



Brussels, 25.1.2018
C(2018) 307 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 25.1.2018

on the adoption of DG ECFIN's annual work programme 2018, including procurement and grants, in the field of economic and financial affairs, serving as a financing decision

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 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 Union¹, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure implementation of DG ECFIN's annual work programme it is necessary to adopt a financing decision and the work programme for 2018. Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union² establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) It is appropriate to authorise award of grants without a call for proposals to the bodies referred to in the work programme and for the reasons provided therein.
- (3) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 92 of the Financial Regulation and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 1268/2012.
- (4) For the application of this Decision, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 1268/2012.
- (5) Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 480/2009 of 25 May 2009 establishing a Guarantee Fund for external actions³ lays down the provisioning mechanism for the Guarantee Fund for External Actions. The level of provisioning is determined on an ex-post basis, and depends on the outstanding amount of loans and guaranteed loans.
- (6) Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2015 on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Advisory Hub and the European Investment Project Portal and amending Regulations (EU) N° 1291/2013 and (EU) N° 1316/2013⁴ lays down the provisioning mechanism for the EFSI Guarantee Fund as well as the target amount to be reached inter alia through contributions from the general budget,

¹ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

² OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

³ OJ L 145, 10.6.2009, p. 10.

⁴ OJ L 169, 1.7.2015, p. 1.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The annual work programme for the directorate-general of economic and financial affairs for 2018, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The annual work programme constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of the Financial Regulation.

Article 2

The maximum contribution authorised by this Decision for the implementation of the work programme for 2018 is set at EUR 2.082.942.722 and shall be financed from the following lines of the General Budget of the European Union for 2018:

Activity 'Economic and Monetary Union':

- Budgetary line n° 01.02 01 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro': EUR 11.500.000

Activity 'International Economic and Financial Affairs':

- Budgetary line n° 01.0302 'Macro-financial assistance': EUR 550.000 (procurements only).
- Budgetary line n° 01.03 06 'Provisioning of the Guarantee Fund': EUR 137.800.722

Activity 'Financial Operations and Instruments':

- Budgetary Line n° 01.0405 'Provisioning of the EFSI guarantee fund": EUR 1.905.092.000
- Budgetary line n° 01.0406 'European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) and European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)': EUR 20.000.000
- Budgetary line n° 01.0407 'Fees due to the EIF': EUR 8.000.000

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

Article 3
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, Euratom) N° 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 adopt the changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the bodies referred to in the Annex, in accordance with the conditions specified therein.

Done at Brussels, 25.1.2018

For the Commission

Pierre MOSCOVICI

Member of the Commission



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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION DECISION

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ANNEX

1.1 Introduction

This work programme contains the implementing measures for the year 2018 in the field of economic and financial affairs. The distribution of budget and the main actions are the following:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2): EUR 26.185.000;
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.3): EUR 5.540.000;
- for administrative arrangement with the JRC (1.4): EUR 325.000;
- for other actions (1.5): EUR 137.800.722 for the provisioning of the guarantee fund for external actions, EUR 1.905.092.000 for the provisioning of the EFSI guarantee fund and EUR 8.000.000 for fees due to the EIF.

1.2 Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved in 2018 for grants amounts to EUR 6.785.000 on the 'EMU' line and to EUR 19.400.000 on the 'EIAH/EIPP' line.

1.2.1 Joint Harmonised European Union Programme for Business and Consumer Surveys (BCS)

BCS actions shall be covered by the specific grant agreements signed with the institutes participating in the BCS programme for a total amount of EUR 5.635.000. As a result of the 2014 call for proposals and the 2015 follow-up call which closed remaining gaps in the survey coverage, framework partnership agreements were concluded covering the MFF period. New specific grant agreements will be concluded for the period May 2018 – April 2019.

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d).

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0201 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union including the euro (EMU)'.

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The BCS constitute an essential tool for the Commission for fulfilling its Treaty-based obligations of surveillance of the EU economies. They constitute a basis for decision-making of EU economic policy makers, governments and research institutes. There are few alternative products at European level and none share the features of the Commission's surveys in terms of coverage, frequency and accuracy.

The Commission's objective consists in ensuring that reference to and usage of the analytical tools and EU reference indicators and other products should be comparable to those of other major institutions (IMF, OECD, ECB, ...) as measured in terms of downloads of data, references to publications, number of attendants of events.

