched.</p>
	<p>In restricted procedures for contracts with a value equal to or above the thresholds set in Article 170(1), the time limit for receipt of tenders shall be no less than 40 days from the date on which the invitation to tender is dispatched.</p>
	<p>However, in the procedures after a call for expressions of interest referred to in Article 136(1), the time limit shall be:</p>
	<p>(a) no less than 21 days from the date on which the invitation to tender is dispatched for receipt of tenders in the case of the procedure referred to in Article 136(1)(a) and Article 136(3)(b)(i);</p>
	<p>(b) no less than 10 days for receipt of requests to participate and no less than 21 days for receipt of tenders in the case of the two-step procedure referred to in Article 136(3)(b)(ii).</p>
	<p>4. Where the contracting authorities, in accordance with Article 123(2), have sent a pre-information notice for publication or have themselves published a prior information notice on their buyer profile for contracts above the thresholds set in Article 170(1), the time limit for the receipt of tenders may generally be reduced to 36 days but shall in no circumstances be less than 22 days from the date of dispatch</p>

	of the contract notice or the invitation to tender.
	The shortened time limits referred to in the first subparagraph shall be permitted only if the prior information notice satisfies the following conditions:
	(a) it contains all the information required for the contract notice, insofar as that information is available at the time the notice is published;
	(b) it was sent for publication between 52 days and 12 months before the date on which the contract notice was sent.
	5. The time limits for receipt of tenders may be shortened by five days if unrestricted and direct access is available by electronic means to all documents constituting the call for tenders from the date of publication of the contract notice or the call for expressions of interest.
	<i>Article 153 RAP</i> <i>Time allowed for access to tender documents</i> <i>(Article 111(1) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Provided that the request was made in good time before the deadline for submission of tenders, the specification or descriptive documents in the procedure referred to in Article 132 and additional documents shall be sent, within five working days of the receipt of the request, to all economic operators who have requested the specification or expressed interest in taking part in a dialogue or submitting a tender, subject to paragraph 4. Contracting authorities are not bound to reply to requests for documents made less than five working days before the deadline for submission of tenders.
	2. Provided that the request was made in good time before the deadline for submission of tenders, additional information relating to the specification or the

	<p>descriptive documents or additional documents shall be supplied simultaneously to all economic operators who have requested the specification or expressed interest in taking part in a dialogue or submitting a tender as soon as possible and no later than six calendar days before the deadline for the receipt of tenders or, in the case of requests for information received less than eight calendar days before the deadline for receipt of tenders, as soon as possible after receipt of the request. Contracting authorities are not bound to reply to requests for additional information made less than five working days before the deadline for submission of tenders.</p>
	<p>3. If, for whatever reason, the specifications and the additional documents or information cannot be supplied within the time-limits set in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, or where tenders can be made only after a visit to the site or after on-the-spot consultation of the documents annexed to the specifications, the time-limits for receipt of tenders referred to in Article 152 shall be extended to enable all economic operators to acquaint themselves with all the requisite information for preparing tenders. That extension shall be advertised in appropriate manner, in accordance with the arrangements set out in Articles 123 to 126.</p>
	<p>4. In the open procedure, including the dynamic purchasing systems referred to in Article 131, if there is unrestricted and full direct access by electronic means to the entire call for tenders and any additional documents, paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply. The contract notice referred to in Article 123(3) shall give the Internet address at which those documents can be consulted.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 154 RAP</i> <i>Time limits in urgent cases</i> <i>(Article 111(1) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Where duly substantiated urgency renders impracticable the minimum time limits laid down in Article 152(3) for restricted procedures and negotiated</p>

	procedures where a contract notice is published, contracting authorities may set the following time limits, expressed in calendar days:
	(a) a time limit for the receipt of requests to participate which may not be less than 15 days from the date on which the contract notice is dispatched or 10 days if the notice is sent to the Publications Office electronically;
	(b) a time limit for the receipt of tenders which may not be less than 10 days from the date of dispatch of the invitation to tender.
	2. In restricted procedures and fast-track negotiated procedures, additional information on the specifications shall, provided it has been requested in good time, be communicated to all candidates or tenderers no later than four calendar days before the deadline for receipt of tenders.
	<i>Article 155 RAP</i> <i>Methods of communication</i> <i>(Article 111(1) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The arrangements for the submission of tenders and requests to participate shall be determined by the contracting authority, which may choose an exclusive method of submission. Tenders and requests to participate may be submitted by letter or by electronic means. Requests to participate may also be submitted by fax.
	The means of communication chosen shall be generally available and shall not restrict the access of economic operators to the procurement procedure.
	The means of communication chosen shall be such as to ensure that the following conditions are satisfied:

	(a) each submission contains all the information required for its evaluation;
	(b) the integrity of data is preserved;
	(c) the confidentiality of tenders and requests to participate is preserved and the contracting authorities examine the content of tenders and requests to participate only after the time limit set for submitting them has expired;
	(d) the protection of personal data in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001.
	Where necessary for the purposes of legal proof, the contracting authorities may decide that requests to participate submitted by fax must be confirmed by letter or electronically as soon as possible and at all events before the final date set in Articles 152.
	2. Where the contracting authority authorises submission of tenders and requests to participate by electronic means, the tools used and their technical characteristics shall be non-discriminatory in nature, generally available and interoperable with the information and communication technology products in general use and shall not restrict economic operators' access to the procurement procedure.
	3. Except for contracts below the threshold laid down in Article 170(1), devices for the electronic receipt of tenders and requests to participate shall guarantee, through technical means and appropriate procedures, that:
	(a) the economic operator can be authenticated with certainty;
	(b) the exact time and date of the receipt of tenders and requests to participate can be determined precisely;

	(c) it may be reasonably ensured that, before the time limits laid down, no-one can have access to data transmitted under these requirements;
	(d) where that access prohibition is infringed, it may be reasonably ensured that the infringement is clearly detectable;
	(e) only authorised persons may set or change the dates for opening data received;
	(f) during the different stages of the procurement procedure access to all data submitted, or to part thereof, must be possible only through simultaneous action by authorised persons;
	(g) simultaneous action by authorised persons must give access to data transmitted only after the prescribed date;
	(h) data received and opened in accordance with these requirements must remain accessible only to persons authorised to acquaint themselves therewith.
	4. Where the contracting authority authorises submission of tenders and requests to participate by electronic means, the electronic documents submitted by means of such systems shall be deemed to be the originals and to be signed by an authorised representative of the economic operator.
	5. Where submission is by letter, tenderers or candidates may choose to submit tenders or requests to participate:
	(a) either by post or by courier service, in which case the call for tenders shall specify that the evidence shall be constituted by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip;

	<p>(b) by hand-delivery to the premises of the institution by the tenderer or candidate in person or by an agent; for which purposes the call for tenders shall specify, in addition to the information referred to in Article 138(2)(a), the department to which tenders or requests to participate are to be delivered against a signed and dated receipt.</p>
	<p>6. In order to maintain secrecy and to avoid any difficulties where tenders are sent by letter, the invitation to tender must include the following provision:</p>
	<p>Tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope itself enclosed within a second sealed envelope. The inner envelope must bear, in addition to the name of the department to which it is addressed, as indicated in the invitation to tender, the words Invitation to tender — Not to be opened by the mail service. If self-adhesive envelopes are used, they must be sealed with adhesive tape and the sender must sign across that tape.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 156 RAP</i> <i>Tender guarantees</i> <i>(Article 111(3) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>The contracting authority may require a tender guarantee, lodged in accordance with Article 163, representing 1 % to 2 % of the total value of the contract.</p>
	<p>A tender guarantee shall be released when the contract is awarded. If no tender is submitted by the deadline set or if the tender is subsequently withdrawn, the guarantee shall be retained.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 157 RAP</i> <i>Opening of tenders and requests to participate</i></p>

	<i>(Article 111(4) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. All requests to participate and tenders that satisfy the requirements of Article 155 shall be opened.
	2. Where the value of a contract exceeds the threshold laid down in Article 137(1), the authorising officer responsible shall appoint a committee to open the tenders.
	The opening committee shall be made up of at least three persons representing at least two organisational entities of the institution concerned with no hierarchical link between them, at least one of which does not come under the authorising officer responsible. To avoid any conflict of interests, those persons shall be subject to the obligations laid down in Article 57 of the Financial Regulation. In the representations or local units referred to in Article 72 of this Regulation or isolated in a Member State, if there are no separate entities, the requirement of organisational entities with no hierarchical link between them shall not apply.
	In the case of a procurement procedure launched on an interinstitutional basis, the opening committee shall be appointed by the responsible authorising officer from the institution responsible for the procurement procedure. The composition of the opening committee shall reflect, insofar as possible, the interinstitutional character of the procurement procedure.
	3. Where tenders are submitted by post, one or more members of the opening committee shall initial the documents proving the date and time of dispatch of each tender.
	They shall also initial either of the following:
	(a) each page of each tender;

	<p>(b) the cover page and the pages containing the financial details of each tender, the integrity of the initial tender being guaranteed by any appropriate technique employed by a department that is independent of the authorising department, save in the cases referred to in the second subparagraph of paragraph 2.</p>
	<p>Where the contract is awarded under the automatic award procedure in accordance with point (a) of Article 149(1), the prices quoted in tenders satisfying the requirements shall be made public.</p>
	<p>The members of the committee shall sign the written record of the opening of the tenders received, which shall identify those tenders which comply with the requirements of Article 155 and those which do not, and which shall give the grounds on which tenders were rejected for non-compliance, by reference to the methods of submitting tenders referred to in Article 155. That record may be signed in an electronic system providing sufficient identification of the signatory.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 158 RAP</i> <i>Committee for the evaluation of tenders and requests to participate</i> <i>(Article 111(5) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. All requests to participate and tenders declared as complying with the requirements of Article 155 shall be evaluated and ranked by an evaluation committee set up for each of the two stages on the basis of the pre-announced exclusion and selection criteria and the award criteria respectively.</p>
	<p>That committee shall be appointed by the authorising officer responsible to give an advisory opinion on contracts with a value above the threshold referred to in Article 137(1).</p>
	<p>However, the authorising officer responsible may decide that the evaluation</p>

	committee is to evaluate and rank the tenders on the basis of the award criteria only and that the exclusion and selection criteria are to be evaluated by other appropriate means guaranteeing the absence of conflicts of interests.
	2. The evaluation committee shall be made up of at least three persons representing at least two organisational entities of the institutions or bodies referred to in Article 208 of the Financial Regulation with no hierarchical link between them, at least one of which does not come under the authorising officer responsible. The authorising officer responsible shall ensure that these persons satisfy the obligations laid down in Article 57 of the Financial Regulation.
	In the representations and local units referred to in Article 72 or isolated in a Member State, if there are no separate entities, the requirement of organisational entities with no hierarchical link between them shall not apply.
	The evaluation committee may be composed of the same members as the committee opening the tenders.
	Outside experts may assist the committee by decision of the authorising officer responsible. The authorising officer responsible shall ensure that these experts satisfy the obligations laid down in Article 57 of the Financial Regulation.
	In the case of a procurement procedure launched on an interinstitutional basis, the evaluation committee shall be appointed by the responsible authorising officer from the institution responsible for the procurement procedure. The composition of the evaluation committee shall reflect, insofar as possible, the interinstitutional character of the procurement procedure.
	3. Requests to participate and tenders which do not satisfy all the essential requirements set out in the tender documents shall be eliminated.

	However, the evaluation committee or the contracting authority may ask candidates or tenderers to supply additional material or to clarify the supporting documents submitted in connection with the exclusion and selection criteria, within the time limit it specifies.
	Requests to participate and tenders which are not excluded and which meet the selection criteria shall be considered admissible.
	4. In the case of abnormally low tenders as referred to in Article 151, the evaluation committee shall request any relevant information concerning the composition of the tender.
	Article 112 FR
	Principles of equal treatment and transparency
	1. While the procurement procedure is under way, all contacts between the contracting authority and candidates or tenderers shall satisfy conditions ensuring transparency and equal treatment. They shall not lead to amendment of the conditions of the contract or the terms of the original tender.
	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the principles of equal treatment and transparency. Furthermore, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the contact that is allowed between contracting authorities and tenderers during the contract award procedure, the minimum requirements of the written record of an evaluation and the minimum details of the decision taken by the contracting authority.

	<p><i>Article 159 RAP</i> <i>Results of the evaluation</i> <i>(Article 112 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. A written record of the evaluation and ranking of requests to participate and tenders declared to satisfy the requirements shall be drawn up and dated.</p>
	<p>The written record shall be signed by all the members of the evaluation committee. That record may be signed in an electronic system providing sufficient identification of the signatory.</p>
	<p>If the evaluation committee was not given responsibility to verify the tenders against the exclusion and selection criteria, the written record shall also be signed by the persons who were given that responsibility by the authorising officer responsible. The written record shall be kept for future reference.</p>
	<p>2. The written record referred to in paragraph 1 shall contain at least the following:</p>
	<p>(a) the name and address of the contracting authority, and the subject and value of the contract, the framework contract or the dynamic purchasing system;</p>
	<p>(b) the names of the candidates or tenderers rejected and the reasons for their rejection;</p>
	<p>(c) the names of the candidates or tenderers to be examined and the reasons for their selection;</p>
	<p>(d) the reasons for the rejection of tenders found to be abnormally low;</p>
	<p>(e) the names of the candidates or contractor proposed and the reasons for that</p>

	choice and, if known, the proportion of the contract or the framework contract which the contractor intends to subcontract to third parties.
	3. The contracting authority shall then take its decision giving at least the following:
	(a) the name and address of the contracting authority, the subject and value of the contract, or the subject and maximum value of the framework contract or the dynamic purchasing system;
	(b) the names of the candidates or tenderers rejected and the reasons for their rejection;
	(c) the names of the candidates or tenderers to be examined and the reasons for their selection;
	(d) the reasons for the rejection of tenders found to be abnormally low;
	(e) the names of the candidates or contractor selected and the reasons for that choice by reference to the selection and award criteria announced in advance and, if known, the proportion of the contract or the framework contract which the contractor intends to subcontract to third parties;
	(f) in the case of negotiated procedures and competitive dialogue, the circumstances referred to in Articles 132, 134, 135, 266, 268, 270 and 271 which justify their use;
	(g) where appropriate, the reasons why the contracting authority has decided not to award a contract.

	In the case of a procurement procedure launched on an interinstitutional basis, the decision referred to in the first subparagraph shall be taken by the contracting authority responsible for the procurement procedure.
	<i>Article 160 RAP</i> <i>Contacts between contracting authorities and tenderers</i> <i>(Article 112 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Contact between the contracting authority and tenderers during the contract award procedure may take place, by way of exception, under the conditions set out in paragraphs 2 and 3.
	2. Before the closing date for the submission of tenders, in respect of the additional documents and information referred to in Article 153, the contracting authority may:
	(a) at the instance of tenderers, communicate additional information solely for the purpose of clarifying the nature of the contract, such information to be communicated on the same date to all tenderers who have asked for the specifications;
	(b) at its own instance, if it discovers an error, a lack of precision, an omission or any other type of clerical defect in the text of the contract notice, invitation to tender or specifications, inform the persons concerned on the same date and in a manner identical with that applicable in respect of the original invitation to tender.
	3. If, after the tenders have been opened, some clarification is required in connection with a tender, or if obvious clerical errors in the tender must be corrected, the contracting authority may contact the tenderer, although such contact may not lead to any alteration of the terms of the tender.

	4. In every case where contact has been made, and in the duly justified cases where contact has not been made as referred to in Article 96 of the Financial Regulation, a record shall be kept in the procurement file.
	Article 113 FR
	The award decision
	1. The authorising officer shall decide to whom the contract is to be awarded, in compliance with the selection and award criteria laid down in advance in the documents relating to the call for tenders and the procurement rules.
	2. The contracting authority shall notify all candidates or tenderers whose applications or tenders are rejected of the grounds on which the decision was taken, as well as the duration of the standstill period referred to in Article 118(2). The contracting authority shall notify all tenderers who meet the exclusion and selection criteria, and who make a request in writing, of the characteristics and relative advantages of the successful tender and the name of the tenderer to whom the contract is awarded.
	However, certain details need not be disclosed where disclosure would hinder application of the law, would be contrary to the public interest or would harm the legitimate business interests of public or private undertakings or could distort fair competition between those undertakings.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the award decision and the signature

	and implementation of the contract.
	<p><i>Article 161 RAP</i></p> <p><i>Information for candidates and tenderers</i></p> <p><i>(Articles 113, 114 and 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The contracting authorities shall as soon as possible inform candidates and tenderers of decisions reached concerning the award of the contract or framework contract or admission to a dynamic purchasing system, including the grounds for any decision not to award a contract or framework contract, or set up a dynamic purchasing system, for which there has been competitive tendering or to recommence the procedure.</p>
	<p>2. The contracting authority shall, within not more than fifteen calendar days from the date on which a written request is received, communicate the information provided for in Article 113(2) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>3. In the case of contracts awarded by the Union institutions on their own account, with a value equal to or more than the thresholds referred to in Article 170(1) and which are not excluded from the scope of Directive 2004/18/EC, the contracting authority shall inform all unsuccessful tenderers or candidates, simultaneously and individually, by electronic means, that their application or tender has not been accepted at either of the following stages:</p>
	<p>(a) shortly after decisions have been taken on the basis of exclusion and selection criteria and before the award decision, in procurement procedures organised in two separate stages;</p>
	<p>(b) as regards the award decisions and decisions to reject offers, as soon as possible after the award decision and within the following week at the latest.</p>

	In each case, the contracting authority shall indicate the reasons why the tender or application has not been accepted and the available legal remedies.
	Unsuccessful tenderers or candidates may request additional information about the reasons for their rejection in writing by mail, fax or email, and all selected tenderers whose tenders are not eliminated may obtain information about the characteristics and relative merits of the tender accepted and the name of the successful tenderer, without prejudice to the second subparagraph of Article 113(2) of the Financial Regulation. The contracting authority shall reply within no more than fifteen calendar days from receipt of the request.
	<i>Article 162 RAP</i> <i>Signature of the contract</i> <i>(Articles 113 and 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Performance of the contract may not start before the contract is signed.
	Article 114 FR
	Cancellation of the procurement procedure
	The contracting authority may, before the contract is signed, either abandon the procurement or cancel the award procedure without the candidates or tenderers being entitled to claim any compensation.
	The decision shall be justified and be brought to the attention of the candidates or tenderers.

	<p>The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the cancellation of the procurement procedure.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 161 RAP</i> <i>Information for candidates and tenderers</i> <i>(Articles 113, 114 and 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The contracting authorities shall as soon as possible inform candidates and tenderers of decisions reached concerning the award of the contract or framework contract or admission to a dynamic purchasing system, including the grounds for any decision not to award a contract or framework contract, or set up a dynamic purchasing system, for which there has been competitive tendering or to recommence the procedure.</p>
	<p>2. The contracting authority shall, within not more than fifteen calendar days from the date on which a written request is received, communicate the information provided for in Article 113(2) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>3. In the case of contracts awarded by the Union institutions on their own account, with a value equal to or more than the thresholds referred to in Article 170(1) and which are not excluded from the scope of Directive 2004/18/EC, the contracting authority shall inform all unsuccessful tenderers or candidates, simultaneously and individually, by electronic means, that their application or tender has not been accepted at either of the following stages:</p>
	<p>(a) shortly after decisions have been taken on the basis of exclusion and selection criteria and before the award decision, in procurement procedures organised in two separate stages;</p>

	(b) as regards the award decisions and decisions to reject offers, as soon as possible after the award decision and within the following week at the latest.
	In each case, the contracting authority shall indicate the reasons why the tender or application has not been accepted and the available legal remedies.
	Unsuccessful tenderers or candidates may request additional information about the reasons for their rejection in writing by mail, fax or email, and all selected tenderers whose tenders are not eliminated may obtain information about the characteristics and relative merits of the tender accepted and the name of the successful tenderer, without prejudice to the second subparagraph of Article 113(2) of the Financial Regulation. The contracting authority shall reply within no more than fifteen calendar days from receipt of the request.
	Section 4 Guarantees and Corrective Action
	Article 115 FR
	Guarantees
	Other than in the case of low value contracts, the contracting authority may, if it deems it appropriate and proportionate on a case-by-case basis and subject to a risk-analysis, require contractors to lodge a guarantee in order to:
	(a) ensure full performance of the contract, or
	(b) limit the financial risks connected with payment of pre-financing.
	The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with

	Article 210 concerning detailed rules, including criteria for risk analysis, on the guarantees that are required from contractors.
	<i>Article 163 RAP Guarantees (Article 115 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Where contractors are required to lodge a guarantee in advance, it must be for an amount and a period that are sufficient for it to be activated.
	2. The guarantee shall be supplied by a bank or an authorised financial institution. It may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by a third party, after acceptance by the contracting authority.
	The guarantee shall be denominated in euro.
	It shall have the effect of making the bank or financial institution or the third party stand as irrevocable collateral security, or first-call guarantor of the contractor's obligations.
	<i>Article 164 RAP Performance guarantee (Article 115 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. In order to ensure that the works, supplies or services have been fully delivered and when final acceptance according to the terms of the contract cannot be given upon final payment, the authorising officer may demand a performance guarantee on a case-by-case basis and subject to a preliminary risk-analysis.
	2. A guarantee corresponding to 10 % of the total value of the contract may be

	constituted by deductions from payments as and when they are made.
	It may be replaced by an amount withheld from the final payment in order to constitute a guarantee until final acceptance of the services, supplies or works. The amount shall be determined by the authorising officer and shall be proportionate to the risks identified in relation to the performance of the contract, taking into account its subject-matter, as well as the usual commercial terms applicable to the sector.
	Conditions for such a guarantee shall be announced in the tender documents.
	3. After final acceptance of the works, services or supplies, guarantees shall be released in accordance with the terms of the contract.
	<i>Article 165 RAP Guarantee for pre-financing (Article 115 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Once the contracting authority has established the need for a pre-financing, it shall assess the risks associated with pre-financing payments, before launching the procurement procedure, taking into account in particular the following criteria:
	(a) the estimated value of the contract;
	(b) its subject-matter;
	(c) its duration and pace;
	(d) the structure of the market.
	2. A guarantee shall be required in return for the payment of pre-financing in

	the case referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 146(6), or when the authorising officer decides to do so pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article.
	No guarantee shall be required for low value contracts as referred to in Article 137(1).
	The guarantee shall be released as and when the pre-financing is deducted from interim payments or payments of balances to the contractor in accordance with the terms of the contract.
	Article 116 FR
	Errors, irregularities and fraud in the procedure
	1. Where the award procedure proves to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, the contracting authority shall suspend the procedure and may take whatever measures are necessary, including the cancellation of the procedure.
	Where, after the award of the contract, the award procedure or the performance of the contract prove to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, the contracting authority may, depending on the stage reached in the procedure, refrain from concluding the contract, suspend its performance or, where appropriate, terminate it.
	Where those errors, irregularities or fraud are attributable to the contractor, the contracting authority may, in addition, refuse to make payments, recover amounts already paid or terminate all the contracts concluded with that contractor,

	in proportion to the seriousness of the errors, irregularities or fraud.
	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the suspension of a contract in the event of errors, irregularities and fraud.
	<i>Article 166 RAP Suspension in the event of errors or irregularities (Article 116 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Contracts may be suspended under Article 116 of the Financial Regulation in order to verify whether presumed substantial errors or irregularities or fraud have actually occurred. If they are not confirmed, performance of the contract shall resume as soon as possible.
	2. A substantial error or irregularity shall be any infringement of a provision of a contract or regulation resulting from an act or an omission which causes or might cause a loss to the Union budget.
	CHAPTER 2 Provisions applicable to contracts awarded by the Union institutions on their own account
	Article 117 FR
	The contracting authority
	1. The institutions shall be deemed to be contracting authorities in the case of contracts awarded on their own account. They shall delegate, in accordance with Article 65, the necessary powers for the exercise of the function of contracting

	authority.
	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the delegation of the function of contracting authority, including the identification of the appropriate levels for the calculation of thresholds.
	<i>Article 167 RAP</i> <i>Identification of the appropriate level for the calculation of thresholds</i> <i>(Articles 117 and 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	It shall be for each authorising officer by delegation or subdelegation within each institution to assess whether the thresholds laid down in Article 118 of the Financial Regulation have been reached.
	Article 118 FR
	Thresholds applicable
	1. Subject to Title IV of Part Two, Directive 2004/18/EC lays down the thresholds which determine:
	(a) the publication arrangements referred to in Article 103;
	(b) the choice of procedures referred to in Article 104(1);
	(c) the corresponding time limits.

	<p>2. Subject to exceptions and conditions to be specified in the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation, the contracting authority shall not, in the case of contracts covered by Directive 2004/18/EC, sign the contract or framework contract with the successful tenderer until a standstill period has elapsed.</p>
	<p>3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the thresholds applicable, separate contracts and contracts with lots, estimating the value of certain contracts, and the standstill period before the signature of the contract.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 161 RAP</i> <i>Information for candidates and tenderers</i> <i>(Articles 113, 114 and 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The contracting authorities shall as soon as possible inform candidates and tenderers of decisions reached concerning the award of the contract or framework contract or admission to a dynamic purchasing system, including the grounds for any decision not to award a contract or framework contract, or set up a dynamic purchasing system, for which there has been competitive tendering or to recommence the procedure.</p>
	<p>2. The contracting authority shall, within not more than fifteen calendar days from the date on which a written request is received, communicate the information provided for in Article 113(2) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>3. In the case of contracts awarded by the Union institutions on their own account, with a value equal to or more than the thresholds referred to in Article 170(1) and which are not excluded from the scope of Directive 2004/18/EC, the contracting authority shall inform all unsuccessful tenderers or candidates, simultaneously and individually, by electronic means, that their application or tender</p>

	has not been accepted at either of the following stages:
	(a) shortly after decisions have been taken on the basis of exclusion and selection criteria and before the award decision, in procurement procedures organised in two separate stages;
	(b) as regards the award decisions and decisions to reject offers, as soon as possible after the award decision and within the following week at the latest.
	In each case, the contracting authority shall indicate the reasons why the tender or application has not been accepted and the available legal remedies.
	Unsuccessful tenderers or candidates may request additional information about the reasons for their rejection in writing by mail, fax or email, and all selected tenderers whose tenders are not eliminated may obtain information about the characteristics and relative merits of the tender accepted and the name of the successful tenderer, without prejudice to the second subparagraph of Article 113(2) of the Financial Regulation. The contracting authority shall reply within no more than fifteen calendar days from receipt of the request.
	<i>Article 162 RAP</i> <i>Signature of the contract</i> <i>(Articles 113 and 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Performance of the contract may not start before the contract is signed.
	<i>Article 167 RAP</i> <i>Identification of the appropriate level for the calculation of thresholds</i> <i>(Articles 117 and 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	It shall be for each authorising officer by delegation or subdelegation within each institution to assess whether the thresholds laid down in Article 118 of the Financial Regulation have been reached.
	<i>Article 168 RAP</i> <i>Separate contracts and contracts with lots</i> <i>(Article 104 and 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The estimated value of a contract may not be determined with a view to evading the requirements laid down in this Regulation, nor may a contract be split up for that purpose.
	Whenever appropriate, technically feasible, and cost efficient, contracts with a value equal to or greater than the thresholds laid down in Article 170(1) shall be awarded at the same time in the form of separate lots.
	2. Where the subject of a supply, service or works contract is subdivided into several lots, each one the subject of an individual contract, the total value of all the lots shall be taken into account for the overall evaluation of the applicable threshold.
	Where the total value of all the lots is equal to or exceeds the thresholds laid down in Article 170(1), Article 97(1) and paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 104 of the Financial Regulation shall apply to each of the lots.
	3. Where a contract is to be awarded in the form of separate lots, tenders shall be evaluated separately for each lot. If several lots are awarded to the same tenderer, a single contract covering those lots may be signed.
	<i>Article 169 RAP</i>

	<i>Arrangements for estimating the value of certain contracts (Article 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. For the purposes of calculating the estimated amount of a contract, the contracting authority shall include the contractors total estimated remuneration.
	Where a contract provides for options or possible renewal, the basis for calculation shall be the maximum amount authorised, including the use of option clauses and renewal.
	This estimate shall be made when the contract notice is sent or, where there is no such publicity, when the contracting authority initiates the award procedure.
	2. For framework contracts and dynamic purchasing systems the value to be taken into account shall be the maximum value of all the contracts envisaged during the total lifetime of the framework contract or dynamic purchasing system.
	3. For service contracts, account shall be taken of:
	(a) in the case of insurance services, the premium payable and other forms of remuneration;
	(b) in the case of banking or financial services, the fees, commissions, interest and other types of remuneration;
	(c) in the case of design contracts, the fees, commissions payable and other forms of remuneration.
	4. In the case of service contracts which do not specify a total price or of supply contracts for leasing, rental or hire purchase of products, the value to be taken as the basis for calculating the estimated value shall be:

	(a) in the case of fixed-term contracts:
	(i) where their term is forty-eight months or less in the case of services or twelve months or less in the case of supplies, the total contract value for their duration;
	(ii) where their term is more than twelve months in the case of supplies, the total value including the estimated residual value;
	(b) in the case of contracts for an indefinite period or, in the case of services, for a period exceeding forty-eight months, the monthly value multiplied by forty-eight.
	5. In the case of service or supply contracts which are awarded regularly or are to be renewed within a given time, the contract value shall be established on the basis of:
	(a) either the actual aggregate cost of similar contracts for the same types of services or products awarded over the previous financial year or twelve months, adjusted, where possible, for anticipated changes in quantity or value over the twelve months following the initial contract;
	(b) or the estimated aggregate cost of successive contracts awarded during the twelve months following the first service performed or first delivery or during the term of the contract, where this is greater than twelve months.
	6. In the case of works contracts, account shall be taken not only of the value of the works but also of the estimated total value of the supplies needed to carry out the works and made available to the contractor by the contracting authority.
	<i>Article 170 RAP</i>

	<i>Thresholds for application of the procedures under Directive 2004/18/EC (Article 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The thresholds referred to in Article 118 of the Financial Regulation shall be those set out in Directive 2004/18/EC respectively for supply, service and works contracts.
	2. The time limits referred to in Article 118 of the Financial Regulation shall be those specified in Articles 152, 153 and 154.
	<i>Article 171 RAP Standstill period before signature of the contract (Article 118 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The contracting authority shall not sign the contract or framework contract, covered by Directive 2004/18/EC, with the successful tenderer until 14 calendar days have elapsed.
	That period shall run from either of the following dates:
	(a) the day after the simultaneous dispatch of the notifications to successful and unsuccessful tenderers;
	(b) where the contract or framework contract is awarded pursuant to a negotiated procedure without prior publication of a contract notice, the day after the contract award notice referred to in Article 123 has been published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> .
	Where a fax or electronic means are used for the dispatch referred to in point (a) of the second subparagraph, the standstill period shall be 10 calendar days.

