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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 16.12.2008
C(2008) 8275 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 16.12.2008

on the joint operational programme Italy-Tunisia 2007-2013 for the ENPI Cross-Border Co-operation 2007-2013 to be financed under Article 19 08 02 01 and 19 08 02 02 of the general budget of the European Communities.

COMMISSION DECISION

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on the joint operational programme Italy-Tunisia 2007-2013 for the ENPI Cross-Border Co-operation 2007-2013 to be financed under Article 19 08 02 01 and 19 08 02 02 of the general budget of the European Communities.

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) N° 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of 24 October 2006 laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument¹, and in particular titles II, III and IV and articles 6(1)(b), 9 and 12(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the Cross-Border Co-operation Strategy Paper² and the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2007/2010, which indicates the priorities of 1) promoting economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders, 2) working together to address common challenges, in fields such as the environment, public health and the prevention of and the fight against organised crime, 3) ensuring efficient and secure borders and 4) promoting local cross border “people-to-people” actions.
- (2) The Commission has adopted the implementing rules for cross-border cooperation programmes financed under Regulation (EC) No 1638/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down general provisions establishing a European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument³.
- (3) The objectives pursued by the joint operational programme Italy-Tunisia 2007-2013 are to promote the economic, institutional, and cultural integration between the Tunisian and Sicilian regions through a joint sustainable development process in the context of the cross border cooperation. The programme will focus on the following three priorities for co-operation in the geographic area concerned: 1. regional development and integration by focussing on supporting the development and integration of the key economic sectors, promotion of the flow of goods, promotion of research and innovation and institutional cooperation to promote regional development; 2. promoting sustainable development by targeting efficient management of resources in agriculture and fishery, protection and enhancement of natural and cultural heritage and supporting development of renewable energy sources;

¹ OJ L 310, 9.11.2006, p. 1.

² PE/2007/294, C/2007/672

³ Commission Regulation (EC) No 951/2007, OJ L 210/10, 10.08.2007

3. cultural and scientific cooperation and support to networking by supporting cooperation on association level and training and exchange of youths and students.

- (4) The present decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 75 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁴ and Article 90 of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities⁵.
- (5) The present decision covers any possible interest due for late payment on the basis of articles 83 of the Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 and 106(5) of Commission Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002.
- (6) The Commission is required to define the term “substantial change” in the meaning of Article 90 (4) of Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2342/2002 to ensure that any substantial change in this decision shall follow the same procedure as the initial decision,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The joint operational programme Italy-Tunisia 2007-2013 for the ENPI Cross-Border Co-operation 2007-2013, the text which is set out in the Annex, is approved.

Article 2

The maximum contribution of the Community for the period 2007-2013 is set at EUR 25 191 423. This amount includes EUR 12 595 679 and EUR 12 595 744, respectively financed from budget lines 19 08 02 01 and 19 08 02 02 of the general budget of the European Communities. The maximum contribution of the Community for 2008 is set at EUR 3 462 957 (i.e. EUR 1 731 278 under budget line 19 08 02 01 and EUR 1 731 679 under budget line 19 08 02 02).

This Decision shall also cover any possible interest due for late payment.

⁴ OJ L 248, 16.09.2002, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 357, 31.12.2002, p.1.

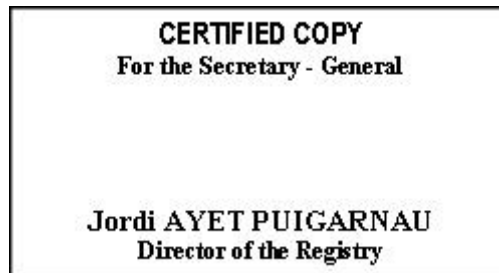
Article 3

Within the global indicative budget of all the specific actions, the adjustments as indicated in Article 7 of the Regulation (EC) 951/2007 of the European Commission shall not be considered substantial, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the joint operational programme Italy-Tunisia 2007-2013.

The authorising officer may introduce non substantial changes to the Programme in accordance with the principles of sound financial management.

Done at Brussels, 16.12.2008.

For the Commission
Benita FERRERO-WALDNER
Member of the Commission



ANNEX

The joint operational programme Italy-Tunisia 2007-2013.