The data collected feeds into the monthly press releases and analytical studies. Continuous improvement in survey methodology and harmonisation is sought through the organisation of the BCS group of experts' (E00267) workshop.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE SPECIFIC GRANTS DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIPS

The BCS Programme ensures the harmonisation, coordination, analysis and dissemination of business and consumer surveys in Member States. Harmonisation is essential to allow the comparison of business cycles in the different Member States and the calculation of meaningful business cycle indices for the euro area and for the EU as a whole, in order to inform the EU authorities, the Member States and various economic agents about the present economic situation. Business and consumer surveys summarise attitudes and judgements of a large number of consumers and managers from different sectors of the economy in the European Union. Results are published on a monthly basis.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

The beneficiaries will submit new budget proposals in Q1/2018. Specific grant agreements will be awarded after the analysis of the budgets and the assessment of the relevance and consistency of the proposals with the action plan submitted for the award of the corresponding framework partnership agreements.

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE SPECIFIC GRANTS DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIPS

Call reference	Date	Amount	
	Q1 2018	EUR 5.635.000	

Specific grant agreements will be concluded under existing framework partnership agreements. The specific grant agreements will cover the period May 2018-April 2019 and a total budget of EUR 5.635.000.

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

The EU's contribution in the joint financing may not exceed 50% of the total eligible costs.

1.2.2 Timely High-frequency indicators for global and regional trade (THIT)

Grants shall be covered by the specific grant agreement signed with the institute selected for the THIT project.

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d).

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0201 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union including the euro (EMU)'.

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The project will continue to deliver monthly indicators of world trade that feed into DG ECFIN's monitoring of trade flows at the global, regional and country-specific levels, including for all Member States, candidate countries and all major advanced and emerging market economies. Those indicators are valuable inputs to DG ECFIN's forecasts, regular and ad-hoc analytical and briefing notes.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE SPECIFIC GRANT DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER THE FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

The timely high-frequency indicators for trade (THIT) constitute valuable input for DG ECFIN's economic monitoring and forecasting activities.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

For the existing framework partnership agreement.

Selection criteria: not applicable.

Award criteria: the specific grant will be awarded on the basis of the relevance and the consistency of the proposal with the action plan submitted for the award of the corresponding framework partnership agreement, as well as on the basis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposal.

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE SPECIFIC GRANT DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER A FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

Call reference	Date	Amount	
	Q2/2018	EUR 50.000	

A specific grant agreement under the existing partnership agreement will be awarded in 2018. The eligibility period of the action runs from 1 June 2018 to 31 May 2019.

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

The EU's contribution in the joint financing may not exceed 50% of eligible costs.

1.2.3 Production and Broadcast of a Magazine on Economic Issues - Euronews

Grant agreement signed with Euronews implementing the framework partnership agreement.

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d).

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0201 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union including the euro (EMU)'.

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The multiannual framework partnership agreement with Euronews will be implemented through specific grant agreements. A specific grant agreement is foreseen for the purpose of raising awareness of the policies related to DG ECFIN in the form of the production and broadcast of TV news programmes. The project will continue to increase the quantity and quality of the coverage of EU economic and financial affairs. As in previous seasons Euronews will provide more information packaged in new attractive formats able to reach larger audience and therefore contribute to forging closer links between citizens and the institutions of the European Union.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE SPECIFIC GRANT DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER THE FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

Co-financing through an action grant of the production and broadcast of a magazine on economic issues of economic magazine Euronews channel.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

For the existing framework partnership agreement.

Selection criteria: not applicable.

Award criteria: the specific grant will be awarded on the basis of the relevance and the consistency of the proposal with the action plan submitted for the award of the corresponding framework partnership agreement, as well as on the basis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposal.

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG in addition to co-delegations received from DG EMPL and DG REGIO.

TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE SPECIFIC GRANT DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER A FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

Call reference	Date	Amount	
	Q4/2018	EUR 400.000	

A specific grant agreement under the framework partnership agreement with Euronews will be awarded in Q4/2018 with DG ECFIN's indicative amount being EUR 400.000. The grant will take the form of unit contributions on the basis of unit costs as authorised by the Commission Decision authorising the use of unit costs under action grant agreements signed with Euronews (C(2013)7360final of 07.11.2013) in accordance with Article 124 of the Financial Regulation.