	If necessary, the contracting authority may suspend the signing of the contract for additional examination if this is justified by the requests or comments made by unsuccessful or aggrieved tenderers or candidates or by any other relevant information received. The requests, comments or information must be received during the period set in the first subparagraph. In the case of suspension all the candidates or tenderers shall be informed within three working days following the suspension decision.
	Except in the cases provided for in paragraph 2, any contract signed before the expiry of the period set in the first subparagraph shall be null and void.
	Where the contract or framework contract cannot be awarded to the successful envisaged tenderer, the contracting authority may award it to the following best tenderer.
	2. The period set in paragraph 1 shall not apply in the following cases:
	(a) open, restricted or negotiated procedures after publication of a contract notice where only one tender has been submitted;
	(b) specific contracts based on a framework contract;
	(c) negotiated procedures referred to in Articles 134(1)(c), 134(1)(g)(iii), 134(1)(h) and 134(1)(j).
	Article 119 FR
	Rules on participation in tendering procedures
	1. Participation in tendering procedures shall be open on equal terms to all natural and legal persons coming within the scope of the Treaties and to all natural

	and legal persons in a third country which has a special agreement with the Union in the field of public procurement under the conditions laid down in that agreement.
	— The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the evidence to be provided in relation to access to contracts.
	2. OLAF shall exercise the power conferred on the Commission by Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities ³⁶ to carry out on-the-spot inspections and checks in the Member States and, in accordance with the cooperation and mutual assistance agreements in force, in third countries and on the premises of international organisations.
	<i>Article 172 RAP Evidence of access to contracts (Article 119 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The specifications shall require tenderers to indicate in which State they have their headquarters or domicile and to present the supporting evidence normally acceptable under their own law.
	Article 120 FR
	Procurement rules of the World Trade Organisation

³⁶

OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2.

	<p>Where the Multilateral Agreement on Government Procurement concluded within the World Trade Organisation applies, the contracts shall also be open to nationals of the States which have ratified that agreement, under the conditions laid down therein.</p>
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TITLE VI

DIRECT LABOUR AND INDIRECT DECENTRALISED OPERATIONS

Article 100

This Title shall govern the direct labour and indirect decentralised operations provided for in Article 24 of Annex IV to the ACP-EC Agreement. It shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to financial cooperation with the OCTs.

Article 101

1. In the case of direct labour operations, projects and programmes shall be implemented directly through public departments of the ACP States concerned.

The Community shall contribute to the costs of those departments by providing the equipment and/or materials that they lack and/or the resources to acquire any additional staff required, such as experts from within the ACP States concerned or other ACP States. The Community's participation shall cover only costs incurred by supplementary measures and temporary expenditure relating to execution that are strictly confined to the requirements of the project in question.

The financial management of a project implemented by direct labour in accordance with the first and second subparagraphs

[these activities will continue, but are systematically included under indirect management – Article 17 11th EDF FR]

shall be carried out by local imprest accounts administered by a local imprest manager and a local accounting officer, appointed by the national or regional authorising officer with the prior approval of the Commission's authorising officer responsible.

2. In the case of indirect decentralised operations, the contracting authority within the meaning of Article 92(1)(a) shall entrust tasks relating to the implementation of projects or programmes to bodies governed by public laws of the ACP States concerned or bodies governed by private law that are legally distinct from the ACP States concerned.

In such cases, the body concerned shall assume responsibility for the management and implementation of the programme or project in place of the national or regional authorising officer. Tasks so delegated may include the power to conclude contracts and manage contracts and the supervision of works on behalf of or for the account of the ACP States concerned.

3. Direct labour and indirect decentralised operations shall be implemented on the basis of a programme of measures to be carried out and an estimate of their cost (the programme estimate). The programme estimate is a document laying down the programme of measures to be carried out and the human and material resources required, the corresponding budget and the detailed technical and administrative implementing arrangements for decentralised execution of a project over a specified period by direct labour and, possibly, by means of

public procurement and the award of specific grants.

Each programme estimate shall be prepared by the local imprest manager and the local accounting officer referred to in the third subparagraph of paragraph 1, in the case of direct labour operations, or by the body referred to in paragraph 2, in the case of indirect decentralised operations. It shall then be approved by the national or regional authorising officer and the Commission's authorising officer responsible before the activities it provides for commence.

4. In the context of the implementation of the programme estimates referred to in paragraph 3, the procurement and grant award procedures shall comply with those referred to in Titles V and VII respectively.

5. The financing agreements referred to in Article 70(3) must make provision for the implementation of direct labour operations or indirect decentralised operations.

Article 102

In the case of indirect decentralised operations the contracting authority referred to in Article 92(1)(a) shall conclude a delegation agreement when entrusting implementation tasks to a body governed by public laws of the ACP States concerned or by private law with a public service mission. It shall conclude a service contract when entrusting those tasks to a body governed by private law. The Commission shall ensure

that the delegation agreement or service contract sets out:

(a) adequate provisions for scrutiny of the use of EDF resources by the Commission, OLAF, the national or regional authorising officer, the Court of Auditors and the national audit bodies of the ACP States concerned;

(b) a clear definition and precise delimitation of the powers delegated to the body concerned and the powers retained by the national or regional authorising officer;

(c) the procedures to be followed in exercising the powers so delegated, such as the selection of actions to be financed, the award of contracts or the supervision of works;

(d) the possibility of *ex post* review and financial penalties where the granting of funds or award of contracts by the body concerned does not correspond to the procedures laid down in point (c);

(e) an effective and efficient internal control system for the management of operations, which includes effective segregation of the duties of authorising officer and accounting officer;

(f) an accounting system that enables the correct use of EDF resources to be verified and the use of funds to be reflected in the EDF accounts.

TITLE VII

GRANTS

CHAPTER 1

SCOPE AND FORM OF GRANTS

Article 103

1. Grants are direct financial contributions, by way of donation, from EDF resources in order to finance:

(a) either an action intended to help achieve an objective of the ACP-EC Agreement or the Overseas Association Decision, or of a programme or project adopted in accordance with that Agreement or in accordance with that Decision;

(b) or the functioning of a body which pursues such an objective.

They shall be covered either by a written agreement or by a Commission decision notified to the successful applicant.

2. The following shall not constitute grants for the purposes of this Title:

(a) financing agreements as referred to in Article 70(3)(a);

(b) public contracts as referred to in Title V or direct

Article 37 11th EDF FR

Grants

1. Subject to paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article, Title VI of Part One; and Article 192 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.

2. Grants are direct financial contributions, by way of donation, from the 11th EDF in order to finance any of the following:

(a) an action, including one carried out by a Union agency, intended to help achieve an objective of the Cotonou Agreement or the Overseas Association Decision, or of a programme or project adopted in accordance with that Agreement or Decision; or

(b) the functioning of a body which pursues an objective referred to in point (a).

A grant in the sense of point (a) may be awarded to a body referred to in Article 208(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

3. When working with local stakeholders, the Commission shall take into account their specificities including needs and context, when defining the modalities of financing, the type of contribution, the award modalities and the administrative provisions for the management of grants with the purpose to reach and best respond to the widest possible range of local stakeholders. Specific modalities shall be encouraged, such as partnership agreements, financial support to third parties, lump sums, direct award or eligibility-restricted calls for proposals

4. The following shall not constitute grants within the meaning of this Regulation:

(a) items referred to in points (b) to (f), (h) and (i) of Article 121(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012

labour operations as referred to in Title VI;

(c) loans, guarantees, contributions, contracts, interest rate subsidies or any other financial operation managed by the EIB;

(d) direct or indirect budgetary assistance, or aid to help relieve debt or support export earnings in the event of short-term fluctuations;

(e) payments made to bodies to which implementation tasks are delegated by the Commission as provided for in Articles 25 to 28 or within the framework of joint management referred to in Article 29.

3. Articles 160 to 184a (Title VI 'Grants') and Article 253 of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to this title.

Article 104

1. Grants may take any of the following forms:

(a) reimbursement of a specified proportion of the eligible costs actually incurred;

(b) lump sums;

(c) flat-rate financing;

(d) a combination of the forms referred to in points (a), (b) and (c);

2. Grants shall not exceed an overall ceiling expressed in terms of absolute value.

(b) support referred to in Article 35(2) of this Regulation.

5. Articles 175 and 177 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 shall not apply.

	TITLE VI
	GRANTS
	CHAPTER 1
	Scope and form of grants

CHAPTER 2

PRINCIPLES

Article 105

1. Grants shall be subject to the principles of transparency and equal treatment.

They may not be cumulative or awarded retrospectively and they must involve co-financing.

On no account may the combined total costs eligible, as specified in the grant agreement, for financing be exceeded.

2. Grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit for the beneficiary.

Paragraph 2 shall not apply to the following:

- (a) study, research or training scholarships paid to natural persons;
- (b) prizes awarded following contests;
- (c) actions the objective of which is the reinforcement of the financial capacity of a beneficiary or the generation of an income.

Article 106

1. Grants shall be subject to an annual work programme, to be

Article 121 FR

Scope of grants

[there may be an error in the visualisation of this article]

1. ~~Grants are direct financial contributions, by way of donation, from the budget in order to finance any of the following:~~

~~—— (a) an action intended to help achieve a Union policy objective;~~

~~—— (b) the functioning of a body which pursues an aim of general Union interest or has an objective forming part of, and supporting, a Union policy ('operating grants').~~

Grants shall be covered either by a written agreement or by a Commission decision notified to the successful applicant of a grant.

The Commission may establish secure electronic systems for exchanges with the beneficiaries.

~~The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the detailed specification of the scope of grants, and concerning rules determining whether grant agreements or grant decisions are to be used. Furthermore, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning details of the electronic exchange system, including the conditions under which documents submitted by means of such systems, including grant agreements, are to be deemed originals and to have been signed, and the use of framework partnerships.~~

<p>published at the start of the year.</p> <p>That annual work programme shall be implemented through the publication of calls for proposals, save in duly substantiated exceptional cases of urgency or where the characteristics of the beneficiary or of the action leave no other choice for a given action, or where the beneficiary is identified in the ACP-EC Agreement and the Overseas Association Decision as recipient of a grant.</p> <p>The first subparagraph shall not apply to crisis management aid and humanitarian aid operations.</p> <p>2. All grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published annually with due observance of the requirements of confidentiality and security.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 107</i></p> <p>1. Each action may give rise to the award of only one grant from EDF resources to any one beneficiary.</p> <p>2. A beneficiary may be awarded only one operating grant per financial year from EDF resources.</p> <p>The applicant shall immediately inform the authorising officers of any multiple applications and multiple grants relating to the same action or to the same work programme.</p>	<p>2. The following do not constitute grants within the meaning of this Title:</p> <p>(a) expenditure on the members and staff of the institutions and contributions to the European schools;</p> <p>(b) public contracts as referred to in Article 101, aid paid as macro-financial assistance, and budget support;</p> <p>(c) financial instruments, as well as shareholdings or equity participation in international financial institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) or specialised Union bodies such as the European Investment Fund;</p> <p>(d) contributions paid by the Union as subscriptions to bodies of which it is a member;</p> <p>(e) expenditure implemented under shared management and indirect management within the meaning of Articles 58, 59 and 60, unless specified otherwise in the financial rules applicable to the budget of the entities or persons entrusted pursuant to point (c) of Article 58(1) or in delegation agreements;</p> <p>(f) contributions to executive agencies referred to in Article 62, made by virtue of each agency's constitutive act;</p> <p>(g) expenditure relating to fisheries markets as referred to in point (f) of Article 3(2) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 of 21 June 2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy³⁷;</p>
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³⁷

OJ L 209, 11.8.2005, p. 1.

<p><i>In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by EDF resources.</i></p>	<p>(h) repayment of travel and subsistence expenses incurred by, or where appropriate any other indemnities paid to, persons invited or mandated by the institutions;</p> <p>(i) prizes given as rewards for a contest, to which Title VII of Part One applies.</p> <p>3. Interest rate rebates and guarantee fee subsidies shall be treated as grants, provided that they are not combined in a single measure with financial instruments as referred to in Title VIII of Part One.</p> <p>Such rebates and subsidies shall be subject to the provisions of this Title, with the exception of the following:</p> <p>(a) the co-financing principle as set out in Article 125(3);</p> <p>(b) the no-profit principle as set out in Article 125(4);</p> <p>(c) for actions where the objective is to reinforce the financial capacity of a beneficiary or to generate an income, the assessment of the financial capacity of the applicant as referred to in Article 132(1).</p> <p>4. Each institution may award grants for communication activities where, for duly justified reasons, the use of public procurement procedures is not appropriate.</p>
<p><i>Article 108</i></p> <p>1. A grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun only if the applicant can demonstrate the need to start</p>	<p><i>Article 173 RAP</i></p> <p><i>Subscriptions</i></p> <p><i>(Article 121 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

The subscriptions referred to in Article 121(2)(d) of the Financial Regulation shall be sums paid to bodies of which the Union is member, in accordance with the budgetary decisions and the conditions of payment established by the body concerned.

Article 174 RAP
Agreement and decision for grants
(Article 121(1) of the Financial Regulation)

1. Grants shall be covered by a decision or by a written agreement.

2. To determine the instrument to be used, the following elements shall be taken into account:

(a) location of the beneficiary, within or outside the Union;

(b) complexity and standardisation of the content of the actions or work programmes funded.

~~*Article 175 RAP*~~
~~*Expenditure on the members of the institutions*~~
~~*(Article 121 of the Financial Regulation)*~~

~~Expenditure on the members of the institutions as referred to in Article 121(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation shall include contributions to associations of current and former members of the European Parliament. These contributions shall be implemented in accordance with the internal administrative rules of the European Parliament.~~

Article 176 RAP
Actions which may receive grants
(Article 121 of the Financial Regulation)

An action which may receive a grant within the meaning of Article 121 of the Financial Regulation must be clearly defined.

No action may be split in different actions for the purpose of evading the financing rules laid down in this Regulation.

Article 177 RAP
Bodies pursuing an aim of general Union interest
(Article 121 of the Financial Regulation)

A body pursuing an aim of general Union interest is:

~~(a) a body involved in education, training, information, innovation or research and study in European policies, any activities contributing to the promotion of citizenship or human rights, or an European standards body;~~

~~(b) — an entity representing non-profit bodies active in the Member States, in the candidate countries or in the potential candidate countries and promoting principles and policies consistent with the objectives of the Treaties.~~

*Article 178 RAP
Partnerships
(Article 121 of the Financial Regulation)*

1. Specific grants for actions and operating grants may form part of a framework partnership.

2. A framework partnership may be established as a long-term cooperation mechanism between the Commission and the beneficiaries of grants. It may take the form of a framework partnership agreement or a framework partnership decision.

The framework partnership agreement or decision shall specify the common objectives, the nature of actions planned on a one-off basis or as part of an approved annual work programme, the procedure for awarding specific grants, in compliance with the principles and procedural rules in this Title, and the general rights and obligations of each party under the specific agreements or decisions.

The duration of the partnership may not exceed four years, save in exceptional cases, justified in particular by the subject of the framework partnership.

Authorising officers may not make undue use of framework partnership agreements or decisions or use them in such a way that the purpose or effect is contrary to the principles of transparency or equal treatment of applicants.

3. Framework partnerships shall be treated as grants with regard to programming, *ex ante* publication and award.

4. Specific grants based on framework partnership agreements or decisions shall be awarded in accordance with the procedures laid down in those agreements or decisions, and in compliance with this Title.

They shall be subject to the ex post publication procedures laid down in Article 191.

Article 179 RAP
Electronic exchange systems
(Article 121(1) of the Financial Regulation)

1. All exchanges with beneficiaries, including the conclusion of grant agreements, the notification of grant decisions and any amendments thereto, may be done through electronic exchange systems set up by the Commission.

2. These systems shall meet the following requirements:

(a) only authorised persons may have access to the system and to documents transmitted through it;

(b) only authorised persons may electronically sign or transmit a document through the system ;

(c) authorised persons must be identified through the system by established means;

(d) the time and date of the electronic transaction must be determined precisely;

(e) the integrity of documents must be preserved;

(f) the availability of documents must be preserved;

	(g) where appropriate, the confidentiality of documents must be preserved;
	(h) the protection of personal data in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 must be ensured.
	3. Data sent or received through such a system shall enjoy legal presumption of the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the date and time of sending or receiving the data indicated by the system.
	A document sent or notified through such a system shall be considered as equivalent to a paper document, shall be admissible as evidence in legal proceedings, shall be deemed original and shall enjoy legal presumption of its authenticity and integrity, provided it does not contain any dynamic features capable of automatically changing it.
	The electronic signatures referred to in point (b) of paragraph 2 shall have the equivalent legal effect of handwritten signatures.
	Article 122 FR
	Beneficiaries
	1. Where several entities satisfy the criteria for being awarded a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated as the sole beneficiary, including where the entity is specifically established for the purpose of implementing the action to be financed by the grant.
	2. For the purpose of this Title, the following entities shall be considered as entities affiliated to the beneficiary:

	(a) entities forming the beneficiary in accordance with paragraph 1;
	(b) entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria and that do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Article 131(4) and that have a link with the beneficiary, in particular a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation.
	3. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the minimum content of grant agreements or decisions, in particular, where a grant is awarded to several entities, the specific obligations of the coordinator, if any, and of the other beneficiaries, the applicable responsibility regime and the conditions for adding or removing a beneficiary.
	<i>Article 180 RAP</i> <i>Content of grant agreements and decisions</i> <i>(Article 122 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The grant agreement shall at least lay down the following:
	(a) the subject;
	(b) the beneficiary;
	(c) the duration, namely:
	(i) the date of its entry into force;
	(ii) the starting date and the duration of the action or financial year being funded;

	(d) the maximum amount of Union funding expressed in euro and the form of the grant supplemented, as appropriate, by:
	(i) the total estimated eligible costs of the action or work programme and the financing rate of the eligible costs;
	(ii) the unit cost, lump sum or flat rate referred to in points (b), (c) and (d) of Article 123 of the Financial Regulation where determined;
	(iii) a combination of the elements set out in points (i) and (ii) of this point;
	(e) a description of the action or, for an operating grant, of the work programme approved for that financial year by the authorising officer together with a description of the results expected from the implementation of the action or of the work programme;
	(f) the general terms and conditions applicable to all agreements of this type, such as the acceptance by the beneficiary of checks and audits by the Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditors;
	(g) the estimated overall budget of the action or work programme;
	(h) where implementation of the action involves procurement, the principles referred to in Article 209 or the procurement rules which the beneficiary must comply with;
	(i) the responsibilities of the beneficiary, in particular:
	(i) in terms of sound financial management and submission of activity and financial reports; whenever appropriate, intermediate targets shall be established,

	upon which those reports become due;
	(ii) in the case of an agreement between the Commission and a number of beneficiaries, the specific obligations of the coordinator, if any, and of the other beneficiaries towards the coordinator as well as the financial responsibility of the beneficiaries for amounts due to the Commission;
	(j) the arrangements and time-limits for approving those reports and for payment by the Commission;
	(k) as appropriate, details of the eligible costs of the action or approved work programme, or of the unit costs, lump sums or flat rates referred to in Article 123 of the Financial Regulation;
	(l) provisions governing the visibility of the Union financial support, except in duly justified cases, where public display is not possible or appropriate.
	The general terms and conditions referred to in point (f) of the first subparagraph shall at least:
	(i) state that Union law is the law which applies to the grant agreement, complemented, where necessary, by national law as specified in the grant agreement. Derogation may be made in the agreements concluded with international organisations;
	(ii) specify the competent court or arbitration tribunal to hear disputes.
	2. The grant agreement may lay down the arrangements and time limits for suspension or termination in accordance with Article 135 of the Financial Regulation.
	3. In the cases referred to in Article 178, the framework partnership decision or framework partnership agreement shall specify the information referred to in points

	(a), (b), (c)(i), (f), and (h) to (j) and (l) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 of this Article.
	The specific grant decision or agreement shall contain the information referred to in points (a) to (e), (g) and (k) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 and, where necessary, point (i) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1.
	4. Grant agreements may be amended only in writing. Such amendments, including those aiming at adding or removing a beneficiary, shall not have the purpose or the effect of making such changes to agreements as would call into question the grant award decision or be contrary to the equal treatment of applicants.
	5. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i> to grant decisions.
	Part of the information referred to in paragraph 1 may be provided in the call for proposals or any related document, instead of the grant decision.
	Article 123 FR
	Forms of grants
	1. Grants may take any of the following forms:
	(a) reimbursement of a specified proportion of the eligible costs, referred to in Article 126, actually incurred;
	(b) reimbursement on the basis of unit costs;
	(c) lump sums;

	(d) flat-rate financing;
	(e) a combination of the forms referred to in points (a) to (d).
	2. When determining the appropriate form of a grant, the potential beneficiaries' interests and accounting methods shall be taken into account to the greatest possible extent.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning rules for the different forms of grants, including low value grants.
	<i>Article 181 RAP Forms of grants (Article 123 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Grants in the form referred to in point (a) of Article 123(1) of the Financial Regulation shall be calculated on the basis of the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary, subject to a preliminary budget estimate as submitted with the proposal and included in the grant decision or agreement.
	2. Unit costs as referred to in point (b) of Article 123(1) of the Financial Regulation shall cover all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by reference to an amount per unit.
	3. Lump sums as referred to in point (c) of Article 123(1) of the Financial Regulation shall cover in global terms all or certain specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance.

	4. Flat-rate financing as referred to in point (d) of Article 123(1) of the Financial Regulation shall cover specific categories of eligible costs which are clearly identified in advance by applying a percentage.
	Article 124 FR
	Lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate financing
	1. Without prejudice to the provisions of the basic act, the use of lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing shall be authorised by way of a Commission decision ensuring respect for the principle of equal treatment of beneficiaries for the same category of actions or work programmes.
	Where the maximum amount per grant does not exceed the amount of a low value grant, the authorisation may be given by the authorising officer responsible.
	2. The authorisation shall at least be supported by the following:
	(a) justification concerning the appropriateness of such forms of financing with regard to the nature of the supported actions or work programmes, as well as to the risks of irregularities and fraud and costs of control;
	(b) identification of the costs or categories of costs covered by lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing, which shall exclude ineligible costs under the applicable Union rules;
	(c) description of the methods for determining lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing, and of the conditions for reasonably ensuring that the no-profit and co-financing principles are complied with and that double financing of costs is

	avoided. Those methods shall be based on:
	(i) statistical data or similar objective means; or
	(ii) a beneficiary-by-beneficiary approach, by reference to certified or auditable historical data of the beneficiary or to its usual cost accounting practices.
	3. Where recourse to the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary is authorised, the authorising officer responsible may assess compliance of those practices <i>ex ante</i> with the conditions set out in paragraph 2 or through an appropriate strategy for <i>ex post</i> controls.
	If the compliance of the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices with the conditions referred to in paragraph 2 has been established <i>ex ante</i> , the amounts of lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing determined by application of those practices shall not be challenged by <i>ex post</i> controls.
	The authorising officer responsible may consider that the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary are compliant with the conditions referred to in paragraph 2 if they are accepted by national authorities under comparable funding schemes.
	4. The grant decision or agreement may authorise or impose, in the form of flat-rates, funding of the beneficiary's indirect costs up to a maximum of 7 % of total eligible direct costs for the action, except where the beneficiary is in receipt of an operating grant financed from the budget. The 7 % ceiling may be exceeded on the basis of a reasoned decision of the Commission.

	<p>5. SME owners and other natural persons who do not receive a salary may declare eligible personnel costs for the work carried out under an action or work programme, on the basis of unit costs determined by way of a Commission decision.</p>
	<p>6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules regarding lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate financing.</p>
	<p><i>Article 182 RAP</i> <i>Lump sums, unit costs and flat-rate financing</i> <i>(Article 124 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The authorisation to use lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing referred to in Article 124(1) of the Financial Regulation shall apply for the duration of the programme. This authorisation may be reviewed if substantial changes are needed. Data and amounts shall be assessed periodically and, where appropriate, lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing shall be adjusted.</p>
	<p>In the case of an agreement between the Commission and a number of beneficiaries, the ceiling referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 124(1) of the Financial Regulation shall apply to each beneficiary.</p>
	<p>2. The grant decision or agreement shall contain all necessary provisions in order to verify that the conditions for the payment of the grant on the basis of lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing have been respected.</p>
	<p>3. Payment of the grant on the basis of lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing shall be without prejudice to the right of access to the beneficiaries' statutory records for the purposes intended by the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 and Article 137(2) of the Financial Regulation.</p>

	4. Where an ex post control reveals that the generating event has not occurred and an undue payment has been made to the beneficiary on a grant based on lump sums, unit costs or flat-rate financing, the Commission shall be entitled to recover up to the amount of the grant without prejudice to the penalties referred to in Article 109 of the Financial Regulation.
	CHAPTER 2 Principles
	Article 125 FR
	General principles applicable to grants
	1. Grants shall be subject to the principles of transparency and equal treatment.
	2. Without prejudice to Article 130, grants shall not be cumulative or awarded retrospectively.
	3. Grants shall involve co-financing without prejudice to the specific rules laid down in Title IV of Part Two.
	Unless otherwise specified in this Regulation, the regulations governing political parties at European level and the rules regarding their funding are laid down in Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 November 2003 on the regulations governing political parties at European level and the rules regarding their funding ³⁸ .

³⁸

OJ L 297, 15.11.2003, p. 1.

