



Brussels, 25.4.2013
C(2013) 2280 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 25.4.2013

**on adopting the 2013 annual work programme for the preparatory action - European
Civil Society House, serving as financing decision**

COMMISSION DECISION

of 25.4.2013

on adopting the 2013 annual work programme for the preparatory action - European Civil Society House, serving as financing decision

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to the Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹ (hereinafter referred to as the "Financial Regulation"), and in particular, Articles 54 (2) (b) thereof,

Having regard to 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 Union² (hereinafter referred to as "Rules of application"),

Whereas:

- (1) In accordance with Article 54(2) (b) of the Financial Regulation, appropriations for preparatory action in the field of application of the TFEU Treaty, designed to prepare proposals with a view to the adoption of future actions, may be implemented without a basic act.
- (2) In accordance with Article 84 of the Financial Regulation and Article 94(1) of the Rules of Application, the commitment of expenditure from the budget of the European Union shall be preceded by a financing decision setting out the essential elements of the project involving expenditure and adopted by the Commission.
- (3) The 2013 work programme being a sufficiently detailed framework in the meaning of Article 94(2) and (3) of the Rules of Application, the present decision constitutes a financing decision for the expenditure provided for in the work programme for contracts.
- (4) The present financing decision may also cover the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Articles 92 of the Financial Regulation and 111(5) of the Rules of Application.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The work programme in Annex is hereby adopted for a total budget of € 250,000 on the budget line 16 05 09 of the General Budget of the European Union for 2013.

It constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of the Financial Regulation.

1 OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p.1

2 OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1

These appropriations may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 2

The Director General of DG Communication is responsible for ensuring the publication and implementation of this annual work programme for the budget line 16.05.09 "Preparatory action – European Civil Society House".

Done at Brussels, 25.4.2013

For the Commission
Viviane Reding
Vice-President

ANNEX

Commission decision adopting the 2013 work programme for the preparatory action – European Civil Society House (ECSH), serving as financing decision

Budget line: 16.05.09

Legal basis: Preparatory action within the meaning of the article 54(2) (b) of the Financial Regulation

1. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

1.1. Main features and general objectives of the action

As stated in the budgetary remarks, "*the objective of this preparatory action is to enable the establishment of the European Civil Society House (ECSH) physically as a resource centre and advice bureau on European rights and civic participation for both citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs) and as a user-friendly space for brainstorming, ideas exchange and networking of like-minded individuals concerned about Europe's future*".

1.2. Recent policy developments

In his State of the Union Address in September 2012, President Barroso had called for the development of a European Public Space where European issues are discussed and debated from a European point of view, and for this debate to take place in our societies and among our citizens.

The Euro barometer survey on the Future of Europe published on December 2012 shows that only a third of respondents feel that their voice counts in the EU, and that 89 % of respondents see a big gap between public opinion and the decisions taken by leaders.

In this framework, a challenge is to provide concrete and diversified opportunities to enhance citizens' participation in the EU, as provided in article 11 TEU, with a view to bridging the gap between the EU institutions and their citizens.

As a potential contribution to addressing this challenge, the initiative of a European Civil Society House aims at providing a space for both organised parts of civil society and individual citizens. Following a survey carried out in 2010, it was established that 93% of all 600 respondents across Member States would support such an initiative.

Such initiative could be seen as complementary to the many actions, debates and events organised in the context of the European Year of Citizens 2013.

Furthermore, it corresponds to one of the common inter-institutional communication priorities for 2013/2014, namely The European Year of Citizens 2013 / Citizens' Europe.

1.3. Specific action

In line with the budgetary remarks on line 16.05.09, the appropriation is intended to cover a feasibility study as an essential step from the concept towards the possible establishment of a European Civil Society House.

The study will carry out extensive investigation on the environment and of the resources required and wide spread consultations with the various stakeholders, with a view to assess the feasibility of the project from the various angles, notably:

- the operational feasibility;
- the technical feasibility;

- the financial feasibility and sustainability;
- the management and governance structures for the various phases;
- the legal environment;
- the envisaged time schedule.

2. PROCUREMENT

The purpose of the feasibility study will be to assess the critical elements for the establishment of a European Civil Society House, with a view to inform any interested parties, stakeholders, public and private organisations and institutions involved, on the conditions required for a successful implementation of this initiative on a long term basis.

To that end, the study will carry out extensive investigation of the environment and of the resources required, and wide spread consultations and outreach activities with citizens, local authorities and other stakeholders, with a view to analyse and evaluate the following critical elements and related assumptions.

The implementation will be done through a specific contract from an existing multiple framework contract with reopening of competition (first semester; maximum amount: EUR 250.000).