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

95% of the eligible costs.

1.2.4 *Co-financing OECD research projects*

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d).

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0201 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro (EMU)'.

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The reason for co-funding the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) derives from its technical competence and high-degree of specialisation coupled to the strong and direct relevance of many of its economic studies and research projects for DG ECFIN's policy-shaping activities in different areas.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE GRANT AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 190.1 (F) RAP

Through the co-financing mechanism, usually along with the OECD Secretariat and several OECD members, the Commission can prioritise work on specific topics of high EU relevance as well as influence the scope and focus of the tasks undertaken by the OECD to fit its own needs.

ESSENTIAL (SELECTION AND) AWARD CRITERIA

Relevance of study or project to DG ECFIN's policy activities and soundness of the proposed budget.

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Reference	Date	Amount
	Q2/2018	EUR 300.000

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

Up to 90% of eligible costs.

1.2.5 Co-financing IMF

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d).

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0201 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro (EMU)'.

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organisation of 186 countries established in Washington, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. The reason for co-operating with the IMF is its technical competence and high-degree of specialisation coupled to their role in financial assistance programmes for Member States.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE GRANT AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON THE BASIS OF ARTICLE 190.1 (F) RAP

The IMF is closely involved in the different financial assistance programmes in favour of Member States such as the Balance of Payments Facility for non-euro area countries, the rescue packages for Greece, Ireland and Portugal and the European Financial Stability Facility and associated Mechanism, notably in co-defining and co-monitoring the economic and financial policies that the relevant countries need to implement in order to recover market confidence and to strengthen their fiscal and financial position. Co-financing surveillance and technical assistance actions taken by the IMF contributes efficiently to the Commission's objectives of public finance surveillance.

ESSENTIAL (SELECTION AND) AWARD CRITERIA

Relevance of the surveillance and assistance actions to DG ECFIN's surveillance activities and soundness of the proposed budget.

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARDED WITHOUT A CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Reference	Date	Amount
	Q2/2018	EUR 400.000

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

Up to 90% of eligible costs

1.2.6 *Financing of the European Investment Advisory Hub*

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Advisory Hub and the European Investment Project Portal and amending Regulations (EU) N° 1291/2013 and (EU) N° 1316/2013 – the European Fund for Strategic Investments.

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0406 – "European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) and the European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)".

PRIORITIES OF THE YEAR, OBJECTIVES PURSUED AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Recruitment of the EIAH staff and enhancement of the EIAH's local presence;

Provision of advisory services and delivery of technical assistance support under EIAH umbrella;

EIAH's communication and branding;

Continue to develop the EIAH's web presence with information about the accessible programmes and services, also improving the percentage of private sector involvement through targeted communications;

Development of the cooperation platform with National Promotional Institutions, with the aim of concluding one agreement per Member State and to provide pro-active advisory support on the establishment of such an institution in Member States without such an institution;

Support the preparation of projects involving two or more Member States and projects that contribute to achieving the objectives of COP21.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED BY THE SPECIFIC GRANT DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER THE FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

EIAH team and sectoral experts to provide advisory services;
External consultants to provide advisory services or studies;
Communication, promotional events, web interface and IT development;
Development of local and regional presence through cooperation platforms (NPBs/NPIs, EBRD, World Bank etc) and through the call for proposals;
Support the establishment of investment platforms.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

The grant award procedure is based on the provisions of the corresponding framework partnership agreement with the EIB.

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE AND INDICATIVE AMOUNT OF THE SPECIFIC GRANT DIRECTLY AWARDED UNDER A FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP

Reference	Date	Amount
2018 SGA EIAH	Q2/2018	EUR 19.400.000

MAXIMUM POSSIBLE RATE OF CO-FINANCING

75% of the eligible costs

1.3 Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved in 2018 for procurement contracts amounts to EUR 5.540.000 of which EUR 4.390.000 on the 'EMU' line (EMU coordination and surveillance: EUR 2.190.000 and EMU communication activities: EUR 2.200.000); EUR 550.000 on the 'MFA' line and EUR 600.000 on the 'EIAH/EIPP' line.

1.3.1 Coordination and surveillance of economic and monetary union (EMU)

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d).

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0201 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro (EMU)'.