	4. Grants shall not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action or the work programme of the beneficiary ('no-profit principle').
	The first subparagraph shall not apply to:
	(a) actions the objective of which is the reinforcement of the financial capacity of a beneficiary, or actions which generate an income to ensure their continuity after the period of Union financing provided for in the grant decision or agreement;
	(b) study, research or training scholarships paid to natural persons;
	(c) other direct support paid to natural persons most in need, such as unemployed persons and refugees;
	(d) grants based on flat rates and/or lump sums and/or unit costs where these comply with the conditions set out in Article 124(2);
	(e) low value grants.
	Where a profit is made, the Commission shall be entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the beneficiary to carry out the action or work programme.
	5. For the purpose of this Title, profit shall be defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the beneficiary, when the request is made

	for payment of the balance.
	The receipts referred to in the first subparagraph shall be limited to income generated by the action or work programme, as well as financial contributions specifically assigned by donors to the financing of the eligible costs.
	In the case of an operating grant, amounts dedicated to the building up of reserves shall not be taken into account for the purpose of verifying compliance with the no-profit principle.
	6. If a political party at Union level realises a surplus of income over expenditure at the end of a financial year in which it received an operating grant, the part of that surplus corresponding to up to 25 % of the total income for that year may, by derogation from the no-profit principle laid down in paragraph 4, be carried over to the following year provided that it is used before the end of the first quarter of that following year.
	For the purpose of verifying compliance with the no-profit principle, the own resources, in particular donations and membership fees, aggregated in the annual operations of a political party at Union level, which exceed 15 % of the eligible costs to be borne by the beneficiary, shall not be taken into account.
	The second subparagraph shall not apply if the financial reserves of a political party at Union level exceed 100 % of its average annual income.
	7. Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the EIB or the European Investment Fund for actions of technical assistance. In such cases Articles

	131(2) to (5) and 132(1) shall not apply.
	8. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 complementing the general principles applicable to grants, including the no-profit principle and the co-financing principle. Furthermore, the Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning the definition of technical assistance.
	<i>Article 183 RAP Co-financing principle (Article 125(3) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Under the co-financing principle, the resources which are necessary to carry out the action or the work programme shall not be provided entirely by the Union contribution.
	Co-financing may take the form of the beneficiary's own resources, income generated by the action or work programme or financial or in-kind contributions from third parties.
	2. In-kind contributions shall mean non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties to the beneficiary.
	<i>Article 184 RAP No-profit principle (Article 125(5) of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	Financial contributions from third parties that may be used by the beneficiary to cover other costs than those eligible under the Union grant or that are not due to the third party where they are not used at the end of the action or work programme, shall not be considered as financial contributions specifically assigned by the donors to the financing of the eligible costs within the meaning of Article 125(5) of the Financial Regulation.
	<i>Article 185 RAP Low value grants (Article 125(4) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Low value grants shall be considered to be those grants which are lower than or equal to EUR 60 000.
	<i>Article 186 RAP Technical assistance (Articles 101 and 125 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	'Technical assistance' shall mean support and capacity-building activities necessary for the implementation of a programme or an action, in particular preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, audit and control activities.
	Article 126 FR
	Eligible costs
	1. Grants shall not exceed an overall ceiling expressed in terms of an absolute

	value which shall be established on the basis of estimated eligible costs.
	Grants shall not exceed the eligible costs.
	2. Eligible costs are costs actually incurred by the beneficiary of a grant which meet all of the following criteria:
	(a) they are incurred during the duration of the action or of the work programme, with the exception of costs relating to final reports and audit certificates;
	(b) they are indicated in the estimated overall budget of the action or work programme;
	(c) they are necessary for the implementation of the action or of the work programme which is the subject of the grant;
	(d) they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the beneficiary and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the beneficiary is established and according to the usual cost accounting practices of the beneficiary;
	(e) they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;
	(f) they are reasonable, justified, and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

	3. Calls for proposals shall specify the categories of costs considered as eligible for Union funding.
	Without prejudice to the basic act and in addition to paragraph 2, the following categories of costs shall be eligible where the authorising officer responsible has declared them as such under the call for proposals:
	(a) costs relating to a pre-financing guarantee lodged by the beneficiary of the grant, where that guarantee is required by the authorising officer responsible pursuant to Article 134(1);
	(b) costs relating to external audits where such audits are required in support of the requests for payments by the authorising officer responsible;
	(c) value added tax ("VAT") where it is not recoverable under the applicable national VAT legislation and is paid by a beneficiary other than a non-taxable person as defined in the first subparagraph of Article 13(1) of Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax ³⁹ ;
	(d) depreciation costs, provided they are actually incurred by the beneficiary;
	(e) salary costs of the personnel of national administrations to the extent that they relate to the cost of activities which the relevant public authority would not carry out if the project concerned were not undertaken.
	4. Costs incurred by entities affiliated to a beneficiary as described in Article 122 may be accepted as eligible by the authorising officer responsible under the call for

³⁹

OJ L 347, 11.12.2006, p. 1.

	proposals. In such a case, the following conditions shall apply cumulatively:
	(a) the entities concerned are identified in the grant agreement or decision;
	(b) the entities concerned abide by the rules applicable to the beneficiary under the grant agreement or decision with regard to eligibility of costs and rights of checks and audits by the Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditors.
	5. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning further specifications on eligible costs.
	<i>Article 187 RAP Eligible costs (Article 126(3)(c) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	VAT shall be considered as not recoverable under the applicable national VAT legislation, if according to national law it is attributable to any of the following activities:
	(a) exempt activities without right of deduction;
	(b) activities which fall outside the scope of VAT;
	(c) activities, as referred to in points (a) or (b), in respect of which VAT is not deductible but refunded by means of specific refund schemes or compensation funds not foreseen by Directive 2006/112/EC, even if that scheme or fund is established by national VAT legislation.
	VAT relating to the activities listed in Article 13(2) of Directive 2006/112/EC shall be regarded as paid by a beneficiary other than a non-taxable person as defined in the

	first subparagraph of Article 13(1) of that Directive, regardless of whether those activities are regarded by the Member State concerned as activities engaged in by bodies governed by public law acting as public authorities.
	Article 127 FR
	Co-financing in kind
	1. For the purpose of calculating the profit generated by the grant, co-financing in the form of contributions in kind shall not be taken into account.
	2. The authorising officer responsible may accept contributions in kind as co-financing, if considered necessary or appropriate. Where co-financing in kind is offered in support of low value grants and the authorising officer responsible has decided to refuse this, he or she shall justify why it is unnecessary or inappropriate.
	Such contributions shall not exceed:
	(a) either the costs actually incurred by third parties and duly supported by accounting documents;
	(b) or, in the absence of such documents, the costs that correspond to those generally accepted on the market in question.
	Contributions in kind shall be presented separately in the estimated budget to reflect the total resources allocated to the action. Their unit value shall be evaluated in the provisional budget and shall not be subject to subsequent changes.

	Contributions in kind shall comply with national tax and social security rules.
	Article 128 FR
	Transparency
	1. Grants shall be subject to a work programme, to be published prior to its implementation.
	That work programme shall be implemented through the publication of calls for proposals, except in duly justified exceptional cases of urgency or where the characteristics of the beneficiary or of the action leave no other choice for a given action, or where the beneficiary is identified in a basic act.
	The first subparagraph shall not apply to crisis management aid, civil protection operations or humanitarian aid operations.
	2. Calls for proposals shall specify the planned date by which all applicants shall have been informed of the outcome of the evaluation of their application and the indicative date for the signature of grant agreements or notification of grant decisions.
	Those dates shall be fixed on the basis of the following periods:
	(a) for informing all applicants of the outcome of the evaluation of their application, a maximum of six months from the final date for submission of complete proposals;

	(b) for signing grant agreements with applicants or notifying grant decisions to them, a maximum of three months from the date of informing applicants they have been successful.
	Those periods may be adjusted in order to take into account any time needed to comply with specific procedures that may be required by the basic act in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁴⁰ and may be exceeded in exceptional, duly justified cases, in particular for complex actions, where there is a large number of proposals or delays attributable to the applicants.
	The authorising officer by delegation shall report in his or her annual activity report on the average time taken to inform applicants, sign grant agreements or notify grant decisions. In the event of the periods referred to in the second subparagraph being exceeded, the authorising officer by delegation shall give reasons and, where not duly justified in accordance with the third subparagraph, shall propose remedial action.
	3. All grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published annually in accordance with Article 35(2) and (3).
	4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the requirements regarding the work programme, the content of calls for proposals, the exceptions to calls for proposals, information for applicants and ex post publication.

	<p><i>Article 188 RAP</i> <i>Programming</i> <i>(Article 128 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. An annual or multi-annual work programme for grants shall be prepared by each authorising officer responsible. The work programme shall be adopted by the institution and published on the grants internet site of the institution concerned as soon as possible, and no later than 31 March of the year of implementation.</p>
	<p>The work programme shall specify the period it covers, the basic act, if any, the objectives pursued, the expected results, the indicative timetable of calls for proposals with the indicative amount and the maximum rate of co-financing.</p>
	<p>The work programme shall in addition contain the information set out in Article 94 for the decision adopting it to be considered as the financing decision for the grants of the year concerned.</p>
	<p>2. Any substantial change in the work programme shall also be adopted and published as provided for in paragraph 1.</p>
	<p><i>Article 189 RAP</i> <i>Content of calls for proposals</i> <i>(Article 128 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Calls for proposals shall specify:</p>
	<p>(a) the objectives pursued;</p>
	<p>(b) the eligibility, exclusion, selection and award criteria as referred to in Articles 131 and 132 of the Financial Regulation and the relevant supporting documents;</p>

	(c) the arrangements for Union financing;
	(d) the arrangements and final date for the submission of proposals and the planned date by which all applicants are to be informed of the outcome of the evaluation of their application and the indicative date for the signature of grant agreements or notification of grant decisions.
	2. Calls for proposals shall be published on the internet site of the Union institutions and in addition to publication on the internet site by any other appropriate means, including the Official Journal of the European Union, where it is necessary to provide additional publicity among potential beneficiaries. They may be published as from the adoption of the financing decision referred to in Article 84 of the Financial Regulation, including during the year preceding budget implementation. Any modification of the content of the calls for proposals shall be subject to publication under the same conditions as those for the calls for proposals.
	<i>Article 190 RAP Exceptions to calls for proposals (Article 128 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals only in the following cases:
	(a) for the purposes of humanitarian aid and civil protection operations or for crisis management aid within the meaning of paragraph 2;
	(b) in other exceptional and duly substantiated emergencies;
	(c) to bodies with a <i>de jure</i> or <i>de facto</i> monopoly, duly substantiated in the award decision;

	<p>(d) to bodies identified by a basic act, within the meaning of Article 54 of the Financial Regulation, as beneficiaries of a grant or to bodies designated by the Member States, under their responsibility, where those Member States are identified by a basic act as beneficiaries of a grant;</p>
	<p>(e) in the case of research and technological development, to bodies identified in the work programme referred to in Article 128 of the Financial Regulation, where the basic act expressly provides for that possibility, and on condition that the project does not fall under the scope of a call for proposals;</p>
	<p>(f) for actions with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals.</p>
	<p>The cases referred to in point (f) of the first subparagraph shall be duly substantiated in the award decision.</p>
	<p>2. Crisis situations in third countries shall be understood as situations of immediate or imminent danger threatening to escalate into armed conflict or to destabilise the country. Crisis situations shall also be understood as situations caused by natural disasters, manmade crisis such as wars and other conflicts or extraordinary circumstances having comparable effects related inter alia to climate change, environmental degradation, privation of access to energy and natural resources or extreme poverty.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 191 RAP</i> <i>Ex post publication</i> <i>(Article 128 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	1. Information relating to grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published in accordance with Article 21.
	2. Following the publication referred to in paragraph 1, when requested by the European Parliament and the Council, the Commission shall forward them a report on :
	(a) the number of applicants in the past year;
	(b) the number and percentage of successful applications per call for proposals;
	(c) the mean duration of the procedure from date of closure of the call for proposals to the award of a grant;
	(d) the number and amount of grants where the ex post publication obligation was waived in the past year in accordance with Article 21(4).
	<i>Article 192 RAP Information for applicants (Article 128 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The Commission shall provide information and advice to applicants by the following means:
	(a) laying down joint standards for application forms for similar grants and monitoring the size and readability of the application forms;
	(b) supplying information to potential applicants in particular through seminars and the provision of handbooks;

	(c) maintaining permanent data for beneficiaries in the Legal Entity File referred to in Article 63.
	Article 129 FR
	Principle of non-cumulative award
	1. Each action may give rise to the award of only one grant from the budget to any one beneficiary, except where otherwise authorised in the relevant basic acts.
	A beneficiary may be awarded only one operating grant from the budget per financial year.
	The applicant shall immediately inform the authorising officers of any multiple applications and multiple grants relating to the same action or to the same work programme.
	In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the budget.
	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the principle of the non-cumulative award of grants.
	<i>Article 193 RAP</i> <i>Financing from separate budget lines</i> <i>(Article 129 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	An action may be financed jointly from separate budget lines by different authorising

	officers responsible.
	Article 130 FR
	Principle of non-retroactivity
	1. A grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun provided that the applicant can demonstrate the need for starting the action prior to signature of the grant agreement or notification of the grant decision.
	In such cases, costs eligible for financing shall not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application, except in duly justified exceptional cases as provided for in the basic act or in the event of extreme urgency for crisis management aid, civil protection operations and humanitarian aid operations, or in situations of imminent or immediate danger threatening to escalate into armed conflict or to destabilise a country, whereby an early engagement by the Union would be of major importance in promoting conflict prevention.
	No grant may be awarded retroactively for actions already completed.
	The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the principle of non-retroactivity.
	2. In the case of operating grants, the grant agreement shall be signed or notification of the grant decision given within six months of the start of the beneficiary's financial year. Costs eligible for financing may neither have been incurred before the grant application was submitted nor before the start of the

	beneficiary's financial year.
	<i>Article 194 RAP</i> <i>Retroactive effect of funding in cases of extreme urgency and conflict prevention</i> <i>(Article 130 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Within the scope of Article 130(1) of the Financial Regulation, the expenditure incurred by a beneficiary before the date of submission of the application shall be eligible for Union financing under the following conditions:
	(a) the reasons for such derogation have been properly substantiated in the financing decision;
	(b) the financing decision and the grant agreement or decision set explicitly the eligibility date earlier than the date for submission of applications.
	CHAPTER 3 ⁴¹ Award procedure
	Article 131 FR
	Applications for grants
	1. Grant applications shall be submitted in writing, including, where appropriate, in a secure electronic format.
	The Commission shall provide, where it deems it feasible, the possibility of making online grant applications.

	2. Grant applications shall be eligible if submitted by the following:
	(a) legal persons; or
	(b) natural persons, in so far as this is required by the nature or characteristics of the action or the objective pursued by the applicant.
	For the purposes of point (a) of the first subparagraph, grant applications may be eligible if submitted by entities which do not have legal personality under the applicable national law, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on behalf of the entity and offer guarantees for the protection of the Union's financial interests equivalent to those offered by legal persons.
	3. The application shall state the legal status of the applicant and demonstrate his or her financial and operational capacity to carry out the proposed action or work programme.
	For that purpose the applicant shall submit a declaration on his or her honour and, unless the grant is a low value grant, any supporting documents requested, on the basis of a risk assessment, by the authorising officer responsible. The prerequisite documents shall be indicated in the call for proposals.
	The verification of financial capacity shall not apply to natural persons in receipt of scholarships, to natural persons most in need and in receipt of direct support, to public bodies or international organisations. The authorising officer responsible may, depending on a risk assessment, waive the obligation to verify the

	operational capacity of public bodies or international organisations.
	4. Article 106(1) and Articles 107, 108 and 109 shall also apply to grant applicants. Applicants shall certify that they are not in one of the situations referred to in those Articles. However, the authorising officer responsible shall not require such certification in the following cases:
	(a) low value grants;
	(b) when such certification has recently been provided in another award procedure.
	5. Administrative and financial penalties which are effective, proportionate and dissuasive may be imposed on applicants by the authorising officer responsible, in accordance with Article 109.
	Those penalties may also be imposed on beneficiaries who at the moment of the submission of the application or during the implementation of the grant, have made false declarations in supplying the information required by the authorising officer responsible or fail to supply that information.
	6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the arrangements for grant applications, evidence of not falling within an exclusion situation, applicants without legal personality, legal persons forming one applicant, financial and administrative penalties, eligibility criteria and low value grants.

*Article 145 RAP
Administrative and financial penalties
(Articles 109 and 131 of the Financial Regulation)*

1. Without prejudice to the application of penalties laid down in the contract, candidates or tenderers and contractors who have made false declarations, have made substantial errors or committed irregularities or fraud, or have been found in serious breach of their contractual obligations may be excluded from all contracts and grants financed by the Union budget for a maximum of five years from the date on which the infringement is established as confirmed following a contradictory procedure with the candidate, tenderer or the contractor.

That period may be extended to ten years in the event of a repeated offence within five years of the date referred to in the first subparagraph.

2. Tenderers or candidates who have made false declarations, have committed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, may also be subject to financial penalties representing 2% to 10% of the total estimated value of the contract being awarded.

Contractors who have been found in serious breach of their contractual obligations may be subject to financial penalties representing 2% to 10% of the total value of the contract in question.

	That rate may be increased to 4% to 20% in the event of a repeat infringement within five years of the date referred to in the first subparagraph of paragraph 1.
	3. The institution shall determine the administrative or financial penalties taking into account in particular the elements referred to in Article 142(1).
	<i>Article 195 RAP Submission of grant applications (Article 131 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The arrangements for the submission of grant applications shall be determined by the authorising officer responsible, who may choose the method of submission. Grant applications may be submitted by letter or by electronic means.
	The means of communication chosen shall be non-discriminatory in nature and shall not have the effect of restricting the access of applicants to the award procedure.
	The means of communication chosen shall be such as to ensure that the following conditions are satisfied:
	(a) each submission contains all the information required for its evaluation;
	(b) the integrity of data must be preserved;
	(c) the confidentiality of proposals must be preserved;
	(d) the protection of personal data in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 is ensured.

	For the purposes of point (c) of the third subparagraph, the authorising officer responsible shall examine the content of applications only after the time-limit set for submitting them has expired.
	The authorising officer responsible may require that electronic submission be accompanied by an advanced electronic signature within the meaning of Directive 1999/93/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁴² .
	2. Where the authorising officer responsible authorises submission of applications by electronic means, the tools used and their technical characteristics shall be non-discriminatory in nature, generally available and interoperable with the information and communication technology products in general use. The information relating to the specifications required for presentation of applications, including encryption shall be made available to the applicants.
	Moreover, the devices for the electronic receipt of applications shall guarantee security and confidentiality. They shall also guarantee that the exact time and date of receipt of applications can be determined precisely.
	3. Where submission is by letter, applicants may choose to submit applications in one of the following ways:
	(a) by post or by courier service, in which case the call for proposals shall specify that the evidence shall be constituted by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip;

	<p>(b) by hand-delivery to the premises of the institution by the applicant in person or by an agent, in which case the call for proposals shall specify the department to which applications are to be delivered against a signed and dated receipt.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 196 RAP</i> <i>Content of grant applications</i> <i>(Article 131 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Applications shall be made on the form established in accordance with the joint standards laid down pursuant to Article 192(a) and made available by the authorising officers responsible, and in accordance with the criteria laid down in the basic act and the call for proposals.</p>
	<p>The supporting documents referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 131(3) of the Financial Regulation may consist in particular in the profit and loss account and the balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts were closed.</p>
	<p>2. The estimated budget for the action or work programme attached to the application shall have revenue and expenditure in balance, subject to provisions for contingencies or possible variations in exchange rates which may be authorised in duly justified cases, and shall indicate the estimated eligible costs of the action or work programme.</p>
	<p>3. Where the application concerns grants for an action for which the amount exceeds EUR 750 000 or operating grants which exceed EUR 100 000, an audit report produced by an approved external auditor shall be submitted. That report shall certify the accounts for the last financial year available.</p>
	<p>The first subparagraph of this paragraph shall apply only to the first application made by a beneficiary to an authorising officer responsible in any one financial year.</p>

	In the case of agreements between the Commission and a number of beneficiaries, the thresholds set in the first subparagraph shall apply to each beneficiary.
	In case of partnerships referred to in Article 178, the audit report referred to in the first subparagraph of this paragraph, covering the last two financial years available must be produced before signature of the framework partnership agreement or notification of the framework partnership decision.
	The authorising officer responsible may, depending on a risk assessment, waive the obligation of audit report referred to in the first subparagraph for education and training establishments and, in case of agreements with a number of beneficiaries, beneficiaries who have accepted joint and several liabilities or who do not bear any financial responsibility.
	The first subparagraph of this paragraph shall not apply to public bodies and the international organisations referred to in Article 43.
	4. The applicant shall indicate the sources and amounts of Union funding received or applied for the same action or part of the action or for its functioning during the same financial year as well as any other funding received or applied for the same action.
	<i>Article 197 RAP Evidence of non exclusion (Article 131 of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	<p>Applicants shall declare on their honour that they are not in one of the situations listed in Articles 106(1) and 107 of the Financial Regulation, except in the cases provided for in points (a) and (b) of Article 131(4) of the Financial Regulation. The authorising officer responsible may, depending on a risk assessment, request that successful applicants provide the evidence referred to in Article 143. Where requested by the authorising officer responsible, successful applicants shall supply such evidence, unless there is a material impossibility recognised by the authorising officer responsible or such evidence has already been submitted for the purposes of another grant or procurement procedure, provided that the documents are not more than one year old counting from their date of issue and that they are still valid.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 198 RAP</i> <i>Applicants without legal personality</i> <i>(Article 131 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>When an application for a grant is submitted by an applicant which does not have legal personality, in accordance with Article 131(2) of the Financial Regulation, the representatives of that applicant shall prove that they have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on behalf of the applicant and that the applicant has financial and operational capacity equivalent to that of legal persons.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 199 RAP</i> <i>Entities forming one applicant</i> <i>(Article 131 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	Where several entities satisfy the criteria for applying for a grant and together form one entity, that entity may be treated by the authorising officer responsible as the sole applicant, provided that the application identifies the entities involved in the proposed action or work programme as part of the applicant.
	<i>Article 200 RAP Financial and administrative penalties (Article 131 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Financial or administrative penalties, or both, may be imposed on applicants who have made false declarations or substantial errors, or committed irregularities or fraud, in accordance with the conditions laid down in Article 145.
	Such financial or administrative penalties, or both, may also be imposed on beneficiaries who have been found in serious breach of their contractual obligations.
	<i>Article 201 RAP Eligibility criteria (Article 131 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The eligibility criteria shall be published in the call for proposals.
	2. The eligibility criteria shall determine the conditions for participating in a call for proposals. Those criteria shall be established with due regard for the objectives of the action and shall comply with the principles of transparency and non-discrimination.
	Article 132 FR

	Selection and award criteria
	1. The selection criteria announced in advance in the call for proposals shall be such as to make it possible to assess the applicant's ability to complete the proposed action or work programme.
	2. The award criteria announced in advance in the call for proposals shall be such as to make it possible to assess the quality of the proposals submitted in the light of the objectives and priorities set.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on selection and award criteria.
	<i>Article 202 RAP Selection criteria (Article 132(1) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The selection criteria shall be published in the call for proposals and shall be such as to make it possible to assess the applicant's financial and operational capacity to complete the proposed action or work programme.
	2. The applicant must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain his activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out or the year for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding. The applicant must have the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action or work programme unless specifically provided otherwise in the basic act.
	3. Financial and operational capacity shall be verified in particular on the basis of an analysis of any of the supporting documents referred to in Article 196 and

	requested by the authorising officer responsible in the call for proposals.
	If no supporting documents were requested in the call for proposals and if the authorising officer responsible has doubts about the financial or operational capacity of applicants, he shall request them to provide any appropriate documents.
	In the case of the partnerships referred to in Article 178, that verification shall be performed before signature of the framework partnership agreement or notification of the framework partnership decision.
	<i>Article 203 RAP Award criteria (Article 132(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The award criteria shall be published in the call for proposals.
	2. The award criteria shall be such as to enable grants to be awarded either to the actions which maximise the overall effectiveness of the Union programme which they implement or to the bodies whose work programme is designed to attain the same result. Those criteria shall be defined in such a way as to ensure also that the Union funds are properly managed.
	The award criteria shall be applied in such a way as to enable the selection of planned actions or work programmes which the Commission can be confident will comply with its objectives and priorities and guarantee the visibility of the Union financing.
	3. The award criteria shall be defined in such a way that it will be possible subsequently to carry out an evaluation.

	Article 133 FR
	Evaluation procedure
	1. Proposals shall be evaluated, on the basis of pre-announced selection and award criteria, with a view to determining which proposals may be financed.
	2. The authorising officer responsible shall, on the basis of the evaluation provided for in paragraph 1, draw up the list of beneficiaries and the amounts approved.
	3. The authorising officer responsible shall inform applicants in writing of the decision on their application. If the grant requested is not awarded, the institution concerned shall give the reasons for the rejection of the application, with reference in particular to the selection and award criteria.
	4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the evaluation and award of grants and information to applicants.
	<i>Article 204 RAP Evaluation of applications and award (Article 133 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The authorising officer responsible shall appoint a committee to evaluate the proposals, unless the Commission decides otherwise in the framework of a specific sectorial programme.
	The committee shall be made up of at least three persons representing at least two

	<p>organisational entities of the institutions or bodies referred to in Articles 62 and 208 of the Financial Regulation with no hierarchical link between them. To avoid any conflict of interests, those persons shall be subject to the obligations laid down in Article 57 of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>In the representations and local units referred to in Article 72 of this Regulation and the delegated bodies referred to in Articles 62 and 208 of the Financial Regulation, if there are no separate entities, the requirement of organisational entities with no hierarchical link between them shall not apply.</p>
	<p>Outside experts may assist the committee by decision of the authorising officer responsible. The authorising officer responsible shall ensure that these experts satisfy the obligations laid down in Article 57 of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>2. The authorising officer responsible shall, where appropriate, divide the process into several procedural stages. The rules governing the process shall be announced in the call for proposals.</p>
	<p>Where a call for proposals specifies a two-stage submission procedure, only those applicants whose proposals satisfy the evaluation criteria for the first stage shall be requested to submit a complete proposal in the second stage.</p>
	<p>Where a call for proposals specifies a two-stage evaluation procedure, only those proposals that pass the first stage, based on the evaluation against a limited set of criteria, shall go forward for further evaluation.</p>
	<p>The applicants whose proposals are rejected at any stage shall be informed in accordance with Article 133(3) of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>Each subsequent stage of the procedure must be clearly distinct from the previous one.</p>

	The same documents and information shall not be required to be provided more than once during the same procedure.
	3. The evaluation committee or, where appropriate, the authorising officer responsible may ask an applicant to provide additional information or to clarify the supporting documents submitted in connection with the application, provided that such information or clarification does not substantially change the proposal. In accordance with Article 96 of the Financial Regulation, in the case of obvious clerical errors, the evaluation committee or the authorising officer may refrain from doing so only in duly justified cases. The authorising officer shall keep appropriate records of contacts with applicants during the procedure.
	4. Upon completion of its work, the members of the evaluation committee shall sign a record of all the proposals examined, containing an assessment of their quality and identifying those which may receive funding. Those records may be signed in an electronic system providing sufficient authentication of the signatory.
	Where necessary that record shall rank the proposals examined, provide recommendations on the maximum amount to award and possible non-substantial adjustments to the grant application.
	The record shall be kept for future reference.
	5. The authorising officer responsible may invite an applicant to adjust its proposal in the light of the recommendations of the evaluation committee. The authorising officer responsible shall keep appropriate records of contacts with applicants during the procedure.
	The authorising officer responsible shall, after evaluation, take his decision giving at least:

	(a) the subject and the overall amount of the decision;
	(b) the name of the successful applicants, the title of the actions, the amounts accepted and the reasons for that choice, including where it is inconsistent with the opinion of the evaluation committee;
	(c) the names of any applicants rejected and the reasons for that rejection.
	6. Paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of this Article are not compulsory for the award of grants pursuant to Article 190 of this Regulation and to Article 125(7) of the Financial Regulation.
	<i>Article 205 RAP Information for applicants (Article 133 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Rejected applicants shall be informed as soon as possible of the outcome of the evaluation of their application and in any case within 15 calendar days after information has been sent to the successful applicants.
	CHAPTER 4 Payment and control
	Article 134 FR
	Pre-financing guarantee
	1. The authorising officer responsible may, if he or she deems it appropriate and proportionate, on a case-by-case basis and subject to risk analysis, require the

	beneficiary to lodge a guarantee in advance in order to limit the financial risks connected with the payment of pre-financing.
	2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, guarantees shall not be required in the case of low value grants.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the pre-financing guarantee.
	<i>Article 206 RAP Pre-financing guarantee (Article 134 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. In order to limit the financial risks connected with the payment of pre-financing, the authorising officer responsible may, on the basis of a risk assessment require the beneficiary to lodge a guarantee in advance, for up to the same amount as the pre-financing, except for low value grants, or split the payment into several instalments.
	2. Whenever a guarantee is required, it is subject to the assessment and acceptance of the authorising officer responsible.
	The guarantee shall be valid for a period sufficiently long to allow it to be activated.
	3. The guarantee shall be provided by an approved bank or financial institution established in one of the Member States. When the beneficiary is established in a third country, the authorising officer responsible may agree that a bank or financial institution established in that third country may provide the guarantee if he considers that the bank or financial institution offers equivalent security and characteristics as those offered by a bank or financial institution established in a

	Member State.
	At the request of the beneficiary, the guarantee referred to in the first subparagraph may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by a third party or by the irrevocable and unconditional joint guarantee of the beneficiaries of an action who are parties to the same grant agreement or decision, after acceptance by the authorising officer responsible.
	The guarantee shall be denominated in euro.
	It shall have the effect of making the bank or financial institution, third party or the other beneficiaries stand as irrevocable collateral security, or first-call guarantor of the grant beneficiary's obligations.
	4. The guarantee shall be released as the pre-financing is gradually cleared against interim payments or payment of the balance to the beneficiary in accordance with the conditions laid down in the grant agreement or decision.
	Article 135 FR
	Payment of grants and controls
	1. The amount of the grant shall not become final until after the authorising officer responsible has approved the final reports and accounts, without prejudice to subsequent checks by the institution concerned, which shall be carried out in a timely manner.
	2. Where the award procedure proves to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities or fraud, the authorising officer responsible shall suspend the procedure and may take whatever measures are necessary, including the

	cancellation of the procedure. The authorising officer responsible shall inform OLAF immediately of suspected cases of fraud.
	3. Where, after the award of the grant, the award procedure or the implementation of the grant proves to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities, fraud, or breach of obligations, the authorising officer responsible may, depending on the stage reached in the procedure and, provided that the applicant or beneficiary has been given the opportunity to make observations:
	(a) refuse to sign the grant agreement or to give notification of the grant decision;
	(b) suspend implementation of the grant; or
	(c) where appropriate, terminate the grant agreement or decision.
	4. Where such errors, irregularities or fraud are attributable to the beneficiary, or should the beneficiary breach his or her obligations under a grant agreement or decision, the authorising officer responsible may, in addition, reduce the grant or recover amounts unduly paid under the grant agreement or decision, in proportion to the seriousness of the errors, irregularities or fraud or of the breach of obligations, provided that the beneficiary has been given the opportunity to make observations.
	5. Where controls or audits demonstrate systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations attributable to the beneficiary and having a material impact on a number of grants awarded to that beneficiary under similar conditions, the authorising officer responsible may suspend implementation

	<p>of all the grants concerned or, where appropriate, terminate the concerned grant agreements or decisions with that beneficiary, in proportion to the seriousness of the errors, irregularities, fraud or of the breach of obligations, provided that the beneficiary has been given the opportunity to make observations.</p>
	<p>The authorising officer responsible may, in addition, following an adversarial procedure, reduce the grants or recover amounts unduly paid in respect of all the grants affected by the systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations referred to in the first subparagraph that may be audited in accordance with the grant agreements or decisions.</p>
	<p>6. The authorising officer responsible shall determine the amounts to be reduced or recovered, wherever possible and practicable, on the basis of costs unduly declared as eligible for each grant concerned, following acceptance of the revised financial statements submitted by the beneficiary.</p>
	<p>7. Where it is not possible or practicable to quantify precisely the amount of ineligible costs for each grant concerned, the amounts to be reduced or recovered may be determined by extrapolating the reduction or recovery rate applied to the grants for which the systemic or recurrent errors or irregularities have been demonstrated, or, where ineligible costs cannot serve as a basis for determining the amounts to be reduced or recovered, by applying a flat rate, having regard to the principle of proportionality. The beneficiary shall be given the opportunity to make observations on the extrapolation method or flat rate to be applied and to propose a duly substantiated alternative method or rate before the reduction or recovery is made.</p>

	8. The Commission shall ensure equal treatment of beneficiaries of a programme, in particular where it is implemented by several authorising officers responsible.
	Beneficiaries shall be informed of the means for challenging decisions taken under paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of this Article, in accordance with Article 97.
	9. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules for the payment of grants and controls, including rules concerning supporting documents and the suspension and reduction of grants.
	<i>Article 207 RAP Supporting documents for payment requests (Article 135 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. For each grant, pre-financing may be split into several instalments in accordance with sound financial management.
	The payment in full of the new pre-financing payment shall be subject to the consumption of at least 70 % of the total amount of any earlier pre-financing.
	Where the consumption of the previous pre-financing is less than 70 %, the amount of the new pre-financing payment shall be reduced by the unused amounts of the previous pre-financing.
	The statement of the beneficiary's outlay shall be produced in support of any request for a new payment.

