



Brussels, 6.11.2017
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 6.11.2017

**on the adoption of the work programme for 2018 and on the financing of the
Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized
enterprises**

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on the adoption of the work programme for 2018 and on the financing of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (2014 - 2020) and repealing Decision No 1639/2006/EC¹, and in particular Article 13(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure implementation of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises ('COSME programme') it is necessary to adopt a financing decision and the work programme for 2018. Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012³ establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) In accordance with Article 14 of Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013 in addition to the measures covered by the annual work programmes referred to in Article 13 of that Regulation the Commission is to regularly take other support measures under COSME programme.
- (3) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (4) Pursuant to Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the COSME programme.
- (5) The authorising officer by delegation has obtained evidence that the entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of the budget by indirect management are fulfilling the requirements laid down in points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 60(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 .

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 33.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

- (6) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (7) It is appropriate to authorise the award of a grant without a call for proposals to the country holding the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union, under article 190(1)(c) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 in order to organise the Enterprise Europe Network Annual Conference 2018 and to maximise the visibility of that Network and its actions to support small and medium sized enterprises.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 21 of Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The annual work programme for the implementation of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises ('COSME programme') for 2018, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the COSME programme for the year 2018 is set at EUR 351 406 767 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union for 2018:

- (a) budget line 02 01 04 01: EUR 4 111 267;
- (b) budget line 02 01 06 01: EUR 9 498 175;
- (c) budget line 02 02 01: EUR 130 946 936;
- (d) budget line 02 02 02: EUR 206 850 389.

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2018, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The budget implementation of tasks related to the actions carried out by way of indirect management as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to in that Annex.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum contribution set in Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5
Grant

Grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to the body referred to in action GRO/SME/18/B/01 of the Annex, in accordance with the conditions set out therein.

Article 6
Financial instruments

The European Investment Fund (EIF) shall be entrusted with providing the financial support by means of the Equity Facility for Growth (EFG) and the Loan Guarantee Facility (LGF) for the amount set out in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 6.11.2017

For the Commission
Elżbieta BIEŃKOWSKA
Member of the Commission