AMOUNT

EUR 2.190.000

SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

The contracts will cover several types of activities:

- I. Access to external commercial data supply services; development and maintenance of internal data bases;
- II. Conferences, workshops, seminars and research/visiting fellows;
- III. Studies and evaluations;
- IV. Business surveys: Financial Services Sector Survey (FSSS);
- V. Rating services and other costs related to borrowing/lending activities;
- VI. Publications and associated software;
- VII. Statistical and economic software packages, including maintenance;
- VIII. IT developments;
- IX. Other.

TYPE OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED (*new FWC / direct contract / specific contract based on an existing FWC / contract renewal*) AND TYPE OF PROCUREMENT (*service/supply/works*)

New framework contracts, new direct contracts, specific contracts, contracts renewals.
Services and supplies.

INDICATIVE NUMBER OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

All types of contracts:
External data supply: approx. 20 contracts;
Speakers and authors of papers: approx. 40 contracts;
Studies and evaluations: approx. 5 contracts;
Specialised software: approx. 10 contracts.
Other: approx. 15 contracts.

INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME FOR LAUNCHING THE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

I. Access to external commercial data supply services; development and maintenance of internal data bases:

- call for tender 'Automated Feed of valuation prices and rates for financial market instruments' will be launched in Q1;
- call for tender 'Provision of daily economic reporting and analysis of underlying developments and trends concerning the UK' to be launched in Q1;
- call for tender 'Provision of data related to macro-economic forecasts for two country sets (G7 and Western Europe + Eastern Europe) and for selected materials (Energy and Metals)'. Surveys cover estimates for the principal macroeconomic variables (e.g. GDP, inflation, interest and exchange rates) and will be launched Q1.

II. Conferences, workshops, seminars, research/visiting fellows, seminar speakers:

The tenders will essentially cover:

- calls for papers/essays and calls for speakers;
- calls covering logistical aspects (external venue, catering, ...).

Calls are launched regularly throughout the year, depending on the date of the event.

III. Studies and evaluations:

- call for tender for the 'Evaluation on the advantages and disadvantages of entrusting the management of assets of the Guarantee Fund for External Actions (GFEA) and of the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) to the Commission, the EIB, or a combination of the two' will be launched in Q3;
- call for tender for a study regarding 'Industry level growth and productivity data with special focus on intangible assets' will be launched in Q2.

IV. Business surveys:

- Call for tender for the financial services sector surveys (FSSS) for yearly renewable service contracts over a four-year period (2019-2023) will be launched in Q3.

V. Rating services and other costs related to borrowing/lending activities.

VI. Publications and associated software.

VII. Statistical and economic software packages, including maintenance.

VIII. IT developments.

IX. Other.

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

1.3.2 EMU communication activities

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d).

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0201 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro (EMU)'.

AMOUNT

EUR 2.200.000

SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

The contracts will cover several types of activities, in particular to provide information about the deepening of EMU, economic governance in the EU, a new boost for jobs, growth and investment, to improve the general knowledge on the euro and EMU and to contribute to communication efforts in line with the 2018 work programme. Those activities will seek to contribute and support the corporate communication priorities of the Commission.

I. Conferences, events and seminars on the euro/EMU within the EU, covering in particular:

- (a) network meetings;
- (b) seminars for journalists and other multipliers;
- (c) annual conferences (e.g. the Brussels Economic Forum and other high profile events);
- (d) workshops and seminars.

II. Exhibitions and stands;

III. Competitions, such as poster competitions, coin design competitions, competitions targeted at photographers and cartoonists, etc.;

IV. Information activities in third countries, covering conferences and seminars, distribution of publications, school competitions, etc.;

V. Studies and surveys, notably including:

- (a) surveys on citizens' perceptions in countries preparing for the imminent introduction of the euro;
- (b) Eurobarometer surveys on the euro;
- (c) studies on the impact of information activities on the euro.

VI. Publications, including ECFIN's flagship publications (European Economy, Economic Papers, etc.) and associated software (EP/kit) as well as publications for the general public and posters;

VII. Electronic newsletter;

VIII. Promotional material;

IX. Advertising campaigns;

X. ECFIN website, including ad-hoc articles for the web;

XI. Audio-visual material;

XII. Technical assistance.

The above list is not exhaustive.