	<p>2. The beneficiary shall, without prejudice to Article 110, certify on his honour that information contained in payment requests is full, reliable and true. He shall also certify that the costs incurred can be considered eligible in accordance with the grant agreement or decision and that payment requests are substantiated by adequate supporting documents that can be checked.</p>
	<p>3. A certificate on the financial statements of the action or the work programme and underlying accounts, produced by an approved external auditor or in case of public bodies, by a competent and independent public officer, may be demanded by the authorising officer responsible in support of any payment, on the basis of a risk assessment. The certificate shall be attached to the payment request. The certificate shall certify, in accordance with a methodology approved by the authorising officer responsible and on the basis of agreed-upon procedures compliant with international standards, that the costs declared by the beneficiary in the financial statements on which the payment request is based are real, accurately recorded and eligible in accordance with the grant agreement or decision.</p>
	<p>In specific and duly justified cases, the authorising officer responsible may request the certificate in the form of an opinion or other format in accordance with international standards.</p>
	<p>The certificate on the financial statements and underlying accounts shall be compulsory for interim payments and for payments of balances in the following cases:</p>
	<p>(a) grants for an action for which the amount awarded in the form referred to in Article 123(1)(a) of the Financial Regulation is EUR 750 000 or more, when the cumulative amounts of payment requests under that form is at least EUR 325 000;</p>
	<p>(b) operating grants for which the amount awarded in the form referred to in</p>

	Article 123(1)(a) of the Financial Regulation is EUR 100 000 or more.
	Depending on a risk assessment, the authorising officer responsible may also waive the obligation to provide such certificate on the financial statements and underlying accounts in the case of:
	(a) public bodies and the international organisations referred to in Article 43;
	(b) the beneficiaries of grants in connection with humanitarian aid, civil protection emergency operations and the management of crisis situations, save in respect of payments of balances;
	(c) for payments of balances, beneficiaries of grants in connection with humanitarian aid who have signed a framework partnership agreement or have been notified a framework partnership decision, as referred to in Article 178, and who have in place a system of control offering equivalent guarantees for such payments;
	(d) beneficiaries of multiple grants who have provided independent certification offering equivalent guarantees on the control systems and methodology used to prepare their claims.
	The authorising officer responsible may also waive the obligation to provide a certificate on the financial statements and underlying accounts where an audit has been or will be directly done by the Commission's own staff or by a body authorised to do so on its behalf, which provides equivalent assurances about the costs declared.
	In the case of an agreement between the Commission and a number of beneficiaries, the thresholds referred to in points (a) and (b) of the third subparagraph shall apply to each beneficiary.

	<p>4. An operational verification report, produced by an independent third party approved by the authorising officer responsible, may be requested by the authorising officer responsible in support of any payment, on the basis of a risk assessment. Where requested by the authorising officer responsible, the verification report shall be attached to the payment request and the corresponding costs are eligible under the same conditions as the costs relating to audit certificates as laid down in Article 126 of the Financial Regulation. The verification report shall state that the operational verification was done in accordance with a methodology approved by the authorising officer responsible and whether the action or work programme was actually implemented in accordance with the conditions set out in the grant agreement or grant decision.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 208 RAP</i> <i>Suspension and reduction of grants</i> <i>(Article 135 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The implementation of the grant agreement or decision, the participation of a beneficiary in its implementation or payments may be suspended in order to verify whether presumed substantial errors or irregularities or fraud or breach of obligations have actually occurred. If they are not confirmed, implementation shall resume as soon as possible.</p>
	<p>2. Where the agreed action or work programme is not carried out or is not carried out properly, in full or on time, the authorising officer responsible shall, provided that the beneficiary has been given the opportunity to make observations, either reduce or recover the grant in proportion, depending on the stage of the procedure.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Article 136 FR</p>

	Periods for record-keeping
	1. Beneficiaries shall keep records, supporting documents, statistical records and other records pertaining to a grant for five years following the payment of the balance, and for three years in the case of low value grants.
	2. Records pertaining to audits, appeals, litigation, or the pursuit of claims arising out of the performance of the project shall be retained until such audits, appeals, litigation or claims have been disposed of.
	CHAPTER 5 Implementation
	Article 137 FR
	Implementation contracts and financial support to third parties
	1. Where implementation of an action or a work programme requires financial support to be given to third parties, the beneficiary may give such financial support provided that the following conditions are met:
	(a) before awarding the grant, the authorising officer responsible has verified that the beneficiary offers adequate guarantees as regards the recovery of amounts due to the Commission;
	(b) the conditions for the giving of such support are strictly defined in the grant decision or agreement between the beneficiary and the Commission, in order to avoid the exercise of discretion by the beneficiary;

	(c) the amounts concerned are small, except where the financial support is the primary aim of the action.
	2. Each grant decision or agreement shall provide expressly for the Commission and the Court of Auditors to exercise their powers of control, concerning documents premises and information, including that stored on electronic media, over all third parties who have received Union funds.
	3. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on implementation contracts and financial support to third parties.
	<i>Article 209 RAP Implementation contracts (Article 137 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Without prejudice to the application of the Directive 2004/18/EC, where implementation of the action or work programme requires the award of a procurement contract, the beneficiary shall award the contract to the tender offering best value for money or, as appropriate, to the tender offering the lowest price, while avoiding any conflict of interests.
	2. Where implementation of the actions or work programme requires the award of a procurement contract with a value of more than EUR 60 000, the authorising officer responsible may require the beneficiary to abide by special rules in addition to those referred to in paragraph 1.

	<p>Those special rules shall be based on rules contained in the Financial Regulation and determined with due regard for the value of the contracts concerned, the relative size of the Union contribution in relation to the total cost of the action and the risk. Such special rules shall be included in the grant decision or agreement.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 210 RAP</i> <i>Financial support to third parties</i> <i>(Article 137 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>Provided the objectives or results to be obtained are sufficiently detailed in the conditions referred to in Article 137(1) of the Financial Regulation, the margin of discretion may only be considered to be exhausted if the grant decision or agreement also specifies the following:</p>
	<p>(a) the maximum amount of financial support that can be paid to a third party which shall not exceed EUR 60 000, save where the financial support is the primary aim of the action, and the criteria for determining the exact amount;</p>
	<p>(b) the different types of activity that may receive such financial support, on the basis of a fixed list;</p>
	<p>(c) the definition of the persons or categories of persons which may receive such financial support and the criteria to give it.</p>

	<i>Article 38 11th EDF FR</i>
	Prizes
	Title VII of Part One of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply with the exception of the second subparagraph of Article 138(2) thereof.
	<i>TITLE VII</i>
	<i>PRIZES</i>
	Article 138 FR
	General rules
	1. Prizes shall respect the principles of transparency and equal treatment and shall promote the achievement of policy objectives of the Union.
	2. For this purpose, prizes shall be subject to a work programme to be published prior to its implementation. The work programme shall be implemented through the publication of contests.
	Contests for prizes with a unit value of EUR 1000000 or more may only be published if they are provided for in the statements or any other relevant document referred to in point (e) of Article 38(3).
	The rules of the contest shall at least lay down the conditions for participation including the exclusion criteria provided for in Article 106(1) and

	Articles 107, 108 and 109, the award criteria, the amount of the prize and the payment arrangements.
	Prizes may not be awarded directly without a contest and shall be published annually in accordance with Article 35(2) and (3).
	3. Entries in a contest shall be evaluated by a panel of experts on the basis of the published rules of the contest.
	Prizes shall then be awarded by the authorising officer responsible, on the basis of the evaluation provided by the panel of experts who shall be free to decide whether to recommend the award of prizes, depending on their appraisal of the quality of the entries.
	4. The amount of the prize shall not be linked to costs incurred by the winner.
	5. Where implementation of an action or work programme requires prizes to be given to third parties by a beneficiary of a Union grant, that beneficiary may give such prizes provided that the minimum content of the rules of the contest, as laid down in paragraph 2, is strictly defined in the grant decision or agreement between the beneficiary and the Commission, with no margin for discretion.
	6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on prizes, including programming, rules of contest, ex post publication, evaluation, information and notification of winners.
	<i>Article 211 RAP Programming</i>

	<i>(Article 138(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. An annual or multi-annual work programme for prizes shall be prepared by each authorising officer responsible. The work programme shall be adopted by the institution and published on the internet site of the institution concerned as soon as possible, and no later than 31 March of the year of implementation.
	The work programme shall specify the period it covers, the basic act, if any, the objectives pursued, the expected results, the indicative timetable of contests with the indicative amount of the prizes.
	The work programme shall in addition contain the information set out in Article 94 for the decision adopting it to be considered as the financing decision for the prizes of the year concerned.
	2. Any substantial change in the work programme shall also be adopted and published as provided for in paragraph 1.
	<i>Article 212 RAP Rules of contests (Article 138(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Rules of contests shall lay down the following:
	(a) the conditions for participation, which shall at least:
	(i) specify the eligibility criteria;
	(ii) specify the arrangements and final date for the registration of participants, if required, and for the submission of entries, under the conditions set

	out in paragraph 2;
	(iii) provide for exclusion of participants which are in one of the situations referred to in Article 106(1) and Articles 107, 108 and 109 of the Financial Regulation;
	(iv) provide for the sole liability of participants in case of claim relating to the activities carried out in the framework of the contest;
	(v) provide for acceptance by the winners of checks and audits by the Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditors and of the publicity obligations as specified in the rules of the contest;
	(vi) state that Union law is the law which applies to the contest, complemented, where necessary, by national law as specified in the rules of contest;
	(vii) specify the competent court or arbitration tribunal to hear disputes;
	(viii) state that financial or administrative penalties, or both, may be imposed on participants who have made false declarations, or committed irregularities or fraud, in accordance with the conditions laid down in Article 145 and in proportion to the value of the prizes in question;
	(b) the award criteria, which shall be such as to make possible to assess the quality of the entries with regard to the objectives pursued and the expected results and to determine objectively whether entries qualify as the winners;
	(c) the amount of the prize or prizes;
	(d) the arrangements for the payment of prizes to the winners after their award.
	For the purposes of point (a)(i) of the first subparagraph, beneficiaries of Union

	grants shall be eligible, unless stated otherwise in the rules of contest.
	For the purposes of point (a)(vi) of the first subparagraph, derogation may be made in the case of participation of international organisations.
	2. The authorising officer responsible shall choose means of communication which are non-discriminatory in nature for the submission of entries and which have no effect of restricting the access of participants to the contest.
	The means of communication chosen shall be such as to ensure that the following conditions are satisfied:
	(a) each entry contains all the information required for its evaluation;
	(b) the integrity of data is preserved;
	(c) the confidentiality of entries is preserved;
	(d) the protection of personal data in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 is ensured.
	3. Rules of contests may set the conditions for cancelling the contest, in particular where its objectives cannot be fulfilled or where a legal or natural person who does not comply with the conditions for participation would qualify as the winner.

	<p>4. Rules of contests shall be published on the internet site of the Union institutions. In addition to the publication on the internet site, rules of contests may also be published by any other appropriate means, including the Official Journal of the European Union, where it is necessary to provide additional publicity among potential participants. They may be published as from the adoption of the financing decision referred to in Article 84 of the Financial Regulation, including during the year preceding budget implementation. Any modification of the content of the rules of contests shall be also subject to publication under the same conditions.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 213 RAP</i> <i>Ex post publication</i> <i>(Article 138(2) of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Information relating to prizes awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published in accordance with Article 21.</p>
	<p>2. Following the publication referred to in paragraph 1, when requested by the European Parliament and the Council the Commission shall forward them a report on:</p>
	<p>(a) the number of participants in the past year;</p>
	<p>(b) the number of participants and the percentage of successful entries per contest;</p>
	<p>(c) a list of the experts having taken part in panels in the past year, together with a reference to the procedure for their selection.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 214 RAP</i></p>

	<i>Evaluation</i> <i>(Article 138(3) of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	<p>1. For the purpose of evaluating the entries, the authorising officer responsible shall appoint a panel of at least three experts, who may be outside experts or persons representing at least two organisational entities of the institutions or bodies referred to in Articles 62 and 208 of the Financial Regulation with no hierarchical link between them, except in the representations or local bodies referred to in Article 72 of this Regulation and the delegated bodies referred to in article 62 and 208 of the Financial Regulation, if there are no separate entities.</p>
	<p>The experts referred to in the first subparagraph shall be subject to the requirements on conflict of interests laid down in Article 57 of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p>Outside experts shall declare that they are not in a situation of conflict of interests at the time of appointment and that they undertake to inform the authorising officer if any conflict of interests should arise in the course of the evaluation procedure.</p>
	<p>2. Upon completion of their work, the members of the panel shall sign a record of all the entries examined, containing an assessment of their quality and identifying those to which the prizes may be awarded. That record may be signed in an electronic system providing sufficient authentication of the signatory.</p>
	<p>The record referred to in the first subparagraph shall be kept for future reference.</p>
	<p>3. The authorising officer responsible shall then decide whether or not to award the prizes. That decision shall also specify the following:</p>
	<p>(a) the subject and total amount of prizes awarded, if any;</p>

	(b) the names of the winning participants, if any, the amount of the prizes awarded to each winning participant and the reasons for that choice;
	(c) the names of any participant rejected and the reasons for that rejection.
	Article 215 RAP Information and notification (Article 138(3) of the Financial Regulation)
	1. Participants shall be informed as soon as possible of the outcome of the evaluation of their entry and in any case within 15 calendar days after the award decision has been taken by the authorising officer.
	2. The decision to award the prize shall be notified to the winning participant and shall serve as the legal commitment within the meaning of Article 86 of the Financial Regulation.
	<i>Article 40 11th EDF FR [Article 39 “Budget support” – see with Article 186 FR]</i>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Financial instruments</p> <p>Financial instruments may be established in the financing decision referred to in Article 26. They shall be, whenever possible, under the lead of the EIB, or a multilateral European financial institution, such as the EBRD, or a bilateral European financial institution, e.g. bilateral development banks, possibly pooled with additional grants from other sources.</p> <p>The Commission may implement financial instruments under direct management, or under indirect management by entrusting tasks to entities pursuant to points (ii), (iii),</p>

	<p>(v) and (vi) of Article 58(1)(c) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. These entities shall fulfill the requirements of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and shall comply with Union objectives, standards and policies, as well as best practices regarding the use of and reporting on Union funds.</p> <p>Title VIII of Part One of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply with the exception of paragraph 1; the first subparagraph of paragraph 4 and paragraph 5 of Article 139 thereof.</p> <p>Financial instruments may be grouped into regional facilities for implementation and reporting purposes.</p>
	<i>TITLE VIII</i>
	<i>FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS</i>
	Article 139 FR
	Scope
	1. Financial instruments shall be authorised by means of a basic act.
	Notwithstanding the first subparagraph, financial instruments may be established, in duly justified cases, without being authorised by means of a basic act, provided that such instruments are included in the budget in accordance with point (e) of Article 49(1).
	2. Where Union support is provided by means of financial instruments and combined in a single measure with elements directly related to financial instruments

	targeting the same final recipients, including technical assistance, interest rate rebates and guarantee fee subsidies, this Title shall apply to all elements of that measure.
	3. Where financial instruments are combined with grants funded from the budget under Title VI of Part One for elements not directly related to financial instruments, separate records shall be maintained for each source of financing.
	4. The Commission may implement financial instruments under direct management, or under indirect management, as set out in the basic act, by entrusting tasks to entities pursuant to points (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi) of Article 58(1)(c).
	— The entities entrusted pursuant to points (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi) of Article 58(1)(c), when implementing financial instruments, may further entrust, under their responsibility, part of that implementation to financial intermediaries provided that those entities ensure that the financial intermediaries satisfy the criteria laid down in Article 140(1), (3) and (5). Financial intermediaries shall be selected on the basis of open, transparent, proportionate and non discriminatory procedures, avoiding conflicts of interests.
	— The Commission shall remain responsible for ensuring that the implementation framework for financial instruments complies with the principle of sound financial management and supports the attainment of defined and timed policy objectives, measurable in terms of outputs and results. The Commission shall be accountable for the implementation of financial instruments without prejudice to the entrusted entities' legal and contractual responsibility in accordance with the

	applicable law.
	5. Where financial instruments are implemented under shared management with Member States, the provisions applying to those instruments, including rules for contributions to financial instruments managed directly or indirectly in accordance with this Title, shall be laid down in the Regulations referred to in Article 175.
	6. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on financial instruments, including the selection of entities entrusted with the implementation of financial instruments, the content of delegation agreements, management costs and fees, the specific rules for fiduciary accounts, the direct implementation of the financial instruments and the selection of managers, of financial intermediaries and of final recipients.
	<p><i>Article 216 RAP</i></p> <p><i>Selection of the entities entrusted with the implementation of financial instruments in indirect management</i></p> <p><i>(Article 139 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	1. For the implementation of financial instruments under indirect management, the Commission shall obtain evidence that the entrusted entity fulfils the requirements of Article 60(2) of the Financial Regulation. Once that evidence is obtained, it shall be valid for any future implementation of financial instruments by the relevant entity, unless substantial changes to the entrusted entities' systems, rules and procedures covered by those requirements have been made.
	2. For the selection of entities entrusted with the implementation of financial instruments pursuant to Article 61(2) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission

	shall publish a call to potential entrusted entities. That call shall include the selection and award criteria.
	The call referred to in the first subparagraph shall also indicate whether the entrusted entity is required to allocate its own financial resources to the specific financial instrument or share the risk. Where such indication is made and where it is necessary to mitigate a possible conflict of interest, the call shall also indicate that the entrusted entity is required to propose measures on alignment of interest, as set out in Article <u>140(2)</u> of the Financial Regulation. The measures on alignment of interest shall be included in the agreement of the specific financial instrument.
	The Commission shall open a dialogue with the entities that satisfy the selection criteria in a transparent and objective manner and without giving rise to a conflict of interest. After the dialogue the Commission shall sign delegation agreements with the entity or entities that have submitted the best value for money proposals including, where applicable, the allocation of their own financial resources or risk-sharing.
	3. The Commission may enter into direct negotiations with potential entrusted entities before signing delegation agreements where the entrusted entity is identified in the relevant basic act or listed in Article 58(1)(c)(iii) of the Financial Regulation, or in duly justified and properly documented exceptional cases, in particular where:
	(a) no suitable proposals were submitted following a call to potential entrusted entities;
	(b) financial instruments with specific characteristics require a particular type of entrusted entity on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power;

	(c) for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by unforeseeable events not attributable to the Union, it is impossible to comply with the procedure referred to in paragraph 2.
	<i>Article 217 RAP</i> <i>Content of the delegation agreement with entities entrusted with the implementation of financial instruments in indirect management</i> <i>(Article 139 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	In addition to the requirements listed in Article 40, delegation agreement with entities entrusted with the implementation of financial instruments shall include appropriate arrangements for ensuring compliance with the principles and conditions set out in Article 140 of the Financial Regulation. In particular, the delegation agreements shall contain:
	(a) the description of the financial instrument, including its investment strategy or policy, the type of support provided, the criteria for eligibility for financial intermediaries and final recipients as well as additional operational requirements transposing the policy objectives of the instrument;
	(b) the requirements for a target range of values for the leverage effect;
	(c) a definition of non-eligible activities and exclusion criteria;
	(d) provisions ensuring alignment of interest and addressing possible conflicts of interest;
	(e) provisions for the selection of financial intermediaries pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 139(4) of the Financial Regulation and for the establishment of dedicated investment vehicles, if applicable;

	(f) provisions on the liability of the entrusted entity and of other entities involved in the implementation of the financial instrument;
	(g) provisions on the settlement of disputes;
	(h) provisions on the governance of the financial instrument;
	(i) provisions regarding the use and re-use of the Union contribution in compliance with Article 140(6) of the Financial Regulation;
	(j) provisions for the management of contributions from the Union and of fiduciary accounts, including counterparty risks, acceptable treasury operations, responsibilities of parties concerned, remedial actions in the event of excessive balances on fiduciary accounts, record keeping and reporting;
	(k) provisions on the remuneration of the entrusted entity, including management fee rates and on the calculation and payment of management costs and fees to the entrusted entity in accordance with Article 218;
	(l) where appropriate, provisions on a framework of conditions for the contributions from the funds referred to in Article 175 of the Financial Regulation, in particular the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural development and the Future Fisheries Fund (hereinafter "CSF Funds");
	(m) provisions on the duration, possibility of extension, and termination of the financial instrument, including the conditions for early termination and, where appropriate, exit strategies;
	(n) provisions on the monitoring of the implementation of support to financial intermediaries and final recipients including reporting by the financial

	intermediaries;
	(o) where applicable, type and nature of any hedging operations referred to in Article 219.
	<i>Article 218 RAP Management costs and fees to entrusted entities (Article 139 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The Commission shall remunerate the entrusted entities for the implementation of a financial instrument through performance based fees, reimbursement of exceptional expenses and, where the entrusted entity manages the treasury of the financial instrument, treasury management fees.
	2. Performance based fees shall comprise administrative fees to remunerate the entrusted entity for the work carried out in the implementation of a financial instrument. Where appropriate, they may also comprise policy related incentives to promote the achievement of the policy objectives or incentivise the financial performance of the financial instrument.
	<i>Article 219 RAP Specific rules for fiduciary accounts in indirect management (Article 139 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Entities entrusted with the implementation of financial instruments may open fiduciary accounts within the meaning of Article 68(7) of the Financial Regulation, in their name and exclusively on behalf of the Commission. Those entrusted entities shall send the corresponding account statements to the Commission's responsible service.
	2. The fiduciary accounts shall maintain appropriate liquidity and the assets

	held on such fiduciary accounts shall be managed in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and follow appropriate prudential rules in accordance with Article 140(7) of the Financial Regulation.
	3. For the implementation of financial instruments, entrusted entities shall not carry out hedging operations for speculative purposes. The type and nature of any hedging operations shall be agreed ex ante by the Commission and included in the delegation agreements referred to in Article 217.
	<i>Article 220 RAP Financial instruments implemented directly (Article 139 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. In exceptional cases, financial instruments may be implemented directly pursuant to Article 139(4) of the Financial Regulation through any of the following:
	(a) a dedicated investment vehicle in which the Commission participates together with other public or private investors with a view to increasing the leverage effect of the Union contribution;
	(b) loans, guarantees, equity participations and other risk-sharing instruments other than investments in dedicated investment vehicles, provided directly to final recipients or through financial intermediaries.
	2. For the implementation of financial instruments, the Commission shall not carry out hedging operations for speculative purposes. The type and nature of any hedging operations shall be agreed ex ante by the Commission and included in the agreements with entities implementing the financial instrument.
	<i>Article 221 RAP Selection of financial intermediaries, managers of dedicated investment vehicles and</i>

	<i>of final recipients (Article 139 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Where the Commission implements financial instruments directly or indirectly through dedicated investment vehicles, such vehicles shall be established according to the laws of a Member State. They may also be established according to the laws of a country other than a Member State in the area of external action. The managers of such vehicles shall be obliged by law or contract to act with the diligence of a professional manager and in good faith.
	2. The managers of the dedicated investment vehicles referred to in paragraph 1 and financial intermediaries or final recipients of the financial instruments shall be selected with due account of the nature of the financial instrument to be implemented, the experience and the operational and financial capacity of the entities concerned, and/or the economic viability of projects of final recipients. The choice shall be transparent, justified on objective grounds and shall not give rise to a conflict of interest.
	3. No financial support shall be granted to managers of dedicated investment vehicles, to financial intermediaries and to final recipients which are in one of the situations referred to in Articles 106(1), 107, 108 and 109 of the Financial Regulation.
	Article 140 FR
	Principles and conditions applicable to financial instruments
	1. Financial instruments shall be used in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, transparency, proportionality, non-discrimination, equal treatment and subsidiarity, and in accordance with their objectives and, where applicable, the duration established in the basic act for those financial instruments.

	2. Financial instruments shall comply with the following:
	(a) addressing market failures or sub-optimal investment situations, which have proven to be financially viable but do not give rise to sufficient funding from market sources;
	(b) additionality: financial instruments shall not be aimed at replacing those of a Member State, private funding or another Union financial intervention;
	(c) non-distortion of competition in the internal market and consistency with State aid rules;
	(d) leverage effect: the Union contribution to a financial instrument shall aim at mobilising a global investment exceeding the size of the Union contribution according to the indicators defined in advance;
	(e) alignment of interest: when implementing financial instruments, the Commission shall ensure that there is a common interest in achieving the policy objectives defined for a financial instrument, possibly fostered by provisions such as co-investment, risk-sharing requirements or financial incentives, while preventing a conflict of interests with other activities of the entrusted entity;
	(f) financial instruments shall be established on the basis of on an <i>ex ante</i> evaluation, including an evaluation of the possible re-use of additional resources referred to in point (f) of paragraph 8.
	3. The budgetary expenditure linked to a financial instrument and the financial liability of the Union shall in no case exceed the amount of the relevant budgetary

	commitment made for it, thus excluding contingent liabilities for the budget.
	4. The entities entrusted pursuant to points (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi) of Article 58(1)(c) and all financial intermediaries selected to participate in the execution of financial operations under a financial instrument shall comply with relevant standards and applicable legislation on the prevention of money laundering, the fight against terrorism and tax fraud. For the implementation of financial instruments in accordance with this Title, the entities entrusted pursuant to points (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi) of Article 58(1)(c) shall not be established, and shall not maintain business relations with entities incorporated, in territories whose jurisdictions do not co-operate with the Union in relation to the application of the internationally agreed tax standard and shall transpose such requirements in their contracts with the selected financial intermediaries.
	5. Entities entrusted pursuant to points (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi) of Article 58(1)(c), financial intermediaries as referred to in paragraph 4 of this Article involved in managing Union financial instruments, and final recipients of Union support under this Title shall afford the Court of Auditors all the facilities and give it all the information which the Court of Auditors considers necessary for the performance of its task, pursuant to Article 161.
	Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 1999 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF) ⁴³ shall apply to Union support under this Title.

