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### SUMMARY

#### **Special measure for the 2019 DCI contribution to the European Union Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis to be financed from the general budget of the Union**

#### **1. Identification**

Budget Heading	21.020400 Cooperation with Middle East - EUR 15 000 000
Budget Heading	21.020705 GPGC Migration and Asylum - EUR 7 500 000
Total cost	EUR 22 500 000 of EU contribution
Basic act	Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of 11 March 2014

#### **2. Background: the EU Trust Fund**

The Commission adopted the Decision C(2014)9615 for the establishment of a European Union (EU) Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian crisis, the Madad ‘Trust Fund’, which was amended by Decision C(2015)9691 to expand the geographical scope.

The primary objective of the Trust Fund is to provide a coherent and reinforced aid response to the Syrian crisis and the massive displacement resulting from them on a multi-country scale. In pursuit of this objective, the Trust Fund shall address the needs of three groups: refugees, internally displaced persons, and returnees, as well as provide assistance to the communities and the administrations in which these groups find themselves, as regards resilience and early recovery. Assistance from the Trust Fund will be complementary to Union humanitarian assistance.

Contributions of the EU to the Trust Fund are allowed under the general budget, taking the form of financing decisions in the sense of Articles 110(1), 234 and 235 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

Considering the impact of the Syrian crisis on its neighbours, especially as concerns forced displacement, it is proposed for the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) to contribute to the Trust Fund for the year 2019 an amount of EUR 15 000 000 from Cooperation with Middle East and of EUR 7 500 000 from the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) Migration and Asylum actions targeting Iraq. It will be an important part of the EU’s deliverables at the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019 and a reinforcement of the EU’s commitment to responsibility sharing with countries hosting large numbers of refugees, in the Syria crisis region. This contribution is complementary to other actions under the DCI in Iraq addressing some of the Trust Fund’s objectives.

#### **3. Specificities of the DCI Contribution**

This proposed contribution to the Trust Fund will provide a response to the needs of refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees, host communities and their administrations in Iraq. It

also represents an important measure to meet the Commission's pledge in support to the Trust Fund from the Union budget.

This contribution will add to the implementation of the core principles of the Global Compact on Refugees, the Agenda 2030 and the rollout of the EU policy framework on forced displacement (Lives in Dignity).

In view of the needs of massive displacement and returns deriving from both the Syrian and the internal Iraqi crises, the Trust Fund is considered the best-suited instrument of the Union to swiftly mobilise funding and respond to urgent needs.

This proposed measure is also fully in line with both the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the 2018-2020 Thematic Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges – Migration and Asylum and with the 'EU Strategy for Iraq' adopted by the Council on 22 January 2018.

The EU has so far allocated to the Trust Fund EUR 10 million in 2015, EUR 19.4 million in 2016 and EUR 15 million in 2018 from the DCI. Currently the Trust Fund supports projects in Iraq for a total amount of EUR 107.5 million.