TYPE OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED (*new FWC / direct contract / specific contract based on an existing FWC / contract renewal*) AND TYPE OF PROCUREMENT (*service/supply/works*)

Framework contracts of DG ECFIN and other Commission services will be used in the large majority of cases, as well as some direct contracts. Contracts will cover services and supplies.

INDICATIVE NUMBER OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

All types of contracts:

Publication Programme: approx. 30 contracts or order forms;

Stakeholder Outreach Programme: approx. 50 contracts;

Website Development & Social Media Programme: approx. 6 contracts or order forms;

Internal Communication: 1 contract;

Evaluation & Monitoring: approx. 3 contracts.

INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME FOR LAUNCHING THE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

Depending on the project: Q1//Q2/Q3 or Q4 2018

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

1.3.3 Macro-financial assistance (procurement part)

The present financing decision covers only MFA expenditure related to procurement (EUR 550.000). All other MFA measures, representing EUR 41.536.000, will be subject to *ad hoc* financing decisions.

LEGAL BASIS

For operational assessments: Council decision granting MFA to the country.

For evaluations: FR Art. 30.

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0302 'Macro- financial assistance'.

AMOUNT

EUR 550.000

SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

Operational assessments of financial circuits and controls in the countries concerned by macro-financial assistance. The objective is to obtain reasonable assurance of the reliability of the financial and administrative procedures implemented in those countries. Recommendations contained in those assessment reports allow the Commission to assist the countries improve their public finance management. Evaluations focus on assessing ex post the contribution of MFA to the macroeconomic performance (resolution of a balance of payment crisis) and structural reform of the recipient country.

TYPE OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED (*new FWC / direct contract / specific contract based on an existing FWC / contract renewal*) AND TYPE OF PROCUREMENT (*service/supply/works*)

Specific contracts for services.

INDICATIVE NUMBER OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

A number of operational assessments (depending on new MFA operations to be proposed) through specific contracts against framework contracts.

Two ex-post evaluations through specific contracts against framework contracts.

INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME FOR LAUNCHING THE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION

Directly by the DG.

1.3.4 European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Advisory Hub and the European Investment Project Portal and amending Regulations (EU) N° 1291/2013 and (EU) N° 1316/2013 – the European Fund for Strategic Investments.

BUDGETARY LINE

Budgetary line no 01.0406 – "European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH) and the European Investment Project Portal (EIPP)".

AMOUNT

EUR 600.000

SUBJECT OF THE CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

EIPP detailed functional and technical specifications;
Mock up and prototypes - Development of EIPP visual identity;
Continue the IT Development – tests and promotion in production of the Portal (Front office and back office development);
Maintenance of IT development;
Hosting in the data center;
Promotion of the Portal: EIPP Branding & Communication – including promotional material, on-line promotion via the social media, attendance and organisation of events; matchmaking events;
Externalisation of the validation process and the help desk function.

TYPE OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED (*new FWC / direct contract / specific contract based on an existing FWC / contract renewal*) AND TYPE OF PROCUREMENT (*service/supply/works*)

Specific contracts based on existing FWC.

INDICATIVE NUMBER OF CONTRACTS ENVISAGED

Several specific contracts against framework contracts signed by the EC:

- contract for branding & communication activities;
- contract for external validation services;
- contract for conception and development of additional services under the Portal (including IT development);
- contract for the evaluation of the policy.

INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME FOR LAUNCHING THE PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE

N/A

IMPLEMENTATION

Direct implementation by DG ECFIN and co-delegation to DG DIGIT.

1.4 Administrative Arrangement with the JRC

LEGAL BASIS

No basic act since the action results from the Commission's institutional prerogatives (FR Art. 54(2)d).

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0201 'Coordination, surveillance and communication activities on the economic and monetary union, including the euro (EMU)'.

AMOUNT

EUR 325.000

IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

The Joint Research Centre (JRC).

OVERALL OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE OF THE ACTION

In the context of fiscal surveillance it is important for country desks and horizontal units to get a better quantification of the budgetary impact of tax reforms and a better understanding of the uncertainty in public finances on the expenditure side related to unemployment and social protection.

EUROMOD is a tax-benefit microsimulation model for the European Union, developed and currently maintained by the University of Essex. In particular EUROMOD has been used by DG ECFIN, in co-operation with the JRC, in the context of regular surveillance.