	<p>6. Amounts corresponding at least to the Union contribution, or, where applicable, multiples thereof shall be used for the attainment of the specific policy objectives pursued through the financial instrument and shall not generate undue advantages, in particular in the form of undue dividends or profits for third parties.</p>
	<p>Without prejudice to sector-specific rules for shared management, revenues, including dividends, capital gains, guarantee fees and interest on loans and on amounts on fiduciary accounts paid back to the Commission or fiduciary accounts opened for financial instruments and attributable to the support from the budget under a financial instrument, shall be entered in the budget after deduction of management costs and fees.</p>
	<p>Annual repayments, including capital repayments, guarantees released, and repayments of the principal of loans, paid back to the Commission or fiduciary accounts opened for financial instruments and attributable to the support from the budget under a financial instrument, shall constitute internal assigned revenue in accordance with Article 21 and shall be used for the same financial instrument, without prejudice to paragraph 9 of this Article, for a period not exceeding the period for the commitment of appropriations plus two years, unless specified otherwise in a basic act.</p>
	<p>7. Payments to fiduciary accounts shall be made by the Commission on the basis of payment requests that are duly substantiated with disbursement forecasts, taking into account the balances available on the fiduciary accounts and the need to avoid excessive balances on such amounts. In the event of the amounts on the fiduciary accounts being sufficient to cover the contractually stipulated minimum reserve on the fiduciary accounts, as increased by the disbursement forecasts for the</p>

	current financial year, and to cover the amounts needed to exclude contingent liabilities in relation to payment obligations in currencies other than euro, no further payment to the fiduciary accounts shall be made. Disbursement forecasts are to be provided on an annual or, where appropriate, on a semi-annual basis.
	8. The Commission shall report annually to the European Parliament and the Council on the activities relating to financial instruments. The report shall include, for each financial instrument supported:
	(a) an identification of the financial instrument and the basic act;
	(b) a description of the financial instrument, implementation arrangements and the added value of the Union contribution;
	(c) the financial institutions involved in implementation, including any issues relating to the application of paragraph 5;
	(d) the aggregate budgetary commitments and payments from the budget for each financial instrument;
	(e) the performance of the financial instrument, including the investments realised;
	(f) an evaluation of the use of any amounts returned to the instrument as internal assigned revenue under paragraph 6;
	(g) the balance on the fiduciary account;

	(h) revenues and repayments under paragraph 6;
	(i) the value of equity investments, with respect to previous years;
	(j) the accumulated figures for impairments of assets of equity or risk-sharing instruments, and for called guarantees for guarantee instruments;
	(k) the target leverage effect, and the achieved leverage effect;
	(l) its contribution to the achievement of the objectives of the programme concerned as measured by the established indicators, including, where applicable, the geographical diversification.
	9. Where the European Parliament or the Council consider that a financial instrument has not achieved its objectives effectively, they may request that the Commission submit a proposal for a revised basic act with a view to the winding down of the instrument. In the event of the winding down of the financial instrument, any new repayments of that instrument pursuant to the third subparagraph of paragraph 6 shall be considered as general revenue.
	10. The purpose of the financial instruments and, where applicable, their specific legal form and legal place of registration shall be published on the Commission website.
	11. For financial instruments the authorising officer responsible shall ensure that financial statements, covering the period 1 January to 31 December and in compliance with the accounting rules referred to in Article 143 and the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), as well as any information necessary to

	<p>produce financial statements in accordance with Article 68(3), will be provided by the entities entrusted pursuant to points (ii), (iii), (v) and (vi) of Article 58(1)(c) by 15 February of the following year. The authorising officer responsible shall also ensure that audited financial statements for financial instruments are provided by those entities by 15 May of the following year.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>The Commission shall ensure a harmonised management of financial instruments in particular in the area of accounting, reporting, monitoring and financial risk management.</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the implementation of financial instruments, including the conditions for their use, the leverage effect, the ex ante evaluation, the monitoring and the treatment of contributions from the Funds referred to in Article 175.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 222 RAP</i> <i>Conditions for the use of financial instruments</i> <i>(Article 140 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Financial instruments shall address market imperfections or failures or sub-optimal investment situations and provide support only to final recipients that are deemed potentially economically viable at the time of the Union support through a financial instrument.</p>

	<p>2. Financial instruments shall provide support to final recipients in a proportionate manner. In particular, preferential treatment of investors providing co-investment or risk-sharing should be justified, proportionate to the risks taken by the investors in a financial instrument and limited to the minimum necessary to ensure their investment or risk-sharing.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 223 RAP</i> <i>Leverage effect</i> <i>(Article 140 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Financial instruments shall aim at achieving a leverage effect of the Union contribution by mobilising a global investment exceeding the size of the Union contribution.</p>
	<p>The leverage effect of Union funds shall be equal to amount of finance to eligible final recipients divided by the amount of the Union contribution.</p>
	<p>2. The target range of values for the leverage effect shall be based on an ex-ante evaluation for the corresponding financial instrument.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 224 RAP</i> <i>Ex-ante evaluation of financial instruments</i> <i>(Article 140 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Financial instruments shall be based on <i>ex-ante</i> evaluations identifying market imperfections or failures, or sub-optimal investment situations and assessing investment needs in view of the policy objectives.</p>
	<p>2. The <i>ex-ante</i> evaluation shall demonstrate that identified market needs cannot be addressed appropriately and in a timely manner through either market led activities or types of Union intervention other than funding by a financial instrument,</p>

	such as regulation, liberalisation, reform or other policy action. It shall assess the likelihood and possible costs of market distortions and crowding-out of private funding through the financial instruments and shall identify means to minimise negative effects of such distortions.
	3. In accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, the <i>ex-ante</i> evaluation shall demonstrate that an Union-level financial instrument addresses identified market needs more appropriately than similar financial instruments at national or regional level, including those financed by CSF Funds. Factors such as difficult access to funding at national level, in particular for cross-border projects, economies of scale or strong demonstration effects linked to the diffusion of best practices to Member States shall be taken into account when assessing the added value of the Union contribution.
	4. The <i>ex-ante</i> evaluation shall determine the most efficient mode for delivering the financial instrument.
	5. The <i>ex-ante</i> evaluation shall also demonstrate that the planned financial instrument is consistent with:
	(a) new and existing financial instruments, avoiding undesirable overlaps and achieving synergies and economies of scale;
	(b) financial instruments and other forms of public intervention addressing the same market environment, avoiding inconsistencies and exploring potential synergies.
	6. The <i>ex-ante</i> evaluation shall assess proportionality of the envisaged intervention with regard to the size of the identified funding gap, the expected leverage effect of the planned financial instrument and also examine additional qualitative effects, such as the diffusion of best practices, the effective promotion of

	Union policy objectives throughout the implementation chain or the access to specific expertise available from actors involved in the implementation chain.
	7. The <i>ex-ante</i> evaluation shall establish a set of appropriate performance indicators for the proposed financial instruments and specify the expected output, results and impact.
	8. A separate ex ante evaluation of financial instruments shall only be carried out where such evaluation complying in full with the criteria in paragraphs 1 to 7 is not included in the ex ante evaluation or an impact assessment of the programme or activity covered by a basic act.
	<i>Article 225 RAP</i> <i>Monitoring of financial instruments</i> <i>(Article 140 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. In order to ensure the harmonised monitoring of financial instruments referred to in Article 140(12) of the Financial Regulation, a monitoring system shall be put in place by the authorising officer responsible to contribute to the provision of reasonable assurance that Union funds are used in accordance with Article 32(2) of the Financial Regulation.
	2. The monitoring system shall be used to assess the progress of the implementation towards the achievement of the policy objectives reflected in the relevant output and result indicators established pursuant to the <i>ex-ante</i> evaluation, and to analyse the compliance of the implementation with the defined requirements pursuant to Article 140(2) of the Financial Regulation and provide the basis for the Commission's reporting required under Articles 38(5) and 140(8) of the Financial Regulation.
	3. In case of indirect management, the monitoring by the Commission shall

	<p>build on the reporting and accounts provided by entrusted entities and on the audits available and controls carried out by the entrusted entity, taking due account of the management declaration of the entrusted entity and the opinion of the independent audit body referred to in Article 60(5) of the Financial Regulation. The Commission shall review the information provided by the entrusted entities and may carry out controls, including on a sample basis, at the appropriate implementation levels up to final recipients.</p>
	<p>The monitoring by the entrusted entity shall build on the reporting and accounts provided by financial intermediaries and on the audits available and controls carried out by the financial intermediary, taking due account of the management declaration of the financial intermediary and the opinion of independent auditors.</p>
	<p>Where, no financial intermediary exists, the entrusted entity shall directly monitor the use of the financial instrument based on the reporting and accounts provided by the final recipients.</p>
	<p>The entrusted entity shall review, where appropriate on a sample basis, the information provided by the financial intermediaries or final recipients and shall carry out controls as set out in the agreement referred to in Article 217.</p>
	<p>4. In case of direct management, the monitoring by the Commission shall build on the reporting and accounts provided by financial intermediaries and final recipients, subject to appropriate controls. The provisions under paragraph 3 shall apply to direct management <i>mutatis mutandis</i>.</p>
	<p>5. The agreements implementing the financial instrument shall contain the provisions necessary for the application of paragraphs 1 to 4.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 226 RAP</i> <i>Treatment of contributions from the CSF Funds</i></p>

	<i>(Article 140 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Separate records shall be kept for contributions from CSF Funds to financial instruments established under Title VIII of the Financial Regulation and supported by CSF Funds pursuant to the sector specific rules
	2. Contributions from the CSF Funds shall be placed in separate accounts and used in accordance with the objectives of the respective CSF Funds to actions and final recipients consistent with the programme or programmes from which contributions are made.
	3. As regards contributions from CSF Funds to financial instruments established under Title VIII of the Financial Regulation, the sector specific rules shall apply.

TITLE VIII

PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING

CHAPTER 1

PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

Article 118

1. The Commission shall draw up, by 31 July each year at the latest, the accounts of the EDF describing the financial situation of the Fund as at 31 December of the preceding year. The EDF accounts shall comprise:

- (a) the financial statements referred to in Article 122;
- (b) the reports on financial implementation referred to in Article 123;
- (c) the financial statements and the information supplied by the EIB in accordance with Article 149(2).

2. The EDF accounts shall be accompanied by a report on financial management of the year containing an accurate description of:

- (a) the achievement of the objectives for the financial year, in accordance with the principle of sound financial management;

TITLE IX

PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING

Article 43 11th EDF FR

11th EDF accounts

1. The 11th EDF accounts describing its financial situation as of 31 December of a given year shall comprise:
 - (a) the financial statements;
 - (b) the report on financial implementation;

The financial statements shall be accompanied by the information supplied by the EIB in accordance with Article 57.
2. The accounting officer shall send the provisional accounts to the Court of Auditors by 31 March of the following year.
3. The Court of Auditors shall, by 15 June of the following year, make its observations on the provisional accounts as regards the part of the 11th EDF resources for the financial management of which the Commission is responsible, so that the Commission can make the corrections deemed necessary for drawing up the final accounts.
4. The Commission shall approve the final accounts and send them to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors by 31 July of the following year at the latest.
5. The second subparagraph of Article 148(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.
6. The final accounts shall be published in the Official Journal of the European

(b) the financial situation and the events that had a significant influence on the activities carried out during the financial year.

Union together with the statement of assurance given by the Court of Auditors in accordance with Article 49 by 15 November of the following year.

7. The provisional and final accounts may be sent pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 4 by electronic means.

Article 119

The accounts shall comply with the rules and shall be accurate and comprehensive. They shall present a true and fair view as regards the following:

- (a) the financial statements, of the assets and liabilities, charges and income, entitlements and obligations not shown as assets or liabilities, and cash flow;
- (b) the reports on financial implementation, of the revenue and expenditure operations from EDF resources.

Article 120

The financial statements referred to in Article 122 shall be drawn up in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles, namely:

- (a) going concern basis;
- (b) prudence;
- (c) consistent accounting methods;
- (d) comparability of information;
- (e) materiality;
- (f) no netting;
- (g) reality over appearance;
- (h) accrual-based accounting.

Article 44 11th EDF FR

Financial statements and the report on financial implementation

1. Article 145 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.
2. The report on financial implementation shall be prepared by the responsible authorising officer and transmitted to the accounting officer by 15 March for the inclusion in the 11th EDF accounts. It shall present a true and fair view of the revenue and expenditure operations from 11th EDF resources. It shall be presented in millions of euro and shall comprise:
 - (a) the financial outturn account, which sets out all financial operations for the year in terms of revenue and expenditure;
 - (b) the annex to the financial outturn account, which shall supplement and comment on the information given in that account.
3. The financial outturn account shall contain the following tables:
 - (a) a table describing changes over the preceding financial year in the allocations;
 - (b) a table showing by allocation the total commitments, assigned funds and payments effected during the financial year and aggregate totals since the opening of the 11th EDF.

Article 121

1. In accordance with the principle of accrual-based accounting, the financial statements referred to in Article 122 shall show the charges and income for the financial year, regardless of the date of payment or collection.

2. The value of assets and liabilities shall be determined in accordance with the valuation rules provided for in Article 129.

Article 122

1. The financial statements shall be prepared by the accounting officer and presented in millions of euro. They shall comprise:

(a) the balance sheet, which represents the assets and liabilities and financial situation and the economic outturn of the EDF at 31 December of the previous year; it shall be presented in accordance with the structure laid down by the Directives of the European Parliament and Council on the annual accounts of certain types of companies, but with account being taken of the specific nature of the EDF's activities;

(b) the cash-flow table showing amounts collected and disbursed during the year, the final treasury position and a statement of changes in capital covering the preceding financial year;

(c) a table of items payable to the EDF showing:

(i) amounts still to be recovered at the

Article 45 11th EDF FR

Monitoring and reporting by the Commission and the EIB

1. The Commission and the EIB shall monitor, each to the extent to which it is concerned, the use of 11th EDF assistance by the ACP States, the OCTs or any other beneficiary, and the implementation of projects financed by the 11th EDF, having particular regard to the objectives referred to in Articles 55 and 56 of the Cotonou Agreement and in the corresponding provisions of the Overseas Association Decision.

2. The EIB shall periodically inform the Commission regarding the implementation of projects financed by the 11th EDF resources it administers, following the procedures set out in the operational guidelines of the Investment Facility.

3. The Commission and the EIB shall provide the Member States with information on the operational implementation of 11th EDF resources as foreseen in Article 18 of the Implementation Regulation. The Commission shall send that information to the Court of Auditors in accordance with Article 11(6) of the Internal Agreement.

beginning of the financial year;

(ii) entitlements established in the course of the financial year;

(iii) amounts recovered in the course of the financial year;

(iv) cancellation of established entitlements;

(v) amounts still to be recovered at the end of the financial year.

2. The annex to the financial statements shall supplement and comment on the information presented in the statements referred to in paragraph 1 and shall supply all the additional information prescribed by internationally accepted accounting practice where such information is relevant to the EDF's activities.

Article 123

1. The reports on financial implementation shall be prepared by the authorising officer responsible in conjunction with the accounting officer and presented in millions of euro. They shall comprise:

(a) the financial outturn account, which sets out all financial operations for the year in terms of revenue and expenditure.

(b) the annex to the financial outturn account, which shall supplement and comment on the information given in that account.

2. The financial outturn account shall contain the following tables:

(a) a table describing changes over the preceding financial year in the allocations indicated in the Annex;

(b) a table showing by allocation the total commitments, assigned funds and payments effected during the financial year and aggregate totals since the opening of the EDF;

(c) tables showing by allocation, country, territory, region or sub-region, the total commitments, assigned funds and payments effected during the financial year and aggregate totals since the opening of the EDF.

Article 46 11th EDF FR

Accounting

The accounting rules referred to in Article 143(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply to the 11th EDF resources managed by the Commission. These rules shall be applied to the 11th EDF while taking into account the specific nature of its activities.

The accounting principles contained in Article 144 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply to the financial statements referred to in Article 44 of this Regulation.

Articles 151, 153, 154, and 155 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.

The accounting officer shall prepare and, after consulting the responsible authorising officer, adopt the chart of accounts to be applied to the 11th EDF's operations

Article 124

The accounting officer shall send the provisional accounts to the Court of Auditors by 31 March of the following financial year at the latest.

By 30 April of the following financial year at the latest the accounting officer shall send to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors the report, referred to in Article 118(2), concerning financial management during the year.

Article 125

1. The Court of Auditors shall, by 15 June, make its observations on the provisional accounts as regards the part of the EDF resources for which the Commission is responsible for financial management under Article 2, so that the Commission can make the corrections deemed necessary for drawing up the final accounts.

2. The accounting officer shall prepare the final accounts accompanied by a note established by himself, by which he declares that they were prepared in accordance with Title VIII and with the accounting principles, rules and methods set out in annex to the financial statements.

3. The Commission shall approve the final accounts and send them to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of

Article 47 11th EDF FR

Budgetary accounting

[there may be an error in the visualisation of this article]

1. The budgetary accounts shall provide a detailed record of the financial implementation of the 11th EDF resources.
2. They shall show all:
 - (a) allocations and the corresponding 11th EDF resources;
 - (b) financial commitments;
 - (c) payments, and established debts and collection operations for the financial year, in full and without any adjustment against each other.
3. When commitments, payments and debts are expressed in national currencies, the accounting system shall make it possible, where necessary, for them to be recorded in national currencies as well as in euro.
4. Global financial commitments shall be recorded in euro for the value of the financing decisions taken by the Commission. Individual financial commitments shall be recorded in euro at the equivalent of the value of the legal commitments. That value shall include where appropriate:
 - (a) provision for the payment of reimbursable expenses on presentation of supporting documents;
 - (b) provision for the revision of prices, for the increase in quantities, and for contingencies as defined in 11th EDF-funded contracts;
 - (c) financial provision for exchange rate fluctuations.
5. All accounting records referring to the fulfilment of a commitment shall be kept for a period of five years from the date of the decision giving discharge in

<p>Auditors by 31 July of the following financial year at the latest.</p>	<p>respect of the financial implementation of 11th EDF resources, referred to in Article 50, concerning the financial year during which the commitment was closed for accounting purposes.</p>
<p>4. The final accounts shall be published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> together with the statement of assurance given by the Court of Auditors in respect of the part of the EDF resources for which the Commission is responsible for financial management under Article 2 by 15 November of the following financial year.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EDF RESOURCES</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 126</i></p> <p>1. The Commission and the EIB shall monitor, each to the extent to which it is concerned, the use of EDF assistance by the ACP States, the OCTs or any other beneficiary, and the implementation of projects financed by the EDF, having particular regard to the objectives referred to in Articles 55 and 56 of the ACP-EC Agreement and in the corresponding provisions of the Overseas Association Decision.</p> <p>2. The EIB shall periodically inform the Commission regarding the implementation of projects financed by the EDF resources it administers, following the procedures set out in the operational guidelines of the Investment Facility.</p> <p>3. The Commission and the EIB shall provide the EDF</p>	

Committee with information on the operational implementation of EDF resources through the national and regional allocations set out in the Annex. Such information shall also cover projects and programmes financed from the Investment Facility. The Commission shall send that information to the Court of Auditors in accordance with paragraphs 5 and 7 of Article 11 of the Internal Agreement.

CHAPTER 3

ACCOUNTING

Article 127

1. The accounting system is the system serving to organise the financial information in such a way that figures can be input, filed and registered.
2. The accounts shall consist of general accounts and financial accounts. Those accounts shall be kept in euro on the basis of the calendar year.
3. The figures in the general accounts and the financial accounts shall be established at the close of the financial year so that the accounts referred to in Chapter 1 can be drawn up.
4. Notwithstanding paragraphs 2 and 3, the authorising officer by delegation may keep analytical accounts.

Article 128

The accounting officer shall be responsible for the monitoring and entry in the accounts of payments by the Member States and other revenue.

Article 129

1. The accounting officer shall adopt the applicable accounting rules and methods. He shall prepare and, after consulting the authorising officer by delegation, adopt the chart of accounts to be applied to the EDF's operations.

In so doing the accounting officer shall be guided by the internationally accepted accounting standards for the public sector. However, he may depart from them where justified by the specific nature of the EDF's activities.

2. Entries in the accounts shall be made on the basis of the chart of accounts using a nomenclature which makes a clear distinction between the general accounts and the financial accounts. The chart of accounts shall be sent to the Court of Auditors.

Article 130

The general accounts shall record, in chronological order using the double entry method, all events and operations affecting the economic and financial situation and the assets and liabilities of the EDF, and which make up the EDF balance sheet.

Article 131

1. Movements on the accounts and the balances shall be entered in the accounting ledgers.
2. All accounting entries, including adjustments to the accounts, shall be based on supporting documents, to which they shall refer.
3. The accounting system shall be such as to leave a trail for all accounting entries.

Article 132

The accounting officer shall, after the close of the financial year and up to the date of presentation of the accounts, make any adjustments which, without involving disbursement or collection in respect of that year, are necessary for a true and fair presentation of the accounts which complies with the rules.

Article 133

1. The financial accounts shall provide a detailed record of the financial implementation of EDF resources.

They shall show all:

- (a) allocations;
- (b) commitments;
- (c) payments, and established debts and collection

operations for the financial year, in full and without any adjustment against each other.

2. When commitments, payments and debts are expressed in national currencies, the accounting system shall make it possible, where necessary, for them to be recorded in national currencies as well as in euro.

3. The commitments defined in Article 70 shall be recorded in euro for the value of the financing decisions taken by the Commission.

The commitments defined in Article 78(2) shall be recorded in euro at the equivalent of the value of the contracts, grant agreements and programme estimates. That value shall include where appropriate:

- (a) provision for the payment of reimbursable expenses on presentation of supporting documents;
- (b) provision for the revision of prices and contingencies as defined in EDF-funded contracts;
- (c) financial provision for exchange rate fluctuations.

4. All accounting records referring to the fulfilment of a commitment shall be kept for a period of five years from the date of the decision giving discharge in respect of the financial implementation of EDF resources, referred to in Article 142, concerning the financial year during which the commitment was closed for accounting purposes.

	TITLE IX
	PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS AND ACCOUNTING
	CHAPTER 1 Presentation of the accounts
	Article 141 FR
	Structure of the accounts
	The accounts shall comprise:
	—— (a) the consolidated financial statements, which present the consolidation of the financial information contained in the financial statements of the institutions financed by the budget, those of the bodies referred to in Article 208 and of other bodies whose accounts are required to be consolidated in accordance with the accounting rules referred to in Article 143;
	—— (b) the aggregated budgetary accounts which present the information contained in the budgetary accounts of the institutions.
	Article 142 FR
	Report on budgetary and financial management
	1. — Each institution and body referred to in Article 141 shall prepare a report on budgetary and financial management for the financial year.

	———— They shall send the report to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors, by 31 March of the following financial year.
	2. — The report referred to in paragraph 1 shall give an account, both in absolute terms and expressed as a percentage, at least, of the rate of implementation of appropriations together with summary information on the transfers of appropriations among the various budget items.
	3. — The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the report on budgetary and financial management.
	<i>Article 227 RAP</i> <i>Report on budgetary and financial management during the year</i> <i>(Article 142 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The report on budgetary and financial management during the year shall give an accurate description of:
	(a) — the achievement of the objectives for the year, in accordance with the principle of sound financial management;
	(b) — the financial situation and the events which have had a significant influence on activities during the year.
	The report on budgetary and financial management shall be separate from the reports on implementation of the budget.

	Article 143 FR
	Rules governing the accounts
	1. The accounting officer of the Commission shall adopt rules based on internationally accepted accounting standards for the public sector. The accounting officer may diverge from those standards if he or she considers this necessary in order to give a true and fair view of the assets and liabilities, charges, income and cash flow. Where an accounting rule diverges materially from those standards, the notes to the financial statements shall disclose this fact and the reasons for it.
	2. The budgetary accounts referred to in Article 141 shall respect the budgetary principles laid down in this Regulation. They shall present a true and fair view of the budgetary revenue and expenditure operations.
	Article 144 FR
	Accounting principles
	1. The financial statements referred to in Article 141 shall present information, including information on accounting policies, in a manner that ensures it is relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable. The financial statements shall be drawn up in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as outlined in the accounting rules referred to in Article 143.
	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts concerning the establishment of the framework for the implementation by the accounting officer of

	his or her tasks under this Article and Articles 145, 146, 148, 151, 154, 156 and 157.
	<i>Article 228 RAP</i> <i>Exception to the accounting principles</i> <i>(Article 144 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Where, in a specific case, the accounting officers consider that an exception should be made to the content of one of the accounting principles outlined in the Union accounting rules, that exception shall be duly substantiated and reported in the notes to the financial statements referred to in Article 232.
	<i>Article 229 RAP</i> <i>Supporting documents</i> <i>(Article 144 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Each entry shall be based on dated and numbered supporting documents, produced on paper or on a medium which guarantees the reliability and safeguarding of its content for the periods laid down in Article 48.
	2. Operations of the same type, carried out in the same place and on the same day may be summarised in a single supporting document.
	Article 145 FR
	Financial statements
	1. The financial statements shall be presented in millions of euro and shall comprise:

	(a) the balance sheet and the statement of financial performance, which represent all assets and liabilities, the financial situation and the economic result at 31 December of the preceding year; they shall be presented in accordance with the accounting rules referred to in Article 143;
	(b) the cash-flow statement showing amounts collected and disbursed during the year and the final treasury position;
	(c) the statement of changes in net assets presenting an overview of the movements during the year in reserves and accumulated results.
	2. The notes to the financial statements shall supplement and comment on the information presented in the statements referred to in paragraph 1 and shall supply all the additional information prescribed by internationally accepted accounting practice where such information is relevant to the activities of the Union.
	<i>Article 230 RAP</i> <i>Statement of financial performance</i> <i>(Article 145 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The statement of financial performance shall show the income and charges for the year, classified according to their nature.
	<i>Article 231 RAP</i> <i>Cash flow statement</i> <i>(Article 145 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The cash flow statement shall report cash flows during the period showing the movement between opening and closing treasury amounts.

	The treasury shall be made up of the following:
	(a) cash in hand;
	(b) bank accounts and deposits payable on demand;
	(c) other disposable assets which can quickly be converted to cash and whose value is stable.
	<i>Article 232 RAP</i> <i>Notes to the financial statements</i> <i>(Article 145 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The notes referred to in article 145 of the Financial Regulation shall form an integral part of the financial statements. The notes shall contain at least the following information:
	(a) accounting principles, rules and methods;
	(b) explanatory notes, supplying additional information not contained in the body of the financial statements which is necessary for a true and fair view.
	<i>Article 146 FR</i>
	Budgetary implementation reports
	1. The budgetary implementation reports shall be presented in millions of euro. They shall consist of:

	—— (a) reports which aggregate all budgetary operations for the year in terms of revenue and expenditure;
	—— (b) explanatory notes, which shall supplement and comment on the information given in the reports.
	2. —— The structure of the budgetary implementation reports shall be the same as that of the budget itself.
	<i>Article 233 RAP</i> <i>Budgetary outturn accounts</i> <i>(Article 146 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. —— The budgetary outturn accounts shall contain:
	(a) —— information on revenue comprising:
	—— (i) —— changes in the revenue estimates in the budget;
	—— (ii) —— the revenue outturn;
	—— (iii) —— entitlements established;
	(b) —— information showing changes in the total commitment and payment appropriations available;
	(c) —— information showing the use made of the total commitment and payment appropriations available;
	(d) —— information showing commitments outstanding, those carried over from the

	previous year and those made during the year.
	2. — As regards information on revenue, a statement shall also be attached showing, for each Member State, the breakdown of amounts of own resources still to be recovered at the end of the financial year and covered by a recovery order.
	Article 147 FR
	Provisional accounts
	1. — The accounting officers of the other institutions and bodies referred to in Article 141 shall send their provisional accounts to the accounting officer of the Commission and to the Court of Auditors by 1 March of the following year.
	2. — The accounting officers of the other institutions and bodies referred to in Article 141 shall also send by 1 March of the following year a reporting package to the accounting officer of the Commission, in a standardised format as laid down by the accounting officer of the Commission for consolidation purposes.
	3. — The accounting officer of the Commission shall consolidate those provisional accounts with the Commission's provisional accounts and shall send to the Court of Auditors, by 31 March of the following year, the provisional accounts of the Commission and the consolidated provisional accounts of the Union.
	Article 148 FR
	Approval of the final consolidated accounts

	1. — The Court of Auditors shall, by 1 June, make its observations on the provisional accounts of the institutions other than the Commission and each body referred to in Article 141, and by 15 June, make its observations on the provisional accounts of the Commission and the consolidated provisional accounts of the Union.
	2. — The institutions other than the Commission, and each of the bodies referred to in Article 141, shall draw up their final accounts and send them to the accounting officer of the Commission, the Court of Auditors, the European Parliament and the Council by 1 July with a view to drawing up the final consolidated accounts.
	— The accounting officers of the other institutions and bodies referred to in Article 141 shall also send by 1 July, a reporting package to the accounting officer of the Commission, in a standardised format as laid down by the accounting officer of the Commission for consolidation purposes.
	3. — The accounting officer of each institution and body referred to in Article 141 shall also send to the Court of Auditors, with a copy to the accounting officer of the Commission, at the same date as the transmission of his or her final accounts, a representation letter covering those final accounts.
	The final accounts shall be accompanied by a note drawn up by the accounting officer, in which the latter declares that the final accounts were prepared in accordance with this Title and with the applicable accounting principles, rules and methods.
	4. — The accounting officer of the Commission shall draw up the final consolidated accounts on the basis of the information presented pursuant to paragraph 2 of this

	<p>Article by the institutions other than the Commission and by bodies referred to in Article 141. The final consolidated accounts shall be accompanied by a note drawn up by the accounting officer of the Commission, in which the latter declares that the final consolidated accounts were prepared in accordance with this Title and with the accounting principles, rules and methods set out in the notes to the financial statements.</p>
	<p>5. — After approving the final consolidated accounts and its own final accounts, the Commission shall send them both to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors by 31 July.</p>
	<p>— By the same date, the accounting officer of the Commission shall transmit a representation letter covering the final consolidated accounts to the Court of Auditors.</p>
	<p>6. — The final consolidated accounts shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union together with the statement of assurance given by the Court of Auditors in accordance with Article 287 TFEU and Article 106a of the Euratom Treaty by 15 November.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 234 RAP</i> <i>Modalities of transmission of accounts</i> <i>(Article 148 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>Provisional accounts and the final accounts referred to in Articles 147 and 148 of the Financial Regulation may be sent by electronic means.</p>

	CHAPTER 2 Information on the implementation of the budget
	Article 149 FR
	Report on budgetary guarantees and risks
	In addition to the statements and reports provided for in Articles 145 and 146, the Commission shall report to the European Parliament and to the Council once a year on the budgetary guarantees referred to in point (d) of Article 49(1) and the corresponding risks.
	That information shall be sent to the Court of Auditors at the same time.
	Article 150 FR
	Information on budget implementation
	1. — In addition to the statements and reports provided for in Articles 145 and 146, the Commission's accounting officer shall send once a month to the European Parliament and to the Council figures, aggregated at chapter level at least, on the implementation of the budget, both for revenue and for expenditure against all appropriations.
	— Those figures shall also provide details of the utilisation of appropriations carried over.
	— The figures shall be sent within 10 working days of the end of each month.

	2. — Three times a year, within 30 working days of 31 May, 31 August and 31 December, the Commission's accounting officer shall send to the European Parliament and to the Council a report on the implementation of the budget, covering both revenue and expenditure broken down by chapter, article and item.
	— Those reports shall also provide details of the utilisation of appropriations carried over from preceding financial years.
	3. — The figures and the report on implementation of the budget shall at the same time be sent to the Court of Auditors and published on the Commission's website.
	4. — By 15 September of each year, the accounting officer shall send to the European Parliament and to the Council a report containing information on current risks noted, general trends observed, new accounting issues encountered, progress on accounting matters, including those raised by the Court of Auditors, and information on recoveries.
	CHAPTER 3⁴⁴
	Accounting
	Section 1 Common Provisions
	Article 151 FR

	The accounting system
	1. An institution's accounting system shall serve to organise the budgetary and financial information in such a way that figures can be entered, filed and registered.
	2. The accounting system shall consist of general accounts and budgetary accounts. The accounts shall be kept in euro and on the basis of the calendar year.
	3. The authorising officer by delegation may also keep analytical accounts.
	<i>Article 235 RAP Organisation of the accounts (Article 151 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The accounting officer of each institution and body referred to in Article 141 of the Financial Regulation shall draw up and keep updated documents describing the organisation of the accounts and accounting procedures of his institution and body.
	2. Budget revenue and expenditure shall be recorded in the computerised system referred to in Article 236, according to the economic nature of the operation, as current revenue or expenditure or as capital.
	<i>Article 236 RAP Computerised systems (Article 151 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The accounts shall be kept with the help of an integrated computerised system.

