



Brussels, 17.2.2015
C(2015) 767 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 17.2.2015

on the adoption of the 2015 Copernicus Work Programme

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 377/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing the Copernicus Programme, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 911/2010¹ and in particular Article 12 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EC, 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 Union², and in particular Article 84(2) and (3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure implementation of the Copernicus Programme it is necessary to adopt a financing decision and the work programme for 2015. Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012³ establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) Copernicus is an Earth Observation programme led by the Union whose primary objective is to provide satellite-based information services which give access to accurate data and information in the fields of the environment and security.
- (3) The first operational services in the field of emergency response and land monitoring were financed under Regulation (EU) No 911/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ for the period 2011-2013 (hereinafter 'GMES Initial Operations').
- (4) It is necessary to ensure continuity of the GMES Initial Operations in the period 2014-2020 and to establish operational services on a permanent basis with entrusted entities in areas of sufficient technical maturity with a proven potential for the development of downstream services.

¹ OJ L 122, 24.04.2014, p. 44.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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).

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 911/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2010 on the European Earth monitoring programme (GMES) and its initial operations (2011 to 2013) (OJ L 276, 20.10.2010, p. 1).

- (5) It is further necessary to empower and fund ESA and EUMETSAT to develop, launch and operate the Copernicus space segment components in accordance with the provisions contained in their respective Delegation Agreements.
- (6) 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) No 1268/2012.
- (7) Evidence that the requirements laid down in points (a) to (d) of the first subparagraph of point 2 of Article 60 of the Financial Regulation are fulfilled by the entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of the budget by indirect management has been obtained by the authorising officer by delegation. The entrusted entities should also be allowed to also carry out horizontal activities such as data dissemination. However, the Commission, through the Joint Research Centre, should retain direct management over the Emergency Management Service and the Global components of the Land Monitoring Service.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Copernicus Committee,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The 2015 annual work programme for the implementation of the Copernicus Programme, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2

The maximum contribution for the implementation of the programme in 2015 is set at EUR 553 870 000, and shall be financed from chapter 02 06 of the General Budget of the European Union for 2015.

These appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover the settlement of any outstanding amounts incurred in previous exercises, and interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget 2015 after the adoption of the budget for 2015 by the budgetary authority, or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3

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

Article 4

Cumulated changes to the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) 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 adopt the changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 17.2.2015

For the Commission
Elżbieta BIENKOWSKA
Member of the Commission