In order to support the forecast, medium-term projections, spill-over analysis and debt sustainability analysis, the model for multi-country macro analysis (complement to the existing QUEST model) must be further developed.

1.5 Other actions

1.5.1 Provisioning of the guarantee fund for external actions

LEGAL BASIS

Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) N° 480/2009 of 25 May 2009 laying down the provisioning mechanism for the Guarantee Fund for External Actions.

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0306 'Provisioning of the Guarantee Fund'.

AMOUNT

EUR 137.800.722

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE IMPLEMENTING MEASURE

(1) The Guarantee Fund for External Actions was created in 1994. It provides the financial resources which are used as a smoothing mechanism to avoid a direct call on budget resources when, due to defaults of beneficiaries of loans, the Union must assure the reimbursement of maturing financial obligations (e.g. interest, principal). The Fund is financed from the general budget of the Union and its financial management is entrusted to the EIB.

(2) Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) 480/2009 of 25 May 2009 lays down the provisioning mechanism for the Guarantee Fund for External Actions. The level of provisioning under the current system is determined on an ex-post basis, and depends on the outstanding amount of loans and guaranteed loans. The transfer to the Fund takes the form of a single commitment and a single payment early in the budgetary year.

1.5.2 Provisioning of the EFSI guarantee fund

LEGAL BASIS

Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2015 on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Advisory Hub and the European Investment Project Portal and amending Regulations (EU) N° 1291/2013 and (EU) N° 1316/2013 — the European Fund for Strategic Investments .

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0405 'Provisioning of the EFSI Guarantee Fund'.

AMOUNT

EUR 1.905.092.000

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE IMPLEMENTING MEASURE

The EFSI Guarantee Fund was created in 2015. The purpose of the European Fund for Strategic Investments is to support, in the Union, through the supply of risk-bearing capacity to the EIB, investments and increased access to financing for entities having up to 3.000 employees, with a particular focus on SMEs and small mid-cap companies.

To that effect, the Union has provided an irrevocable and unconditional guarantee to the EIB for financing and investment operations covered by this Regulation and by the EFSI Agreement (EU guarantee) under certain conditions, by means of an agreement concluded with the EIB on 22 July 2015 [C(2015)5167] on the granting of the EU guarantee, in accordance with the requirements of the Regulation (EU) 2015/1017, which was amended on 20 July /2016 [C(2016)4709].

Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2015 lays down the purpose of the EFSI Guarantee Fund which is to constitute a liquidity cushion from which the EIB is to be paid in the event of a call on the EU guarantee, as well the provisioning mechanisms for that fund.

The resources of the guarantee fund are directly managed by the Commission and invested in accordance with the principle of sound financial management and follow appropriate and prudential rules.

The set up costs of the EFSI Guarantee Fund are borne by the general budget of the Union. External costs related to the running of the EFSI Guarantee Fund (such as custody fees, bank charges, transaction costs, IT support, fees of data service providers, audit fees and technical assistance and consultancy fees) may be borne by the EFSI Guarantee Fund.

1.5.3 Fees due to the European Investment Fund for increased assistance under the European Fund for Strategic Investments

LEGAL BASIS

1. Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2015 on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Advisory Hub and the European Investment Project Portal and amending Regulations (EU) N° 1291/2013 and (EU) N° 1316/2013 — the European Fund for Strategic Investments.
2. Amendment and Restatement Agreement dated 21 November 2017 between the European Union and the European Investment Bank relating to the Agreement on the Management of the European Fund for Strategic Investments and on the Granting of the EU Guarantee dated 22 July 2015.

BUDGETARY LINE

01.0407 "Fees due to the European Investment Fund for increased assistance under the European Fund for Strategic Investments".

AMOUNT

EUR 8.000.000

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVE OF THE IMPLEMENTING MEASURE

The budget line was set up in the context of the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 and its use is detailed in the 2015 Agreement between the EU and the EIB. The fees due to the EIF for the implementation of the EFSI-SME Window are mainly paid from the revenues, recoveries or other payments generated by EFSI. However, if they are not sufficient, the remuneration of the EIF may be met by the general budget of the Union. That situation is especially expected to occur in the initial years of the implementation of EFSI, when the inflows are still lower than the EIF fees for the EFSI-SME Window.