	2. Where accounts are kept using computerised systems and subsystems, such systems and subsystems shall be described in full.
	That description shall define the content of all data fields and specify how the system treats individual operations. It shall state how the system guarantees the existence of a complete audit trail for each operation and for any change made to the computerised systems and subsystems so that it is possible at any time to identify the nature of the change and the person who made it.
	The description of computerised accounting systems and subsystems shall indicate any links between those systems and the central accounting system, particularly as regards the transfer of data and the reconciliation of balances.
	3. Access to the computerised systems and subsystems shall be confined to persons included on a list of authorised users which is kept and updated by each institution.
	Article 152 FR
	Common requirements for the institutions' accounting system
	The accounting officer of the Commission shall, in accordance with Article 143, after consulting the accounting officers of the other institutions and of the bodies referred to in Article 141, adopt the accounting rules and the harmonised chart of accounts to be applied by all the institutions, the offices referred to in Title V of Part Two and all the bodies referred to in Article 141.
	Section 2 General Accounts

	Article 153 FR
	The general accounts
	The general accounts shall record, in chronological order using the double-entry method, all events and operations which affect the economic and financial situation and the assets and liabilities of the institutions and of the bodies referred to in Article 141.
	Article 154 FR
	Entries in the general accounts
	1. Balances and movements in the general accounts shall be entered in the accounting ledgers.
	2. All accounting entries, including adjustments to the accounts, shall be based on supporting documents, to which the entries shall refer.
	3. The accounting system shall be such as to leave a clear audit trail for all accounting entries.
	<i>Article 237 RAP</i> <i>Accounting ledgers</i> <i>(Article 154 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Each institution and each body referred to in Article 141 of the Financial Regulation shall keep a journal, a general ledger and at least sub-ledgers for debtors, creditors and fixed assets, unless it is not justified by cost-benefit considerations.

	The accounting ledgers shall consist of electronic documents which are identified by the accounting officer and offer full guarantees for use as evidence.
	Entries in the journal shall be transferred to the general ledger, itemised according to the chart of accounts referred to in Article 212.
	The journal and the general ledger may be split into as many special journals and special ledgers are necessary to meet requirements.
	Entries recorded in special journals and special ledgers shall be centralised at least every month in the journal and in the general ledger.
	<i>Article 238 RAP</i> <i>Trial balance</i> <i>(Article 154 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Each institution and body referred to in Article 141 of the Financial Regulation shall establish a trial balance covering all the accounts of the general accounts, including the accounts cleared during the year, with, in each case:
	(a) account number;
	(b) description;
	(c) total debits;
	(d) total credits;

	(e) balance.
	<i>Article 239 RAP Accounting reconciliations (Article 154 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The data in the general ledger shall be kept and organised in such a way as to justify the content of each of the accounts included in the trial balance.
	2. As regards the inventory of fixed assets, the provisions of Articles 246 to 253 shall apply.
	<i>Article 240 RAP Entries in the accounts (Article 154 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Entries shall be made using the double entry method, whereby any movement or variation recorded in the accounts shall be represented by an entry establishing an equivalence between the amount debited and the amount credited in the various accounts affected by that entry.
	2. The euro counterpart of a transaction denominated in a currency other than the euro shall be calculated and entered in the accounts.
	Transactions in foreign currencies in accounts which can be revalued shall be revalued at least each time the accounts are closed.
	That revaluation shall be based on the rates laid down in accordance with Article 6.

	The rate to be used for conversion between the euro and another currency to draw up the balance sheet at 31 December of year N shall be that of the last working day of year N.
	3. The Union accounting rules adopted under Article 152 of the Financial Regulation shall specify the conversion and re-evaluation rules to be provided for the purposes of accrual accounting.
	<i>Article 241 RAP</i> <i>Accounting records</i> <i>(Article 154 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	All accounting records shall specify the origin, content and booking reference of each data item and the references of the relevant supporting documents.
	<i>Article 242 RAP</i> <i>Recording in the journal</i> <i>(Article 154 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Accounting operations shall be recorded in the journal by one of the following methods, which are not mutually exclusive:
	(a) day by day, operation by operation;

	(b) in the form of a monthly summary of the total amounts involved in operations, provided that all documents allowing verification of individual operations day by day are kept.
	<i>Article 243 RAP Validation of entries (Article 154 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Entries in the journal and in sub-ledgers shall be made final by means of a validation procedure prohibiting any change to or deletion of the entry.
	2. A closure procedure designed to freeze the chronology of records and guarantee their inviolability shall be implemented at the latest before the final financial statements are presented.
	<i>Article 244 RAP Reconciliation of accounts (Article 154 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The balance of accounts in the trial balance shall be reconciled periodically and at least at the annual closure, with the data from the management systems used by authorising officers for the management of assets and liabilities and for the daily input into the accounting system.
	2. Periodically, and at least whenever the accounts are closed, the accounting officer shall check that the bank balances correspond to the actual situation, in particular as regards:
	(a) cash at bank, by reconciliation of the statements of account from financial

	institutions;
	(b) cash in cash offices, by reconciliation with the data in the cash book.
	The fixed assets accounts shall be reviewed in accordance with Article 250.
	3. The interinstitutional liaison accounts shall be reconciled monthly.
	4. The suspense accounts shall be opened and reviewed annually by the accounting officer. Those accounts shall be under the responsibility of the authorising officer and he shall clear them as soon as possible.
	Article 155 FR
	Accounting adjustments
	The accounting officer shall, after the close of the financial year and up to the date of presentation of the general accounts, make any adjustments which, without involving disbursement or collection in respect of that year, are necessary for a true and fair presentation of those accounts. Such adjustments shall comply with the accounting rules referred to in Article 143.
	Section 3 ⁴⁵ Budgetary Accounts
	Article 156 FR
	Budgetary accounting

	1. The budgetary accounts shall provide a detailed record of the implementation of the budget.
	2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the budgetary accounts shall record all budgetary revenue and expenditure operations provided for in Title IV of Part One.
	<i>Article 245 RAP Content and keeping of budget accounts (Article 156 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The budget accounts shall show, for each subdivision of the budget:
	(a) in the case of expenditure:
	— (i) the appropriations authorised in the initial budget, the appropriations entered in amending budgets, the appropriations carried over, the appropriations available following collection of assigned revenue, transfers of appropriations and the total appropriations thus available;
	— (ii) the commitments and payments in respect of the financial year;
	(b) in the case of revenue:
	— (i) the estimates entered in the initial budget, the estimates entered in amending budgets, assigned revenue and the total amount of estimates thus determined;
	— (ii) the entitlements established and the amounts recovered in respect of the financial year in question;
	(c) the commitments still to be paid and revenue still to be recovered carried

	forward from previous financial years.
	The commitment appropriations and payment appropriations referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph shall be entered and shown separately.
	The global provisional commitments relating to the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (hereinafter "EAGF") and the corresponding payments shall also be recorded in the budget accounts.
	Those commitments shall be presented in respect of total EAGF appropriations.
	2. — The budget accounts shall show separately:
	(a) — the use of appropriations carried over and the appropriations for the year;
	(b) — the clearance of outstanding commitments.
	On the revenue side, amounts still to be recovered from previous financial years shall be shown separately.
	3. — The budget accounts may be organised in such a way as to develop a cost accounting system.
	4. The budget accounts shall be kept using computer systems, in books or on file cards.
	CHAPTER 4 ⁴⁶ Property inventories
	Article 157 FR

	The inventory
	1. — Each institution and body referred to in Article 141 shall keep inventories showing the quantity and value of all the Union's tangible, intangible and financial assets in accordance with a model drawn up by the accounting officer of the Commission.
	— Each institution and body referred to in Article 141 shall check that entries in the inventory correspond to the actual situation.
	2. — The sale of the Union's tangible assets shall be suitably advertised
	<i>Article 246 RAP</i> <i>Property inventories</i> <i>(Article 157 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The system of property inventories shall be established by the authorising officer with technical assistance from the accounting officer. That inventory system must supply all the information required for keeping the accounts and safeguarding assets.
	<i>Article 247 RAP</i> <i>Safeguarding property</i> <i>(Article 157 of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	<p>Each of the institutions and bodies referred to in Article 141 of the Financial Regulation shall adopt provisions on safeguarding the assets included in their respective balance sheets and decide which administrative departments are responsible for the inventory system.</p>
	<p><i>Article 248 RAP</i> <i>Entry of items in the inventory</i> <i>(Article 157 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>All items acquired with a period of use greater than one year, which are not consumables, and whose purchase price or production cost is higher than that indicated in the Union accounting rules adopted under Article 152 of the Financial Regulation shall be entered in the inventory and recorded in the fixed assets accounts.</p>
	<p><i>Article 249 RAP</i> <i>Content of the inventory for each item</i> <i>(Article 157 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>The inventory shall contain an appropriate description of each item and specify its location, or for movable items, the service or person responsible, the date of acquisition and its unit cost.</p>
	<p><i>Article 250 RAP</i> <i>Inventory checks of movable property</i> <i>(Article 157 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>

	<p>Inventory checks carried out by the institutions and bodies referred to in Article 141 of the Financial Regulation shall be performed in such a way as to ensure that each item physically exists and matches the relevant entry in the inventory. Such checks shall be carried out under an annual verification programme, save for fixed tangible assets and intangible assets, which shall be checked at least on a three-year basis.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 251 RAP</i> <i>Resale of tangible assets</i> <i>(Article 157 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>Members, officials or other servants and any other staff of the institutions and bodies referred to in Article 141 of the Financial Regulation may not acquire items that are resold by these institutions and bodies, save where those items are resold by public tender procedure.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 252 RAP</i> <i>Procedure for sale of tangible assets</i> <i>(Article 157 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. Sales of tangible assets shall be advertised locally in appropriate manner, if the unit purchase value is EUR 8 100 or more. The period between publication of the last announcement and conclusion of the sales contract shall be no less than fourteen calendar days.</p>
	<p>The sales referred to in the first subparagraph shall be the subject of a notice of sale published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i>, if the unit purchase value is EUR 391 100 or more. Appropriate advertising may also be placed in the Member States' press. The period between the date of publication of the notice in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> and conclusion of the sales contract shall be no less</p>

	<p>than one month.</p>
	<p>2. — The institutions and bodies referred to in Article 141 of the Financial Regulation may forgo advertising where the cost of advertising exceeds the expected return from the operation.</p>
	<p>3. — The institutions and bodies referred to in Article 141 of the Financial Regulation shall always endeavour to obtain the best price for sales of tangible assets.</p>
	<p>4. — Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall not apply to sales between Union institutions and their bodies referred to in Article 208 of the Financial Regulation.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 253 RAP</i> <i>Procedure for disposing of tangible assets</i> <i>(Article 157 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>A statement or record shall be drawn up by the authorising officer whenever any property in the inventory, including buildings, is sold, given away free of charge, scrapped, hired out or missing on account of loss, theft or any other reason.</p>
	<p>The statement or record shall indicate in particular whether the item must be replaced at the expense of an official or other servant of the Union or any other person.</p>
	<p>Where immovable property or major installations are made available free of charge, a contract must be drawn up and the case notified in an annual report sent to the European Parliament and the Council when the draft budget is presented.</p>

	<p>Members, officials or other servants and any other staff of the institutions and bodies referred to in Article 141 of the Financial Regulation may not be recipients of the property in the inventory given away free of charge or scrapped.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 254 RAP</i> <i>Inventory and advertising of sales in Union delegations</i> <i>(Article 157 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. — In the case of the Union delegations, the permanent inventories of movable property belonging to the Union shall be kept locally. They shall be sent regularly to the central departments in accordance with the rules adopted by each institution.</p>
	<p>Movable property in transit to the Union delegations shall be entered on a provisional list before being recorded in the permanent inventories.</p>
	<p>2. — The advertising for sales of movable property of Union delegations shall be done in accordance with local usage.</p>

TITLE IX

EXTERNAL AUDIT AND DISCHARGE

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 134

The operations financed from EDF resources managed by the EIB in accordance with Article 3 shall be subject to the audit and discharge procedures laid down in the Statutes of the EIB for all of its operations. Detailed rules for auditing by the Court of Auditors are set out in the Tripartite Agreement. They shall be agreed upon by the EIB, the Commission and the Court of Auditors in the Agreement currently in force or possibly by a new Agreement or any other agreement that may replace it.

As regards the operations financed from EDF resources managed by the Commission in accordance with Article 2, the Court of Auditors shall exercise its powers in accordance with this Title.

CHAPTER 2

EXTERNAL AUDIT

TITLE X

EXTERNAL AUDIT AND DISCHARGE

Article 48 11th EDF FR

External audit and discharge regarding the Commission

[there may be an error in the visualisation of this article]

1. Regarding the operations financed from 11th EDF resources managed by the Commission in accordance with Article 16, the Court of Auditors shall exercise its powers in accordance with this Article and Article 49.
2. Articles 159, 160, Article 161, with the exception of paragraph 6, Article 162, with the exception of the first sentence of paragraph 3 and of paragraph 5, and Article 163 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.
3. For the purposes of Article 159(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the Court of Auditors shall have regard to the Treaties, the Cotonou Agreement, the Overseas Association Decision, the Internal Agreement, this Regulation and all other acts adopted pursuant to those instruments.
4. For the purposes of Article 162(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the date set out in the first sentence shall be 15 June.
5. The Court of Auditors shall be informed of the internal rules referred to in Article 56(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 including the appointment of authorising officers, as well as of the instrument of delegation referred to in Article 69

Article 135

1. The Commission shall inform the Court of Auditors, as soon as possible, of all decisions and rules adopted pursuant to this Regulation.

2. The Court of Auditors shall be informed of the appointment of authorising officers, internal auditors, accounting officers and paying managers and of delegation decisions under Articles 17, 39, 43, 48 and 89.

Article 136

1. In respect of cooperation with the ACP States, the Court of Auditors, when examining whether all revenue has been received and all expenditure incurred in a lawful and proper manner, shall have regard to the provisions of the Treaty, the ACP-EC Agreement, the Internal Agreement, this Regulation and all other acts adopted pursuant to those instruments.

In respect of cooperation with the OCTs, the Court of Auditors, when examining whether all revenue has been received and all expenditure incurred in a lawful and proper manner, shall have regard to the provisions of the Treaty, the Overseas Association Decision, the Internal Agreement, this Regulation and all other applicable acts.

2. In the performance of its task, the Court of Auditors shall be entitled to consult, in the manner provided for in Article 138(4) and (5), all documents and information relating to the financial management of departments or bodies with regard to

of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

6. The national audit authorities of the ACP States and the OCTs shall be encouraged to participate in the work of the Court of Auditors.

7. The Court of Auditors may, at the request of one of the other Union institutions, issue opinions on matters relating to the 11th EDF.

operations financed or co-financed from EDF resources. It shall have the power to make enquiries of any official responsible for a revenue or expenditure operation and to use any of the auditing procedures appropriate to the aforementioned departments or bodies.

In order to obtain all the necessary information for the performance of its task, the Court of Auditors may be present, at its request, during the audit operations carried out within the framework of financial implementation by, or on behalf of, the Commission.

At the request of the Court of Auditors, the Commission shall authorise financial institutions holding EDF deposits to enable the Court of Auditors to ensure that the external data tally with the accounts.

In the performance of its task, the Court of Auditors shall notify the Commission and the authorities to which this Regulation applies of the names of the members of its staff who are empowered to audit them.

Article 137

The Court of Auditors shall ensure that all securities and cash on deposit or in hand are checked against vouchers signed by the depositories or against official memoranda of cash and securities held. It may carry out such checks itself.

Article 138

1. The Commission, the bodies administering revenue or expenditure on the EDF behalf and the final beneficiaries of payments from EDF resources shall afford the Court of Auditors all the facilities and give it all the information which the Court of Auditors considers necessary for the performance of its task. They shall place at the disposal of the Court of Auditors all documents concerning the award and performance of contracts and all accounts of cash or materials, all accounting records or supporting documents, and also administrative documents relating thereto, all documents relating to revenue and expenditure, all inventories, all organisation charts of departments, which the Court of Auditors considers necessary for auditing the financial outturn report on the basis of records or on the spot and, for the same purposes, all documents and data created or stored on a magnetic medium.

The first subparagraph shall also apply to natural or legal persons receiving payments from EDF resources.

2. The officials whose operations are checked by the Court of Auditors shall:

(a) show their records of cash in hand, any other cash, securities and materials of all kinds, and also the supporting documents in respect of their stewardship of the funds with which they are entrusted, and also any books, registers and other documents relating

thereto;

(b) present the correspondence or any other document required for the full implementation of the audit referred to in paragraph 1. The information supplied pursuant to the first sentence of this point may be requested only by the Court of Auditors.

3. The Court of Auditors shall be empowered to audit the documents in respect of the EDF revenue and expenditure which are held by the Commission departments responsible.

4. The task of establishing that the revenue has been received and the expenditure incurred in a lawful and proper manner and that the financial management has been sound shall extend to the utilisation, by bodies outside the Commission, of EDF resources received by way of grants.

5. Financing from EDF resources paid to beneficiaries outside the Commission shall be subject to the agreement in writing by the beneficiaries or, failing agreement on their part, by the contractors or subcontractors, to an audit by the Court of Auditors of the use made of the financing granted.

6. Use of integrated computer systems may not have the effect of reducing the access of the Court of Auditors to the supporting documents.

7. The national audit authorities of the ACP States shall be encouraged to participate in the work of the Court of Auditors.

Article 139

1. The annual report of the Court of Auditors shall be governed by this Article.
2. The Court of Auditors shall transmit to the Commission, by 15 June at the latest, any observations which are, in its opinion, such that they should appear in the annual report. Those observations must remain confidential. The Commission shall address its replies to the Court of Auditors by 15 October at the latest.
3. The annual report shall contain an assessment of the soundness of financial management.
4. The Court of Auditors may add any summary report or general observations which it sees fit to make.
5. The Court of Auditors shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the Commission's replies to its observations are published immediately after the observations to which they relate.
6. The Court of Auditors shall transmit to the authorities responsible for giving discharge and to the Commission, by 15 November at the latest, its annual report accompanied with the replies of the Commission and shall ensure publication thereof in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 140

1. The Court of Auditors shall notify the Commission of all observations which are, in its opinion, such that they should appear in a special report. Those observations must remain confidential.

The Commission shall have two-and-a half months within which to inform the Court of Auditors of any comments it wishes to make on the observations in question.

The Court of Auditors shall adopt the definitive version of the special report in question the following month.

2. The special reports referred to in paragraph 1, together with the Commission's replies, shall be transmitted without delay to the European Parliament and the Council, each of which shall decide, where appropriate in conjunction with the Commission, what action is to be taken in response.

Should the Court of Auditors decide to have any such special reports published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*, they shall be accompanied by the Commission's replies.

3. The Court of Auditors may, at the request of one of the other institutions, issue opinions on matters relating to the EDF.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 141</i></p> <p>At the same time as the annual report referred to in Article 139, the Court of Auditors shall provide the European Parliament and the Council with a statement of assurance as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 49 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Statement of assurance</p> <p>At the same time as the annual report referred to in Article 162 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the Court of Auditors shall provide the European Parliament and the Council with a statement of assurance as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions, which shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DISCHARGE</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 142</i></p> <p>1. Before 15 May of year N + 2, the European Parliament, upon a recommendation from the Council acting by a qualified majority, shall give a discharge to the Commission in respect of the financial implementation for year N of the EDF resources, which it manages in accordance with Article 2.</p> <p>2. If the date provided for in paragraph 1 cannot be met, the European Parliament or the Council shall inform the Commission of the reasons for the postponement.</p> <p>3. If the European Parliament postpones the decision giving a discharge, the Commission shall make every effort to take</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 50 11th EDF FR</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discharge</p> <p>1. The discharge decision shall cover the accounts referred to in Article 43, except the part thereof provided by the EIB in accordance with Article 57, and shall be adopted in accordance with Articles 164 and 165(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012. The discharge referred to in Article 164(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall be given in respect of those 11th EDF resources that are managed by the Commission in accordance with Article 16(1) of this Regulation for year n.</p> <p>2. The decision giving the discharge shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.</p> <p>3. Articles 166 and 167 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.</p>

measures, as soon as possible, to remove or facilitate removal of the obstacles to that decision.

Article 143

1. The discharge decision shall cover the accounts referred to in Article 118, except the part thereof provided by the EIB in accordance with Article 149(2).

2. With a view to granting the discharge, the European Parliament shall, after the Council has done so, examine the accounts referred to in Article 118. It shall also examine the annual report made by the Court of Auditors together with the Commission's replies, any relevant special reports by the Court of Auditors in respect of the financial year in question and the Court of Auditors' statement of assurance as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.

3. The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament, at the latter's request, any information required for the control of implementation of the EDF resources managed by the Commission in accordance with Article 2 for the year in question.

Access to confidential information and the arrangements for handling it shall comply with fundamental rights, the protection of business secrecy, the provisions governing judicial and disciplinary proceedings and the interests of the

<p>Community.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 144</i></p> <p>1. The Commission shall take all appropriate steps to act on the observations accompanying the European Parliament's discharge decision and on the comments accompanying the recommendation for discharge adopted by the Council.</p> <p>2. At the request of the European Parliament or the Council, the Commission shall report on the measures taken in the light of those observations and comments, and, in particular, on the instructions given to those of its departments which are responsible for the financial implementation of EDF resources. That report shall also be transmitted to the Court of Auditors.</p> <p>3. The decision giving the discharge shall be published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 144a</i></p>	
<p>The EEAS shall be fully subject to the procedures provided for in Articles 142, 143 and 144. The EEAS shall fully cooperate with the institutions involved in the discharge procedure and provide, as appropriate, any additional necessary information, including through attendance at meetings of the relevant bodies.</p>	
	TITLE X

	EXTERNAL AUDIT AND DISCHARGE
	CHAPTER 1 External audit
	Article 158 FR
	External audit by the Court of Auditors
	The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission shall inform the Court of Auditors, as soon as possible, of all decisions and rules adopted pursuant to Articles 13, 16, 21, 25, 26, 29 and 40.
	Article 159 FR
	Rules and procedure on the audit
	1. The examination by the Court of Auditors of whether all revenue has been received and all expenditure incurred in a lawful and proper manner shall have regard to the Treaties, the budget, this Regulation, the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation and all other acts adopted pursuant to the Treaties.
	2. In the performance of its task, the Court of Auditors shall be entitled to consult, in the manner provided for in Article 161, all documents and information relating to the financial management of departments or bodies with regard to operations financed or co-financed by the Union. It shall have the power to hear any official responsible for a revenue or expenditure operation and to use any of the auditing procedures appropriate to the aforementioned departments or bodies. The audit in the Member States shall be carried out in liaison with the national audit

	institutions or, where they do not have the necessary powers, with the competent national departments. The Court of Auditors and the national audit institutions of the Member States shall cooperate in a spirit of trust while maintaining their independence.
	In order to obtain all the necessary information for the performance of the task entrusted to it by the Treaties or the acts adopted pursuant to them, the Court of Auditors may be present, at its request, during the audit operations carried out within the framework of the implementation of the budget by, or on behalf of, any institution.
	At the request of the Court of Auditors, each institution shall authorise financial institutions holding Union deposits to enable the Court of Auditors to ensure that external data tally with the accounts.
	3. In order to perform its task, the Court of Auditors shall notify the institutions and authorities to which this Regulation applies of the names of the members of its staff who are empowered to audit them.
	Article 160 FR
	Checks on securities and cash

	The Court of Auditors shall ensure that all securities and cash on deposit or in hand are checked against vouchers signed by the depositories or against official memoranda of cash and securities held. It may carry out such checks itself.
	Article 161 FR
	Court of Auditors' right of access
	1. The Commission, the other institutions, the bodies administering revenue or expenditure on the Union's behalf and recipients shall afford the Court of Auditors all the facilities and give it all the information which the Court of Auditors considers necessary for the performance of its task. They shall place at the disposal of the Court of Auditors all documents concerning the award and performance of contracts financed by the budget and all accounts of cash or materials, all accounting records or supporting documents, and also administrative documents relating thereto, all documents relating to revenue and expenditure, all inventories, all organisation charts of departments, which the Court of Auditors considers necessary for auditing the budgetary and financial outturn report on the basis of records or on the spot auditing and, for the same purposes, all documents and data created or stored electronically.
	The internal audit bodies and other services of the national administrations concerned shall afford the Court of Auditors all the facilities which it considers necessary for the performance of its task.
	2. The officials whose operations are checked by the Court of Auditors shall:

	(a) show their records of cash in hand, any other cash, securities and materials of all kinds, and also the supporting documents in respect of their stewardship of the funds with which they are entrusted, and also any books, registers and other documents relating thereto;
	(b) present the correspondence and any other documents required for the full implementation of the audit referred to in Article 159(1).
	The information supplied under point (b) of the first subparagraph may be requested only by the Court of Auditors.
	3. The Court of Auditors shall be empowered to audit the documents in respect of the revenue and expenditure of the Union which are held by the departments of the institutions and, in particular, by the departments responsible for decisions in respect of such revenue and expenditure, the bodies administering revenue or expenditure on the Union's behalf and the natural or legal persons receiving payments from the budget.
	4. The task of establishing that the revenue has been received and the expenditure incurred in a lawful and proper manner and that the financial management has been sound shall extend to the utilisation, by bodies outside the institutions, of Union funds received by way of contributions.
	5. Union financing paid to recipients outside the institutions shall be subject to the agreement in writing by those recipients or, failing agreement on their part, by contractors or subcontractors, to an audit by the Court of Auditors into the use made of the financing granted.

	6. The Commission shall provide the Court of Auditors, at its request, with any information on borrowing-and-lending operations.
	7. Use of integrated computer systems shall not have the effect of reducing access by the Court of Auditors to the supporting documents
	Article 162 FR
	Annual report of the Court of Auditors
	1. The Court of Auditors shall transmit to the Commission and the institutions concerned by 30 June, any observations which are, in its opinion, such that they should appear in the annual report. Those observations shall remain confidential and shall be subject to an adversarial procedure. Each institution shall address its reply to the Court of Auditors by 15 October. The replies of institutions other than the Commission shall be sent to the Commission at the same time.
	2. The annual report shall contain an assessment of the soundness of financial management.
	3. The annual report shall contain a section for each institution. The Court of Auditors may add any summary report or general observations which it sees fit to make.
	The Court of Auditors shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the replies of each institution to its observations are published next to or after each observation to which they relate.

	4. The Court of Auditors shall transmit to the authorities responsible for giving discharge and to the other institutions, by 15 November, its annual report accompanied by the replies of the institutions and shall ensure publication thereof in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> .
	5. As soon as the Court of Auditors has transmitted the annual report, the Commission shall immediately inform the Member States concerned of the details of that report which relate to management of the funds for which they are responsible under the applicable rules.
	Following receipt of such information, the Member States shall reply to the Commission within 60 days. The Commission shall transmit a summary of that information to the Court of Auditors, the European Parliament and the Council by 28 February
	Article 163 FR
	Special reports of the Court of Auditors
	1. The Court of Auditors shall transmit to the institution or the body concerned any observations which are, in its opinion, such that they should appear in a special report. Those observations shall remain confidential and shall be subject to an adversarial procedure.
	The institution or the body concerned shall inform the Court of Auditors, within two and a half months of transmission of those observations, of any replies it wishes to make in relation to those observations.

	The Court of Auditors shall adopt the definitive version of the special report the month following receipt of the replies made by the institution or body concerned.
	The special reports, together with the replies of the institutions or bodies concerned, shall be transmitted without delay to the European Parliament and the Council, each of which shall decide, where appropriate in conjunction with the Commission, what action is to be taken in response.
	The Court of Auditors shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the replies to its observations from each institution or body concerned are published together with the special report.
	2. The opinions referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 287(4), TFEU which do not relate to proposals or drafts covered by the legislative consultation procedure may be published by the Court of Auditors in the Official Journal of the European Union. The Court of Auditors shall take its decision on publication after consulting the institution which requested the opinion or which is concerned by it. Opinions published shall be accompanied by any remarks by the institutions concerned.
	<i>CHAPTER 2</i>
	<i>Discharge</i>
	Article 164 FR

	Timetable of the discharge procedure
	1. The European Parliament, upon a recommendation from the Council acting by qualified majority, shall, before 15 May of year n + 2 give a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget for year n.
	2. If the date provided for in paragraph 1 cannot be met, the European Parliament or the Council shall inform the Commission of the reasons for the postponement.
	3. If the European Parliament postpones the decision giving a discharge, the Commission shall make every effort to take measures, as soon as possible, to remove or facilitate removal of the obstacles to that decision.
	Article 165 FR
	The discharge procedure
	1. The discharge decision shall cover the accounts of all the Union's revenue and expenditure, the resulting balance and the assets and liabilities of the Union shown in the balance sheet.
	2. With a view to granting the discharge, the European Parliament shall, after the Council has done so, examine the accounts, financial statements and the evaluation report referred to in Article 318 TFEU. It shall also examine the annual report made by the Court of Auditors together with the replies of the institutions under audit, and any relevant special reports by the Court of Auditors in respect of

	the financial year concerned and the Court of Auditors' statement of assurance as to the reliability of the accounts and the legality and regularity of the underlying transactions.
	3. The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament, at the latter's request, any information required for the smooth application of the discharge procedure for the financial year concerned, in accordance with Article 319 TFEU.
	Article 166 FR
	Follow-up measures
	1. In accordance with Article 319 TFEU and Article 106a of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission and the other institutions shall take all appropriate steps to act on the observations accompanying the European Parliament's discharge decision and on the comments accompanying the recommendation for discharge adopted by the Council.

	2. At the request of the European Parliament or the Council, the institutions shall report on the measures taken in the light of those observations and comments, and, in particular, on the instructions they have given to any of their departments which are responsible for the implementation of the budget. The Member States shall cooperate with the Commission by informing it of the measures they have taken to act on those observations so that the Commission may take them into account when drawing up its own report. The reports from the institutions shall also be transmitted to the Court of Auditors.
	Article 167 FR
	Specific provisions regarding the EEAS
	The EEAS shall be subject to the procedures provided for in Article 319 TFEU and in Articles 164, 165 and 166 of this Regulation. The EEAS shall fully cooperate with the institutions involved in the discharge procedure and provide, as appropriate, any additional necessary information, including through attendance at meetings of the relevant bodies
	PART TWO:
	SPECIAL PROVISIONS
	TITLE I
	EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL GUARANTEE FUND
	[omitted]

	TITLE II
	STRUCTURAL FUNDS, COHESION FUND, EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND, EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL FUND FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FUNDS IN THE AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE MANAGED IN SHARED MANAGEMENT
	[omitted]
	TITLE III⁴⁷
	RESEARCH
	[omitted]
	TITLE IV⁴⁸
	EXTERNAL ACTIONS
	CHAPTER 1 General provisions
	Article 184 FR
	External actions

⁴⁷ Title I in the RAP
⁴⁸ Title II in the RAP

	1. — Parts One and Three shall apply to external actions financed from the budget, except as otherwise provided in this Title.
	— The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the actions which may be financed under external actions.
	2. — The appropriations for the actions referred to in paragraph 1 shall be used by the Commission:
	— (a) either within the framework of aid granted on an autonomous basis; or
	— (b) in partnership with a third country as referred to in point (i) of Article 58(1)(c), through the signature of a financing agreement.
	3. Where external actions are co-financed both from appropriations entered in the budget and from external assigned revenue referred to in point (b) of Article 21(2), the funds which are not committed after the end of the contracting period referred to in Article 189(2) for the relevant action shall be reimbursed on a pro rata basis after the deduction of a lump sum corresponding to audit, evaluation and contingencies which can be committed at a later time.
	4. The second subparagraph of Article 90(4) shall not apply to the actions referred to in this Title.
	For grants under direct management of more than EUR 5000000 financing external actions, no more than two pre-financing payments shall remain uncleared

	throughout the duration of the action.
	<i>Article 257 RAP</i> <i>Actions which may be financed</i> <i>(Article 184 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Appropriations for the actions referred to in Chapter 1 of Title IV of Part Two of the Financial Regulation may, in particular, finance procurement contracts, grants, including interest rate subsidies, special loans, loan guarantees and financial assistance, budgetary support and other specific forms of budgetary aid.
	CHAPTER 2
	Implementation of actions
	Section 1 General provisions
	Article 185 FR
	Implementation of external actions
	The actions referred to in this Title may be implemented directly by the Commission pursuant to point (a) of Article 58(1), under shared management pursuant to point (b) of Article 58(1) or indirectly by any entity or person entrusted pursuant to point (c) of Article 58(1), in accordance with the relevant provisions of Articles 58 to 63. Appropriations for external actions may be combined with funds from other sources to achieve a joint objective.

	Section 2
	Budget support and multi-donor trust funds

Article 39 11th EDF FR

Budget support

Article 186 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.

EU general or sector budget support is based on mutual accountability and shared commitments to universal values and aims at strengthening contractual partnerships between EU and ACP States or OCTs in order to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law, support sustainable and inclusive economic growth and eradicate poverty.

Any decision to provide budget support shall be based on budget support policies agreed by the EU, a clear set of eligibility criteria and a careful assessment of the risks and benefits.

One of the key determinants of this decision shall be an assessment of the commitment, record and progress of ACP States and OCTs with regard to democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Budget support shall be differentiated to better respond to the political, economic and social context of the ACP States and OCTs, taking into account situations of fragility.

When providing budget support, the Commission shall clearly define and monitor its conditionality, and shall also support the development of parliamentary control and audit capacities and increase transparency and public access to information.

Disbursement of budget support shall be conditional on satisfactory progress towards achieving the objectives agreed with the ACP States and OCTs.

When providing budget support to OCTs, their institutional links to the Member State

	concerned shall be taken into account.
	Article 186 FR
	Use of budget support
	1. Where provided for in the relevant basic acts, the Commission may provide budget support to a beneficiary third country if that country's management of public finances is sufficiently transparent, reliable and effective.
	The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the use of budget support and on the obligations of recipients.
	2. The financing decision referred to in Article 84 shall detail the objectives and the expected results of the provision of budget support to a beneficiary third country. The payment of the Union contribution shall be based on the fulfilment of conditions referred to in paragraph 1, including the improvement of the management of public finances, and on clear and objective performance indicators forming the basis for the measurement of progress over time in the respective sector.
	3. The Commission shall include in the corresponding financing agreement concluded in accordance with point (b) of Article 184(2), the appropriate provisions pursuant to which the beneficiary third country is to commit to immediately reimburse all or part of the relevant operation funding, in the event that it is established that the payment of the relevant Union funds has been vitiated by

	serious irregularities attributable to the that country.
	In order to process the reimbursement referred to in the first subparagraph, the second subparagraph of Article 80(1) may be applied.
	4. The Commission shall support in beneficiary third countries the development of parliamentary control and audit capacities and increase transparency and public access to information.
	<i>Article 258 RAP Use of Budget Support (Article 186 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Where provided for in the relevant basic acts, the Commission may use sectoral or general budget support within a third country if the following conditions are met:
	(a) the partner country's management of public finances is sufficiently transparent, reliable and effective;
	(b) the partner country has put in place sufficiently credible and relevant sectoral or national policies, and;
	(c) where the partner country has put in place stability oriented macroeconomic policies.

	2. Agreements concluded with the partner country shall contain an obligation for that country to provide the Commission with reliable and timely information which allows the Commission to evaluate the fulfilment of the conditions set out in paragraph 1.
	<i>Article 42 11th EDF FR[Article 41 “Experts” – see with Article 204 FR]</i>
	Union trust funds
	1. Subject to paragraph 2 of this Article, Article 187 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 shall apply.
	2. With regard to Article 187(8) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, the competent committee shall be the committee referred to in Article 8 of the Internal Agreement.
	Article 187 FR
	Union trust funds for external actions
	1. For emergency, post-emergency or thematic actions, the Commission may create trust funds under an agreement concluded with other donors. The constitutive act of each trust fund shall define the objectives of the trust fund.
	2. Union trust funds shall be implemented in accordance with the principles of sound financial management, transparency, proportionality, non-discrimination and

	equal treatment, and in accordance with the specific objectives defined in each constitutive act.
	Union trust funds shall be implemented directly by the Commission pursuant to point (a) of Article 58(1), with the exception of Union trust funds for emergency or post-emergency action, which may also be implemented indirectly by entrusting budget implementation tasks to entities pursuant to points (i), (ii), (v), and (vi) of Article 58(1)(c).
	3. Union trust funds shall comply with the following conditions:
	(a) there is added value to the Union intervention: trust funds shall only be created and implemented at Union level where their objectives, in particular by reason of their scale or potential effects, can be better achieved at Union level than at national level;
	(b) Union trust funds shall bring clear Union political visibility and managerial advantages as well as better Union control of risks and disbursements of the Union and other donors' contributions. They should not be created if they merely duplicate other existing funding channels or similar instruments without providing any additionality.
	4. A board chaired by the Commission shall be established for each Union trust fund to ensure the representation of the donors, and of the non-contributing Member States as observers, and to decide upon the use of the funds.
	5. Union trust funds shall be created for a limited duration determined in their constitutive act. This duration may be extended by a decision of the Commission

	upon request of the board of the trust fund concerned.
	The European Parliament and/or the Council may request the Commission to discontinue appropriations for that trust fund or to revise the constitutive act with a view to the liquidation of the trust fund, where appropriate. In such an event, any remaining funds shall be returned on a pro rata basis to the budget as general revenue and to the contributing Member States and other donors.
	6. The contributions of the Union and of the donors shall be lodged in a specific bank account. The contributions of the Union shall be transferred to this account on the basis of payment requests that are duly substantiated with disbursement forecasts, taking into account the balance available on the account and the resulting need for additional payments. Disbursement forecasts are to be provided on an annual, or where appropriate on a semi-annual, basis.
	Contributions shall not be integrated in the budget and shall be managed by the Commission under the responsibility of the authorising officer by delegation.
	The accounting officer of a Union trust fund shall be the accounting officer of the Commission. He or she shall be responsible for laying down accounting procedures and chart of accounts common to all Union trust funds.
	The Commission's internal auditor and the Court of Auditors shall exercise the same powers over the trust fund as they do in respect of other actions carried out by the Commission.
	The specific bank account of the trust fund shall be opened and closed by the

	accounting officer.
	The Commission shall ensure a strict separation of duties between accounting and authorising officers.
	Funds shall be committed and paid by financial actors of the Commission, as defined in Chapter 3 of Title IV of Part One.
	7. The Commission shall be authorised to withdraw a maximum of 5 % of the amounts pooled into the trust fund to cover its management costs from the years in which the contributions referred to in paragraph 6 have started to be used. For the duration of the trust fund, such management fees shall be assimilated to assigned revenue within the meaning of point (b) of Article 21(2).
	The accounting officer shall act on the recovery orders relating to actions funded by the trust fund. Revenue arising from the repayment of these recovery orders shall be returned to the specific bank account of the trust fund. Cancellation and waiving of recovery orders shall be made under the rules referred to in Article 80.
	8. The Commission shall submit its draft decisions concerning the creation, the extension and the liquidation of a Union trust fund to the competent committee provided for in the basic act under which the Union contribution to the Union trust fund is provided.
	9. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the management, reporting and

	governance of trust funds for external actions.
	10. The Commission shall submit annually a comprehensive and detailed report to the European Parliament and the Council on the activities supported by Union trust funds, on their implementation and performance, as well as on their accounts. The Commission shall attach its report to the summary of the annual reports referred to in the third subparagraph of Article 66(9).
	<i>Article 259 RAP Union trust funds for external actions (Article 187 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The contributions of other donors shall be taken into account when cashed in the specific bank account of the trust fund and for the amount in euro resulting from the conversion at their reception on the specific bank account.
	The Union contribution shall be transferred in due time to cover the legal commitments of the trust fund taking due account of available funds provided by the other donors.
	Interests accumulated on the trust fund's specific bank account shall be invested in the trust fund except where otherwise provided for in the constitutive act of the trust fund.
	All transactions made on the bank account referred to in the third paragraph during the year shall be properly accounted for in the accounts of the trust fund.
	Financial reporting on the operations carried out by each trust fund shall be

	established twice every year by the authorising officer.
	The trust funds shall be subject to an independent external audit every year.
	The board of the trust fund shall approve the annual report of the trust fund drawn up by the authorising officer together with annual accounts drawn up by the accounting officer. Those reports shall be attached to the annual report of the authorising officer by delegation and presented to the European Parliament and Council within the discharge procedure of the Commission.
	The rules for composition of the board and its internal rules shall be laid down in the constitutive act of the trust fund adopted by the Commission and adhered to by the donors. Those rules shall ensure a fair representation of the donors and include the requirement to have the positive vote of the Commission for the final decision on the use of the funds.
	<i>Section 3</i>
	<i>Other management modes</i>
	Article 188 FR
	Implementation of external actions through indirect management
	1. The implementation of actions implemented indirectly pursuant to point (c) of Article 58(1) shall be subject to scrutiny by the Commission and by Union Delegations in accordance with Article 56(2). Such scrutiny shall be exercised either by prior approval, by <i>ex post</i> checks or by a combined procedure.

	2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the implementation of external actions through indirect management.
	<i>Article 43 RAP</i> <i>Specific provisions for indirect management with International Organisations</i> <i>(Articles 58(1)(c) (ii) and 188 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The international organisations referred to in point (ii) of Article 58(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation shall be:
	(a) international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements, and specialised agencies set up by such organisations;
	(b) the International Committee of the Red Cross;
	(c) the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
	(d) other non-profit organisations assimilated to international organisations by a Commission decision.
	2. Where the Commission implements the budget under indirect management with international organisations, the verification agreements concluded with them shall apply.
	Article 189 FR
	Financing agreements on the implementation of external actions

	1. External actions carried out shall give rise to one or more of the following instruments:
	(a) a financing agreement between the Commission and an entity or person referred to in Article 185;
	(b) a contract or a grant agreement between the Commission and natural or legal persons responsible for carrying out the actions.
	The terms on which the external aid is given shall be laid down in the instrument by which the financing agreements or the contracts or the grant agreements provided for in points (a) and (b) of the first subparagraph shall be managed.
	2. Financing agreements with the entities referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 shall be concluded by 31 December of year n + 1, year n being the one in which the budgetary commitment was made.
	The financing agreements shall lay down the period within which the entities referred to in point (a) of the first subparagraph of paragraph 1 shall conclude all individual contracts and grant agreements which implement the action. Such period shall be no longer than three years following the date of conclusion of the financing agreement, except:
	(a) for multi-donor actions;
	(b) for individual contracts relating to audit and evaluation;

	(c) in the following exceptional circumstances:
	(i) riders are added to contracts which have already been concluded;
	(ii) individual contracts are to be concluded after early termination of an existing contract;
	(iii) changes of the entity charged with the entrusted tasks.
	3. Paragraph 2 shall not apply to the multiannual programmes that are implemented through split commitments in the following cases:
	— (a) the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance;
	— (b) the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument.
	— In those cases, the appropriations shall be automatically decommitted by the Commission in accordance with the sector-specific rules.
	4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on financing agreements concerning the implementation of external actions.
	<i>CHAPTER 3</i>
	<i>Procurement</i>
	Article 190 FR

	External action procurement
	1. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on external action procurement.
	2. The provisions of Chapter 1 of Title V of Part One relating to the general provisions on procurement shall be applicable to contracts covered by this Title subject to the special provisions relating to thresholds and the arrangements for awarding external contracts to be laid down in the delegated acts adopted pursuant to this Regulation. The contracting authorities for the purposes of this Chapter shall be:
	(a) the Commission on behalf of, and for the account of, one or more third countries;
	(b) entities and persons referred to in Article 185 and entrusted with the corresponding budget implementation tasks.
	3. The procurement procedures shall be laid down in the financing agreements provided for in Article 189.
	4. The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to actions under sector-specific basic acts relating to crisis management aid, to civil protection operations and to humanitarian aid operations.
	<i>Article 260 RAP Renting of buildings</i>

	<i>(Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	The only buildings contracts which may be financed from operating appropriations for external action shall be those relating to the renting of buildings already constructed at the time the lease is signed. These contracts shall be published as laid down in Article 124.
	<i>Article 261 RAP Definitions (Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Service contracts shall comprise study and technical assistance contracts.
	A study contract is a service contract concluded between a supplier and the contracting authority which includes studies for the identification and preparation of projects, feasibility studies, economic and market studies, technical studies and audits.
	A technical assistance contract is where the supplier is called on to play an advisory role, to manage or supervise a project or to provide the consultants specified in the contract.
	2. Where a third country has qualified management staff in its departments or entities with public-sector participation, the contracts may be performed directly by these departments or entities by direct labour.
	<i>Article 262 RAP Special provisions relating to thresholds and the arrangements for awarding external contracts</i>

	<i>(Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	<p>1. Articles 123 to 126, with the exception of the definitions, paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 127, Articles 128, 134 to 137, paragraphs 3 to 6 of Article 139, Articles 148(4), 151(2), 152 to 158, 160 and 164 of this Regulation shall not apply to procurement contracts concluded by the contracting authorities referred to in Article 190(2) of the Financial Regulation or on their behalf.</p>
	<p>Implementation of the procurement provisions under this Chapter shall be decided by the Commission, including the appropriate controls to be applied by the responsible authorising officer where the Commission is not the contracting authority.</p>
	<p>2. In the event of failure to comply with the procedures referred to in paragraph 1, expenditure on the operations in question shall not be eligible for Union financing.</p>
	<p>3. This Chapter shall not apply to the contracting authorities referred to in Article 190(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation where, following the checks referred to in Article 61 of the Financial Regulation, the Commission has authorised them to use their own procurement procedures.</p>
	<p><i>Article 263 RAP</i> <i>Advertising and non-discrimination</i> <i>(Articles 190 and 191 of the Financial Regulation)</i></p>
	<p>1. The Commission shall take the necessary implementing measures to guarantee as wide a participation as possible, on equal terms, in competitive tendering for the award of contracts financed by the Union. To that end, care shall be taken in particular to:</p>

	(a) ensure adequate publication, in reasonable time, of the prior information notices, contract notices and award notices;
	(b) eliminate any discriminatory practice or technical specifications liable to hamper wide participation on equal terms by all natural or legal persons referred to in Article 182 of the Financial Regulation.
	2. Articles 265(5), 267(3) and 269(4) shall be without prejudice to the use of e-procurement.
	<i>Article 264 RAP Advertising (Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The prior information notice for international calls for tender shall be sent to the Publications Office as early as possible for supply and service contracts and as quickly as possible after the decision authorising the programme for works contracts.
	2. For the purposes of this Chapter, the contract notice shall be published:
	(a) at least in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> and on the Internet for international calls for tender;
	(b) at least in the official gazette of the recipient State or in any equivalent publication for local invitations to tender.
	Where the contract notice is also published locally, it must be identical to the one published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> and on the Internet and it must be published simultaneously. The Commission shall be responsible for publication in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> and on the Internet. If the

	notice is published locally, this may be done by the entities referred to in Article 190(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation.
	3. The award notice shall be sent when the contract is signed except where, if still necessary, the contract was declared secret or where the performance of the contract must be accompanied by special security measures, or when the protection of the essential interests of the European Union, or the beneficiary country so requires, and where the publication of the award notice is deemed not to be appropriate.
	<i>Article 265 RAP Thresholds and procedures for awarding service contracts (Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The thresholds and procedures referred to in Article 190 of the Financial Regulation shall be as follows for service contracts:
	(a) for contracts with a value of EUR 300 000 or more:
	(i) an international restricted invitation to tender within the meaning of Article 127(2) and Article 264(2)(a);
	(ii) an international open invitation to tender within the meaning of Article 127(2) and Article 264(2)(a);
	(b) for contracts with a value of less than EUR 300 000: competitive negotiated procedure within the meaning of paragraph 3 of this Article, or a framework contract.
	Contracts with a value of less than or equal to EUR 20 000 may be awarded on the

	basis of a single tender.
	Payments for amounts less than or equal to EUR 2 500 in respect of item of expenditure may consist simply in payment against invoices without prior acceptance of a tender.
	2. In the international restricted procedure referred to in point (a) of paragraph 1, the contract notice shall state the number of candidates who will be invited to submit tenders. For service contracts at least four candidates shall be invited. The number of candidates allowed to submit tenders must be sufficient to ensure genuine competition.
	The list of selected candidates shall be published on the Commission's Internet site.
	If the number of candidates satisfying the selection criteria or the minimum capacity levels is less than the minimum number, the contracting authority may invite to submit a tender only those candidates who satisfy the criteria to submit a tender.
	3. Under the negotiated procedure referred to in point (b) of paragraph 1, the contracting authority shall draw up a list of at least three tenderers of its choice. The procedure involves limited competitive tendering, without publication of a notice and shall be known as a competitive negotiated procedure not covered by Article 129.
	Tenderers for the competitive negotiated procedure may be chosen from an appropriately advertised list of vendors as referred to in Article 136(1)(b). That list shall be drawn up following a call for expression of interest and shall be valid for no more than five years from the date of advertisement. That list may include sub-lists. Any interested person may submit an application at any time during the period of validity of the list, except for the last three months of that period. Where a contract is to be awarded the contracting authority shall invite all vendors entered on the

	relevant list or sub-list to submit a tender.
	Tenders shall be opened and evaluated by an evaluation committee with the necessary technical and administrative expertise. The members of the evaluation committee must sign a declaration of impartiality.
	If following consultation of the tenderers, the contracting authority receives only one tender that is administrative and technically valid, the contract may be awarded provided that the award criteria are met.
	4. For legal services according to the CPV nomenclature, the contracting authorities may use the competitive negotiated procedure, whatever is the estimated value of the contract.
	5. The bids shall be sent in a package or outer envelope containing two separate sealed envelopes, one bearing the words Envelope A — Technical bid and the other the words Envelope B — Financial bid. The outer envelope shall bear:
	(a) the address indicated in the tender documents for the submission of tenders;
	(b) the reference to the call for tenders to which the tenderer is responding;
	(c) where appropriate, the numbers of the lots for which a tender is being submitted;
	(d) the phrase «Not to be opened before the tender-opening session», in the language of the tender documents.
	If interviews were envisaged in the tender documents, the evaluation committee may interview the principal members of the team of experts proposed in the technically acceptable bids, after establishing its written provisional conclusions and before definitively concluding the evaluation of the technical bids. In such cases the

	experts shall be interviewed by the evaluation committee, preferably collectively if they form a team, and at intervals close enough to allow comparisons to be made. Interviews shall be conducted in accordance with a standard model agreed in advance by the selection board and applied to all the experts or teams called for interview. The date and time of the interview must be communicated to the tenderers at least ten calendar days in advance. In cases of <i>force majeure</i> , preventing the tenderer from attending the interview, a new date and time must be sent to the tenderer.
	6. The contract award criteria shall serve to identify the tender offering best value for money.
	The tender offering best value for money shall be selected using an 80/20 weighting distribution between technical quality and price. For that purpose:
	(a) the score awarded to the technical bids shall be multiplied by 0,80;
	(b) the score awarded to the price bids shall be multiplied by 0,20.
	<i>Article 266 RAP Use of the negotiated procedure for service contracts (Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. For service contracts, contracting authorities may use the negotiated procedure with a single tender in the following cases:
	(a) where, for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events which the contracting authorities could not have foreseen and which can in no way be attributed to them, the time limit for the procedures referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) of Article 104(1) of the Financial Regulation cannot be kept;

	(b) where the services are entrusted to public-sector bodies or to non-profit institutions or associations and relate to activities of an institutional nature or designed to provide assistance to peoples in the social field;
	(c) for services which are an extension of services already started, subject to the conditions laid down in paragraph 2;
	(d) where the tender procedure or the attempt to use a framework contract has been unsuccessful, that is to say, where no qualitatively and/or financially worthwhile tender has been received, in which case, after cancelling the tender procedure, the contracting authority may negotiate with one or more tenderers of its choice, from among those that took part in the invitation to tender, provided that the original terms of the contract are not substantially altered;
	(e) where the contract concerned follows a contest and must, under the rules applying, be awarded to the successful candidate or to one of the successful candidates, in which case, all successful candidates shall be invited to participate in the negotiations;
	(f) where, for technical reasons, or for reasons connected with the protection of exclusive rights, the contract can be awarded only to a particular service provider;
	(g) for contracts declared to be secret, or for contracts whose performance must be accompanied by special security measures or when the protection of the essential interests of the Union or the beneficiary country so requires.
	(h) where a new contract has to be concluded after early termination of an existing contract.
	For the purposes of point (a) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph, operations carried out in crisis situations as referred to in Article 190(2) shall be considered to

	satisfy the test of extreme urgency. The authorising officer by delegation, where appropriate in concertation with the other authorising officers by delegation concerned, shall establish that a situation of extreme urgency exists and shall review his decision regularly with regard to the principle of sound financial management.
	Activities of an institutional nature referred to in point (b) of the first subparagraph include services directly linked to the statutory mission of the public sector bodies.
	2. Services which are an extension of services already started, as referred to in point (c) of paragraph 1, are as follows:
	(a) additional services not covered by the principal contract but which, as a result of unforeseen circumstances, have become necessary for the performance of the contract, provided that the additional service cannot be technically and economically separated from the principal contract without serious inconvenience for the contracting authority and the aggregate amount of additional services does not exceed 50 % of the value of the principal contract;
	(b) additional services consisting in the repetition of similar services entrusted to the contractor providing services under a first contract, provided that:
	(i) a contract notice was published for the first service and the possibility of using the negotiated procedure for new services for the project and the estimated cost were clearly indicated in the contract notice published for the first service;
	(ii) the extension of the contract is for a value and duration not exceeding the value and the duration of the initial contract.
	<i>Article 267 RAP</i> <i>Thresholds and procedures for awarding supply contracts</i>

	<i>(Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The thresholds and procedures referred to in Article 190 of the Financial Regulation shall be as follows for supply contracts:
	(a) for contracts with a value of EUR 300 000 or more: an international open invitation to tender within the meaning of Article 127(2) and Article 264(2)(a);
	(b) for contracts with a value of less than EUR 300 000: a framework contract or:
	(i) for contracts of a value of EUR 100 000 or more but less than EUR 300 000: local open invitation to tender within the meaning of Article 127(2) and point (b) of Article 264(2);
	(ii) for contracts with a value of less than EUR 100 000: competitive negotiated procedure within the meaning of paragraph 2.
	(c) payments for amounts less than or equal to EUR 2 500 in respect of item of expenditure may consist simply in payment against invoices without prior acceptance of a tender.
	Contracts with a value of less than or equal to EUR 20 000 may be awarded on the basis of a single tender.
	2. Under the negotiated procedure referred to in point (b)(ii) of paragraph 1 of this Article, the contracting authority shall draw up a list of at least three suppliers of its choice. The procedure involves limited competitive tendering, without publication of a notice and shall be known as a competitive negotiated procedure not covered by Article 129.
	Tenders shall be opened and evaluated by an evaluated by an evaluation committee with the necessary technical and administrative expertise. The members of the

	evaluation committee must sign a declaration of impartiality.
	If following the consultation of the suppliers, the contracting authority receives only one tender that is administrative and technically valid, the contract may be awarded provided that the award criteria are met.
	3. Each technical and financial bid must be placed in a single sealed envelope, itself placed in a package or outer envelope. The inner envelope shall bear:
	(a) the address indicated in the tender documents for the submission of tenders;
	(b) the reference to the call for tenders to which the tenderer is responding;
	(c) where appropriate, the numbers of the lots for which a tender is being submitted;
	(d) the phrase «Not to be opened before the tender-opening session», in the language of the tender documents.
	At the place and time set in the tender documents, the tenders shall be opened in public by the evaluation committee. At the public tender-opening session, the names of the tenderers, the prices quoted, the provision of the necessary tender guarantee and any other formality which the contracting authority considers appropriate must be announced.
	4. In the case of a supply contract not involving after-sales service, the sole award criterion shall be price.

	Where proposals for after-sales service or for training are particularly significant, the tender offering either the lowest price or best value for money shall be chosen, with due account for the technical quality of the service offered and the price quoted.
	<i>Article 268 RAP</i> <i>Use of the negotiated procedure for supply contracts</i> <i>(Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Supply contracts may be awarded by negotiated procedure with a single tender in the following cases:
	(a) where, for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events which the contracting authorities could not have foreseen and which can in no way be attributed to them, the time-limit for the procedures referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) of Article 111(1) of the Financial Regulation cannot be kept;
	(b) where warranted by the nature or particular characteristics of the supplies, for example, where performance of the contract is exclusively reserved for the holders of patents or licences to use patents;
	(c) for additional deliveries by the original supplier intended either as a partial replacement of normal supplies or installations or as the extension of existing supplies or installations, where a change of supplier would oblige the contracting authority to acquire equipment having different technical characteristics which would result in either incompatibility or disproportionate technical difficulties in operation and maintenance;
	(d) where the tender procedure has been unsuccessful, that is where no qualitatively or financially worthwhile tender has been received;

	(e) for contracts declared to be secret, or for contracts whose performance must be accompanied by special security measures or when the protection of the essential interests of the Union or the beneficiary country so requires;
	(f) for contracts in respect of supplies quoted and purchases on a commodity market;
	(g) for contracts in respect of purchases on particularly advantageous terms, either from a supplier which is definitively winding up its business activities, or from the receivers or liquidators of a bankruptcy, an arrangement with creditors, or a similar procedure under national law;
	(h) where a new contract has to be concluded after early termination of an existing contract.
	(i) In cases referred to in point (d) of the first subparagraph, after cancelling the tender procedure, the contracting authority may negotiate with one or more tenderers of its choice, from among those that took part in the invitation to tender, provided that the original terms of the contract are not substantially altered.
	2. For the purposes of point (a) of paragraph 1 of this Article, operations carried out in crisis situations as referred to in Article 190(2) shall be considered to satisfy the test of extreme urgency. The authorising officer by delegation, where appropriate in concertation with the other authorising officers by delegation concerned, shall establish that a situation of extreme urgency exists and shall review his decision regularly with regard to the principle of sound financial management.
	<i>Article 269 RAP</i> <i>Thresholds and procedures for awarding works contracts</i> <i>(Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	1. The thresholds and procedures referred to in Article 190 of the Financial Regulation shall be as follows for works contracts:
	(a) for contracts with a value of EUR 5 000 000 or more any of the following:
	(i) an international open invitation to tender within the meaning of Article 127(2) and point (a) of Article 264(2);
	(ii) in view of the characteristics of certain works, an international restricted invitation to tender within the meaning of Article 127(2) and point (a) of Article 264(2);
	(b) for contracts with a value of EUR 300 000 or more but less than EUR 5 000 000: a local open invitation to tender within the meaning of Article 127(2) and Article 264(2)(b);
	(c) for contracts with a value of less than EUR 300 000: a competitive negotiated procedure within the meaning of paragraph 2 of this Article;
	Contracts with a value of less than or equal to EUR 20 000 may be awarded on the basis of a single tender.
	2. Under the negotiated procedure referred to in point (c) of paragraph 1 of this Article, the contracting authority shall draw up a list of at least three contractors of its choice. The procedure involves limited competitive tendering, without publication of a notice and shall be known as a competitive negotiated procedure not covered by Article 129.
	Tenders shall be opened and evaluated by an evaluation committee with the necessary technical and administrative expertise. The members of the evaluation committee must sign a declaration of impartiality.

	<p>If following the consultation of the contractors, the contracting authority receives only one tender that is administrative and technically valid, the contract may be awarded provided that the award criteria are met.</p>
	<p>3. The selection criteria shall cover the capacity of the tenderer to carry out similar contracts, in particular by reference to works carried out in recent years. Once selection is made and since inadmissible tenders have already been eliminated, the only award criterion shall be the price.</p>
	<p>4. Each technical and financial bid must be placed in a single sealed envelope, itself placed in a package or outer envelope. The inner envelope shall bear:</p>
	<p>(a) the address indicated in the tender documents for the submission of tenders;</p>
	<p>(b) the reference to the call for tenders to which the tenderer is responding;</p>
	<p>(c) where appropriate, the numbers of the lots for which a tender is being submitted;</p>
	<p>(d) the phrase «Not to be opened before the tender-opening session», in the language of the tender documents.</p>
	<p>At the place and time set in the tender documents, the tenders shall be opened in public by the evaluation committee. At the public tender-opening session, the names of the tenderers, the prices quoted, the provision of the necessary tender guarantee and any other formality which the contracting authority thinks appropriate must be announced.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Article 270 RAP</i> <i>Use of the negotiated procedure for works contracts</i></p>

	<i>(Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Works contracts may be awarded by negotiated procedure with a single tender in the following cases:
	(a) where, for reasons of extreme urgency brought about by events which the contracting authorities could not have foreseen and which can in no way be attributed to them, the time-limit for the procedures referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) of Article 111(1) of the Financial Regulation cannot be kept;
	(b) for additional works not included in the initial contract concluded but which have, through unforeseen circumstances, become necessary for carrying out the work described therein, subject to the conditions laid down in paragraph 2;
	(c) where the tender procedure has been unsuccessful, that is where no qualitatively or financially worthwhile tender has been received;
	(d) for contracts declared to be secret, or for contracts whose performance must be accompanied by special security measures or when the protection of the essential interests of the Union or the beneficiary country so requires;
	(e) where a new contract has to be concluded after early termination of an existing contract.
	For the purposes of point (a) of the first subparagraph of this paragraph, operations carried out in crisis situations as referred to in Article 190(2) shall be considered to satisfy the test of extreme urgency. The authorising officer by delegation, where appropriate in concertation with the other authorising officers by delegation concerned, shall establish that a situation of extreme urgency exists and shall review his decision regularly with regard to the principle of sound financial management.

	In cases referred to in point (c) of the first subparagraph, after cancelling the tender procedure, the contracting authority may negotiate with one or more tenderers of its choice, from among those that took part in the invitation to tender, provided that the original terms of the contract are not substantially altered.
	2. The additional works referred to in point (b) of paragraph 1 shall be awarded to the work contractor already carrying out the work:
	(a) where such works cannot be technically or economically separated from the main contract without serious inconvenience for the contracting authority;
	(b) where such works, although separable from the performance of the original contract, are strictly necessary for its completion;
	(c) where the aggregate value of contracts awarded for additional works does not exceed 50 % of the value of the principal contract.
	<i>Article 271 RAP Use of the negotiated procedure for buildings contracts (Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	Buildings contracts as referred to in Article 260 may be awarded by negotiated procedure after the local market has been prospected.
	<i>Article 272 RAP Choice of procurement procedure for mixed contracts (Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	In the case of contracts involving both supplies of services and supplies of goods or execution of works, the contracting authority, after the Commission has given its agreement if it is not the contracting authority, shall determine the thresholds and procedures applicable by reference to the predominant aspect assessed on the basis of the relative value and the operational significance of the various components of the contract.
	<i>Article 273 RAP Tender documents (Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The tender documents referred to in Article 138 shall be drawn up on the basis of best international practices and in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter regarding advertising and contacts between the contracting authority and tenderers.
	2. For service contracts, the tender file must contain the following documents:
	(a) instructions to tenderers, which must include:
	(i) the type of contract;
	(ii) the award criteria and their weightings;
	(iii) the possibility of interviews and the timetable for them;
	(iv) whether variants are permitted;
	(v) the proportion of sub-contracting which may be authorised;

	(vi) the maximum budget available for the contract;
	(vii) the currency of tenders;
	(b) shortlist of candidates selected (mentioning the ban on association);
	(c) general conditions for service contracts;
	(d) specific conditions which amplify, supplement or derogate from the general conditions;
	(e) terms of reference indicating the planned timetable for the project and dates from which it is planned that the principal experts must be available;
	(f) price schedule (for completion by the tenderer);
	(g) tender form;
	(h) contract form;
	(i) if applicable, bank (or similar) guarantee forms for the payment of pre-financing.
	Point (h) of the first subparagraph shall not apply to cases where, due to exceptional and duly justified circumstances, the model contract cannot be used.
	3. For supply contracts, the tender file must contain the following documents:
	(a) instructions to tenderers, which must include:
	(i) the selection and award criteria;

	(ii) whether variants are authorised;
	(iii) the currency of tenders;
	(b) general conditions for supply contracts;
	(c) specific conditions which amplify, supplement or derogate from the general conditions;
	(d) technical annex containing any plans, technical specifications and the planned timetable for performance of the contract;
	(e) price schedule (for completion by the tenderer) and the breakdown of prices;
	(f) tender form;
	(g) contract form;
	(h) if applicable, bank (or similar) guarantee forms for:
	(i) the tender;
	(ii) payment of pre-financing;
	(iii) proper performance.
	Point (g) of the first subparagraph shall not apply to cases where, due to exceptional and duly justified circumstances, the model contract cannot be used.
	4. For works contracts, the tender file must contain the following documents:
	(a) instructions to tenderers, which must include:

	(i) the selection and award criteria;
	(ii) whether variants are authorised;
	(iii) the currency of tenders;
	(b) general conditions for works contracts;
	(c) specific conditions which amplify, supplement or derogate from the general conditions;
	(d) technical annexes containing plans, technical specifications and the planned timetable for performance of the contract;
	(e) price schedule (for completion by the tenderer) and the breakdown of prices;
	(f) tender form;
	(g) contract form;
	(h) if applicable, bank (or similar) guarantee forms for:
	(i) the tender;
	(ii) payment of pre-financing;
	(iii) proper performance.
	Point (g) of the first subparagraph shall not apply to cases where, due to exceptional and duly justified circumstances, the model contract cannot be used.
	5. In the event of contradiction between the specific conditions referred to in

	point (d) of paragraph 2, point (c) of paragraph 3 and point (c) of paragraph 4 and the general conditions, those specific conditions shall apply.
	6. Where contracting authorities require the production of certificates drawn up by independent bodies attesting the compliance of the economic operator with certain quality assurance standards, they shall refer to quality assurance systems based on the relevant European or, where appropriate, international standards certified by bodies conforming to the European or international standards on certification. They shall also accept other evidence of equivalent quality assurance measures from economic operators.
	<i>Article 274 RAP Guarantees (Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. By way of derogation from Article 163, advance guarantees shall be denominated in euro or in the currency of the contract they cover.
	2. The contracting authority may demand a tender guarantee, within the meaning of this Chapter, representing 1 % to 2 % of the overall value of the contract for supply and works contracts It shall comply with Article 163. It shall be released when the contract is signed. It shall be retained if a tender submitted by the final date for submission is subsequently withdrawn.
	3. A performance guarantee may be required by the contracting authority for an amount set in the tender file and corresponding to between 5 and 10 % of the total value of the contract for supply and works contracts. This guarantee shall be determined on the basis of objective criteria such as the type and value of the contract.

	However, a performance guarantee shall be required where the following thresholds are exceeded:
	(a) EUR 345 000 for works contracts,
	(b) EUR 150 000 for supply contracts.
	The guarantee shall remain valid at least until final acceptance of the supplies and works. If the contract is not properly performed the entire guarantee shall be retained.
	<i>Article 275 RAP Time-limits for procedures (Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. Tenders must reach the contracting authority at the address and by no later than the date and time shown in the invitation to tender. The time limit for receipt of tenders and requests to participate, laid down by the contracting authorities, shall be long enough to allow interested parties a reasonable and appropriate period to prepare and submit their tenders.
	For service contracts, the minimum time between the date of dispatch of the letter of invitation to tender and the final date for receipt of tenders shall be fifty days. However, in urgent cases other time limits may be authorised.
	2. Tenderers may put questions in writing before the closing date for receipt of tenders. The contracting authority shall provide the answers to the questions before the closing date for receipt of tenders.
	3. In international restricted procedures, the time limit for receipt of requests

	to participate shall be no less than thirty days from the date on which the contract notice is published. The period between the date on which the letter of invitation is sent and the final date for the receipt of tenders shall be no less than fifty days. However, in certain exceptional cases other time limits may be authorised.
	4. In international open procedures, the time limits for receipt of tenders, running from the date on which the contract notice is sent, shall be at least:
	(a) ninety days for works contracts;
	(b) sixty days for supply contracts.
	However, in certain exceptional cases other time limits may be authorised.
	5. In local open procedures, the time limits for receipt of tenders, running from the date when the contract notice is published, shall be at least:
	(a) sixty days for works contracts;
	(b) thirty days for supply contracts.
	However, in certain exceptional cases other time limits may be authorised.
	6. For the competitive negotiated procedures referred to in Articles 265(1)(b), 267(1)(c) and 269(1)(c), candidates shall be allowed at least thirty days from the date of dispatch of the letter of invitation to tender in which to submit their tenders.
	7. The time-limits specified in paragraphs 1 to 6 are expressed in calendar days.
	<i>Article 276 RAP Evaluation committee</i>

	<i>(Article 190 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. All requests to participate and tenders declared as satisfying the requirements shall be evaluated and ranked by an evaluation committee on the basis of the exclusion, selection and award criteria announced in advance. This committee shall have an odd number of members, at least three, with all the necessary technical and administrative expertise to assess the tenders.
	2. If the Commission is not the contracting authority, it may request to receive a copy of tender documents, tenders, the evaluation of the tenders and the signed contracts. It may also participate as an observer to the opening and evaluation of tenders.
	3. Tenders which do not contain all the essential items demanded in the tender documents or which do not correspond to the specific requirements laid down shall be eliminated.
	However, the evaluation committee or the contracting authority may ask candidates or tenderers to supply additional material or to clarify the supporting documents submitted in connection with the exclusion, selection and award criteria, within the time-limit they specify and having respect to the principle of equal treatment.
	4. In the case of abnormally low tenders as referred to in Article 151, the committee shall ask for the necessary clarifications concerning the composition of the tender.
	5. The obligation to establish an evaluation committee may be waived for procedures with a value less than or equal to EUR 20 000.
	Article 191 FR

	Rules on participation in tendering procedures
	1. Participation in tendering procedures shall be open on equal terms to all persons coming within the scope of the Treaties and to any other natural or legal person in accordance with the specific provisions in the basic instruments governing the cooperation sector concerned.
	2. In the cases referred to in Article 54(2), it may be decided, under exceptional circumstances duly justified by the authorising officer responsible, to allow third-country nationals other than those referred to in paragraph 1 to tender for contracts.
	3. Where an agreement on widening the market for procurement of goods or services to which the Union is party applies, the contracts for procurement financed by the budget shall also be open to third-country nationals other than those referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, under the conditions laid down in that agreement.
	4. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the participation in tendering procedures.
	<i>Article 263 RAP Advertising and non-discrimination (Articles 190 and 191 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. The Commission shall take the necessary implementing measures to guarantee as wide a participation as possible, on equal terms, in competitive tendering for the award of contracts financed by the Union. To that end, care shall

	be taken in particular to:
	(a) ensure adequate publication, in reasonable time, of the prior information notices, contract notices and award notices;
	(b) eliminate any discriminatory practice or technical specifications liable to hamper wide participation on equal terms by all natural or legal persons referred to in Article 182 of the Financial Regulation.
	2. Articles 265(5), 267(3) and 269(4) shall be without prejudice to the use of e-procurement.
	<i>CHAPTER 4</i>
	<i>Grants</i>
	Article 192 FR
	Full financing of an external action
	An action may be financed in full by the budget only where this is essential for it to be carried out.
	The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on the full financing of an external action.
	<i>Article 277 RAP</i> <i>Financing in full</i> <i>(Article 192 of the Financial Regulation)</i>

	In case of derogation from the co-financing requirement, grounds shall be provided in the award decision.
	Article 193 FR
	Applicable rules for external action grants
	Grant procedures to be applied in indirect management by the entities referred to in Article 185 shall be laid down in the agreements concluded between the Commission and those entities.
	The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on grant procedures applicable under indirect management.
	<i>CHAPTER 5</i>
	<i>Auditing of accounts</i>
	Article 194 FR
	Union audit in external action
	Each agreement between the Commission and an entity referred to in Article 185, or grant agreement or grant decision shall expressly provide for the Commission and the Court of Auditors to have the power of audit, on the basis of documents and on the spot, over all contractors and subcontractors who have received Union funds.

	TITLE V⁴⁹
	EUROPEAN OFFICES
	[omitted]
	TITLE VI⁵⁰
	ADMINISTRATIVE APPROPRIATIONS
	[omitted]
	<i>Article 41 11th EDF FR</i>
	Experts
	The second paragraph of Article 204 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 287 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 concerning remunerated external experts shall apply.
	<i>TITLE VII⁵¹</i>
	<i>EXPERTS</i>
	Article 204 FR

49 Title III in the RAP
50 Title IV in the RAP
51 Title V in the RAP

	Remunerated external experts
	The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 210 concerning detailed rules on remunerated external experts, including a specific procedure for the selection of natural persons as remunerated external experts, for assisting the institutions in the evaluation of grant applications, projects and tenders, and for providing opinions and advice in specific cases.
	Such experts shall be remunerated on the basis of a fixed amount announced in advance and shall be chosen on the basis of their professional capacity. The selection shall be done on the basis of selection criteria respecting the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and absence of conflict of interests.
	<i>Article 287 RAP Remunerated external experts (Article 204 of the Financial Regulation)</i>
	1. For values below the thresholds laid down in Article 170(1), remunerated external experts may be selected on the basis of the procedure laid down in paragraph 2.
	2. A call for expressions of interest shall be published in the <i>Official Journal of the European Union</i> or where it is necessary to provide publicity among potential candidates, on the internet site of the institution concerned.
	The call for expressions of interest shall include a description of the tasks, their duration and the fixed conditions of remuneration. Those conditions may be based on unit prices.

	A list of experts shall be drawn up following the call for expressions of interest. It shall be valid for no more than five years from its publication or for the duration of a multi-annual programme related to the tasks.
	3. Any interested natural person may submit an application at any time during the period of its validity, with the exception of the last three months of that period. Remunerated external experts shall not be selected to perform the tasks referred to in Article 204 of the Financial Regulation if they are in one of the situations of exclusion referred to in Articles 106 and 107 of the Financial Regulation.
	4. All exchanges with selected experts, including the conclusion of contracts and any amendments thereto, may be done through electronic exchange systems set up by the institution.
	These systems shall meet the following requirements:
	(a) only authorised persons may have access to the system and to documents transmitted through it;
	(b) only authorised persons may electronically sign or transmit a document through the system;
	(c) authorised persons must be identified through the system by established means;
	(d) the time and date of the electronic transaction must be determined precisely;
	(e) the integrity of documents must be preserved;
	(f) the availability of documents must be preserved;

	(g) where appropriate, the confidentiality of documents must be preserved;
	(h) the protection of personal data in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 must be ensured.
	Data sent or received through such a system shall enjoy legal presumption of the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the date and time of sending or receiving the data indicated by the system.
	A document sent or notified through such a system shall be considered as equivalent to a paper document, shall be admissible as evidence in legal proceedings, shall be deemed to be the original of the document and shall enjoy legal presumption of its authenticity and integrity, provided it does not contain any dynamic features capable of automatically changing it.
	The electronic signatures referred to in point (b) of the second subparagraph shall have the equivalent legal effect of handwritten signatures.
	5. The list of experts and the subject of the tasks shall be published annually. The remuneration shall be published where it exceeds EUR 15 000 for the task performed.
	6. Paragraph 5 shall not apply if such publication risks threatening the rights and freedoms of individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or harm the commercial interests of experts.
	PART THREE:
	FINAL AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS
	[omitted]

Article 3

The European Investment Bank (EIB), acting on behalf of the Community, shall manage the Investment Facility, as well as interest rate subsidies, and shall conduct operations there under, in accordance with the rules set out in Part Two. In that context, the EIB shall act on behalf of and at the risk of the Community.

The EIB shall undertake the financial implementation of operations carried out by means of loans from its own resources, where applicable combined with interest rate subsidies drawn from the EDF's grant resources.

Article 4

The provisions of this Part and Part Three shall apply exclusively to the financial implementation of the EDF resources managed by the Commission. Those provisions may not be interpreted as giving rise to any obligations on the Commission's part in respect of the financial implementation of EDF resources managed by the EIB.

PART TWO

**SPECIFIC PROVISIONS CONCERNING EDF
RESOURCES MANAGED BY THE EIB**

Article 145

PART TWO

INVESTMENT FACILITY

[there may be errors in the visualisation of this Part]

Article 51 11th EDF FR

Role of the European Investment Bank

The EIB shall manage the Investment Facility and conduct operations thereunder, including interest-rate subsidies and technical assistance, on behalf of the Union in accordance with Part Two of this Regulation.

In addition, the EIB shall undertake the financial implementation of other operations carried out by means of financing from its own resources in accordance with Article 4 of the Internal Agreement, where applicable combined with interest rate subsidies drawn from the 11th EDF resources.

The implementation of Part Two of this Regulation shall not give rise to any obligations or liabilities on the part of the Commission.

Article 52 11th EDF FR

Estimates of commitments and payments of the Investment Facility

Each year, before 1 September, the EIB shall send the Commission its estimates of commitments and payments, which are necessary for drawing up the communication

Each year, before 1 September, the EIB shall send the Commission its estimates of commitments and payments, which are necessary for drawing up the communication referred to in Article 7(1) of the Internal Agreement, in respect of the operations of the Investment Facility, including interest rate subsidies, in accordance with the Internal Agreement.

The EIB shall send the Commission updated estimates of commitments and payments when deemed necessary. Modalities shall be defined in the management agreement referred to in Article 152.

Article 146

1. The contributions referred to in Article 58 and adopted by the Council shall be paid without cost for the beneficiary by the Member States to the EIB via a special account opened by the EIB in the name of the Investment Facility in accordance with detailed rules laid down in the management agreement provided for in Article 152.

2. Save where the Council decides otherwise regarding the remuneration of the EIB in accordance with Article 5 of the Internal Agreement, proceeds received by the Bank via the credit balance of the special accounts referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall supplement the Investment Facility and shall be taken into consideration for the calls for contribution referred to in Article 57.

3. Any rights resulting from operations carried out by the EIB

referred to in Article 7(1) of the Internal Agreement, in respect of the operations of the Investment Facility, including those interest rate subsidies that it implements, in accordance with the Internal Agreement. The EIB shall send the Commission updated estimates of commitments and payments when deemed necessary. Modalities shall be defined in the management agreement provided for in Article 55(4) of this Regulation.

Article 53 11th EDF FR

Management of contributions to the Investment Facility

1. The contributions referred to in Article 21(7)(b) and adopted by the Council shall be paid without cost for the beneficiary by the Member States to the EIB via a special account opened by the EIB in the name of the Investment Facility in accordance with detailed rules laid down in the management agreement provided for in Article 55(4).

2. The date referred to in Article 1(5) of the Internal Agreement shall be 31 December 2030.

3. Save where the Council decides otherwise regarding the remuneration of the EIB, in accordance with Article 5 of the Internal Agreement, proceeds received by the EIB via the credit balance of the special accounts referred to in paragraph 1 shall supplement the Investment Facility and shall be taken into consideration for the calls for contribution referred to in Article 21 and shall be used to meet any financial obligation after 31 December 2030.

4. The EIB shall undertake the treasury management of the amounts referred to in paragraph 1 in accordance with the detailed rules laid down in the management agreement provided for in Article 55(4).

using EDF resources, and particularly rights as creditor or owner, shall be vested in the Member States.

4. The EIB shall undertake the treasury management of the amounts referred to in paragraph 1 in accordance with the detailed rules laid down in the management agreement provided for in Article 152.

5. The Investment Facility shall be managed in accordance with the conditions laid down in the ACP-EC Agreement, the Overseas Association Decision and the Internal Agreement.

Article 147

The EIB shall be remunerated on a full indemnity basis for the management of the Investment Facility operations. The Council shall decide on the resources and mechanisms for remuneration of the Bank in accordance with Article 5(2) of the Internal Agreement. The measures implementing that decision shall be incorporated in the management agreement provided for in Article 152.

Article 148

The EIB shall regularly inform the Commission of the operations carried out under the Investment Facility, including interest rate subsidies, of the use made of each call for contributions paid to the EIB and, in particular, of the total quarterly amounts of commitments, contracts and payments, in accordance with the detailed rules laid down in the

5. The Investment Facility shall be managed in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Cotonou Agreement, the Overseas Association Decision, the Internal Agreement and Part Two of this Regulation.

Article 54 11th EDF FR

Remuneration of the EIB

The EIB shall be remunerated on a full indemnity basis for the management of the Investment Facility operations. The Council shall decide on the resources and mechanisms for remuneration of the EIB in accordance with Article 5(4) of the Internal Agreement. The measures implementing that decision shall be incorporated in the management agreement provided for in Article 55(4).

Article 55 11th EDF FR

Implementation of the Investment Facility

1. The EIB's own rules shall apply to instruments financed by the 11th EDF resources which it manages.

2. Where programmes or projects are co-financed by the Member States or their implementing bodies, and correspond to the priorities which are laid down in the Country Cooperation Strategies and Programming Documents provided for in the Implementation Regulation and foreseen in the second and third subparagraphs of Article 10(1) of the Internal Agreement and in Article 74 of the Overseas Association Decision, the EIB may entrust tasks in the implementation of the Investment Facility to Member States or their implementing bodies.

management agreement provided for in Article 152.

Article 149

1. The EIB shall keep the accounts of the Investment Facility, including interest rate subsidies, financed by the EDF to provide a trail for the full circuit of the funds, from receipt to disbursement and then to the revenue to which they give rise and any subsequent recoveries. The EIB shall draw up the relevant accounting rules and methods according to international accounting standards and inform the Commission and the Member States accordingly.

2. Each year the EIB shall send the Council and the Commission a report on the implementation of operations financed from EDF resources under its management, including the financial statements drawn up in accordance with the rules and methods referred to in paragraph 1 and the information referred to in Article 123(2).

Those documents shall be submitted in draft form no later than 28 February and in their final version no later than 30 June of the following financial year, so that they can be used by the Commission in preparing the accounts referred to in Article 118 of this Regulation in accordance with Article 11(6) of the Internal Agreement. The report on the financial management of the resources managed by the EIB shall be submitted by the latter to the Commission no later than 31 March of the following financial year.

3. The names of the recipients of financial support under the Investment Facility shall be published by the EIB, unless such disclosure risks harming the commercial interests of the recipients, with due observance of the requirements of confidentiality and security, in particular the protection of personal data. The criteria for disclosure and the level of detail published shall take into account specificities of the sector and the nature of the Investment Facility.

4. The detailed rules for implementing this Part shall be the subject of a management agreement between the Commission, acting on behalf of the Union, and the EIB.

Article 56 11th EDF FR

Reporting under the Investment Facility

The EIB shall regularly inform the Commission of the operations carried out under the Investment Facility, including interest rate subsidies; the use made of each call for contributions paid to the EIB; and, in particular, of the total quarterly amounts of commitments, contracts and payments, in accordance with the detailed rules laid down in the management agreement provided for in Article 55(4).

Article 57 11th EDF FR

Accounting and financial statements of the Investment Facility

1. The EIB shall keep the accounts of the Investment Facility, including those interest rate subsidies that are implemented by it and financed by the 11th EDF, to provide a trail for the full circuit of the funds, from receipt to disbursement, and then to the revenue to which they give rise and any subsequent recoveries. The EIB shall draw up the relevant accounting rules and methods which are guided by international

Article 150

The EIB's own rules shall apply to contracts financed by the EDF resources which it manages.

Article 151

Where programmes or projects are co-financed by the Member States or their implementing bodies and correspond to the priorities laid down in the Country Cooperation Strategies provided for in the implementation Regulation foreseen in the second subparagraph of Article 10(1) of the Internal Agreement and in Article 20 of the Overseas Association Decision, the EIB may entrust responsibility for managing Community aid to Member States or their implementing bodies.

Article 152

The detailed rules for implementing this Part shall be the subject of a management agreement between the Commission, acting on behalf of the Community, and the EIB.

PART THREE

accounting standards and inform the Commission and the Member States accordingly.

2. Each year the EIB shall send the Council and the Commission a report on the implementation of operations financed from 11th EDF resources under its management, including the financial statements drawn up in accordance with the rules and methods referred to in paragraph 1 and the information referred to in Article 44(3).

Those documents shall be submitted in draft form no later than 28 February and in their final version no later than 30 June of the financial year following the one which they concern, so that they can be used by the Commission in preparing the accounts referred to in Article 43 in accordance with Article 11(5) of the Internal Agreement. The report on the financial management of the resources managed by the EIB shall be submitted by the latter to the Commission no later than 31 March.

Article 58 11th EDF FR

External audit and discharge on EIB operations

The operations financed from 11th EDF resources managed by the EIB in accordance with Part Two shall be subject to the audit and discharge procedures of the EIB. Detailed rules for auditing by the Court of Auditors are set out in a Tripartite Agreement between the EIB, the Commission and the Court of Auditors.

PART THREE

⁵² OJ L 229, 17.8.1991, p. 288.

⁵³ OJ L 156, 29.5.1998, p. 108.

⁵⁴ OJ L 83, 1.4.2003, p. 1.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

TITLE I

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 1

TRANSFER OF BALANCES REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS EDFs

Article 153

Transfers to the 10th EDF of the balances remaining from resources constituted under the Internal Agreements relating to the seventh⁵², eighth⁵³ and Ninth⁵⁴ EDFs (hereinafter previous EDFs) shall be made in accordance with Article 1(2)(b), (3) and (4) of the Internal Agreement.

Article 154

The balance of revenue accruing from interest on the resources of previous EDFs shall be transferred to the 10th EDF and allocated for the same purposes as the revenue provided for in Article 1(6) of the Internal Agreement. The same shall apply to miscellaneous revenue of previous EDFs comprising, for example, default interest received in the event of late payment of contributions to those EDFs by Member States and the interest generated by the EDF resources managed by the EIB.

TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

TITLE I

TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

[there may be errors in the visualisation of this title]

Article 59 11th EDF FR

Transfer of balances remaining from previous European Development Funds

Transfers to the 11th EDF of the balances remaining from resources constituted under the Internal Agreements relating to the Eighth, Ninth and Tenth European Development Funds (hereinafter “previous EDFs”) shall be made in accordance with Articles 1(2)(b), 1(3) and 1(4) of the Internal Agreement.

Article 60 11th EDF FR

Revenue from interest on resources of previous EDFs

The balance of revenue accruing from interest on the resources of previous EDFs shall be transferred to the 11th EDF and allocated for the same purposes as the revenue provided for in Article 1(6) of the Internal Agreement. The same shall apply to miscellaneous revenue of previous EDFs comprising, for example, default interest received in the event of late payment of contributions to those EDFs by Member States. The interest generated by the 11th EDF resources managed by the EIB shall

CHAPTER 2

BALANCES REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS EDFs

Article 155

The amounts from projects under the Ninth EDF or from previous EDFs not committed according to Article 1(3) of the Internal Agreement, or decommitted unless decided otherwise by the Council unanimously according to Article 1(4) of the Internal Agreement, shall reduce the part of Member States contributions stated in Article 1(2)(a) of the Internal Agreement.

The impact on the contribution of each Member State shall be calculated in proportion to the contribution of each Member State to the Ninth EDF. The impact will be calculated annually and for the first time in the year following the performance review of 2010 foreseen in Annex 1b of the ACP-EC Agreement.

CHAPTER 3

RULES APPLICABLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS EDFs

Article 156

The provisions of the 10th EDF concerning the financial actors, revenue operations, validation, authorisation and

supplement the Investment Facility.

Article 61 11th EDF FR

Reduction of contributions by remaining balances

The amounts from projects under the 10th EDF or from previous EDFs not committed according to Article 1(3) of the Internal Agreement, or decommitted according to Article 1(4) of the Internal Agreement, unless decided otherwise by the Council unanimously, shall reduce that part of Member States' contributions stated in Article 1(2)(a) of the Internal Agreement.

The impact on the contribution of each Member State shall be calculated in proportion to the contribution of each Member State to the 9th and 10th EDF. The impact shall be calculated annually.

Article 62 11th EDF FR

Application of this Regulation to operations under previous EDFs

The provisions of this Regulation concerning the financial actors, revenue operations, validation, authorisation and payment of expenditure, IT systems, grants, procurement, the presentation of accounts and accounting, as well as external audit and discharge also apply to operations financed from previous EDFs while respecting the existing legal commitments. These provisions shall not apply to the Investment Facility.

Article 63 11th EDF FR

payment of expenditure, IT systems, the presentation of accounts and accounting, as well as external audit and discharge also apply to operations financed from previous EDFs.

CHAPTER 4

TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

Article 157

The procedure concerning Member States' contributions laid down in Articles 57 to 61 shall apply for the first time for the contributions of the year N + 2, under condition that the 10th EDF enters into force between 1 October of year N and 30th September of year N + 1.

Article 158

The central database referred to in Article 98 shall be set up by 1 January 2009.

TITLE II

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 159

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Commencement of contribution procedures

The procedure concerning Member States' contributions laid down in Articles 21 to 24 shall apply for the first time for the contributions of the year N + 2, under condition that the Internal Agreement enters into force between 1 October of year N and 30 September of year N + 1.

TITLE II

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 64 11th EDF FR

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2014.

It shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

***IT SHALL BE APPLICABLE FOR THE SAME PERIOD AS
THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT.***