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## Legislation

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## II

(Non-legislative acts)

## REGULATIONS

## COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2015/1970

of 8 July 2015

**supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular the fifth subparagraph of Article 122(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The purpose of this Regulation is to determine which irregularities Member States should report to the Commission. In order to allow the Commission to perform its tasks concerning the protection of the financial interests of the Union, in particular to allow the Commission to perform risk analysis, it should also be established which data are to be provided.
- (2) Financial interests of the Union should be protected in the same way irrespective of the fund used to deliver the objectives for which it was established. To that end Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as well as Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013 <sup>(2)</sup>, (EU) No 223/2014 <sup>(3)</sup> and (EU) No 514/2014 <sup>(4)</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council, empower the Commission to adopt rules on the reporting of irregularities. To ensure that identical rules

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

<sup>(2)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549).

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112).

apply in respect of all of the funds governed by those Regulations, it is necessary that this Regulation contains provisions identical to those in Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2015/1971 <sup>(1)</sup>, (EU) 2015/1972 <sup>(2)</sup> and (EU) 2015/1973 <sup>(3)</sup>.

- (3) To enable a coherent application of the reporting requirements across the Member States it is necessary to define the term 'suspected fraud', taking into account the definition of fraud contained in the Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests <sup>(4)</sup>, and the term 'primary administrative or judicial finding'.
- (4) Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 determine the reporting threshold below which irregularities do not need to be reported to the Commission and cases for which there is no need for reporting. In order to simplify and to align the provisions, and to strike a balance between the administrative burden on Member States and the common interest in the provision of accurate data for the purpose of analysis in the Union's fight against fraud, it is necessary to apply the same reporting threshold and the same derogations for the reporting of irregularities under Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 514/2014.
- (5) It is necessary to determine which Member State should report irregularities in relation to the European territorial cooperation goal under Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(5)</sup>.
- (6) In order to ensure consistency of reporting it is necessary to establish criteria for determining when irregularities are to be initially reported and the data to be provided in such initial reports.
- (7) In order for the data provided to the Commission to be accurate, follow-up reporting is necessary. Member States should, therefore, provide the Commission with up-to-date information on any significant progress in the administrative and legal procedures or proceedings related to each initial report.
- (8) In light of Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(6)</sup> and Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(7)</sup>, the Commission and the Member States should, in relation to the information provided pursuant to this Regulation, prevent any unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. In addition, this Regulation should specify the purposes for which the Commission and the Member States may process that data.
- (9) As payments have already been made for the funds concerned and irregularities could occur, the provisions of this Regulation should apply immediately. This Regulation should therefore enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

<sup>(1)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1971 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 1848/2006 (see page 6 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1972 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (see page 11 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(3)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1973 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (see page 15 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 49.

<sup>(5)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 259).

<sup>(6)</sup> Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data (OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31).

<sup>(7)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### *Article 1*

#### **Subject matter**

This Regulation determines which irregularities are to be reported and establishes which data are to be provided by Member States to the Commission.

#### *Article 2*

#### **Definitions**

The definitions in Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 shall apply. In addition, for the purposes of this Regulation:

- (a) 'suspected fraud' means an irregularity that gives rise to the initiation of administrative or judicial proceedings at national level in order to establish the presence of intentional behaviour, in particular fraud, as referred to in Article 1(1)(a) of the Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests;
- (b) 'primary administrative or judicial finding' means a first written assessment by a competent authority, either administrative or judicial, concluding on the basis of specific facts that an irregularity has been committed, without prejudice to the possibility that this conclusion may subsequently have to be revised or withdrawn as a result of developments in the course of the administrative or judicial procedure.

#### *Article 3*

#### **Initial reporting**

1. Member States shall report irregularities to the Commission which
  - (a) affect an amount that exceeds EUR 10 000 in contribution from the funds;
  - (b) have been the subject of a primary administrative or judicial finding.
2. In the initial report Member States shall provide the following information:
  - (a) the fund, goal, category of region where appropriate, name and the Common Identification Code (CCI) number of the operational programme, priority and operation concerned;
  - (b) the identity of the natural or legal persons concerned, or both, or of any other entity having a role in in the commission of the irregularity and their role, except where that information is irrelevant for the purposes of combating irregularities, given the nature of the irregularity concerned;
  - (c) the region or area where the operation has been carried out, identified using appropriate information such as the NUTS level;
  - (d) the provision or provisions which have been infringed;
  - (e) the date and source of the first information leading to the suspicion that an irregularity has been committed;
  - (f) the practices employed in committing the irregularity;

- (g) where appropriate, whether the practice gives rise to suspected fraud;
- (h) the manner in which the irregularity was discovered;
- (i) where appropriate, the Member States and third countries involved;
- (j) the period during which, or the date on which, the irregularity was committed;
- (k) the date on which the primary administrative or judicial finding on the irregularity was established;
- (l) the total amount of expenditure of the operation concerned, expressed in terms of the Union's contribution, the national contribution and the private contribution;
- (m) the amount affected by the irregularity, expressed in terms of the Union's contribution and the national contribution;
- (n) in the case of suspected fraud, and where no payment of the public contribution has been made to the beneficiary, the amount which would have been unduly paid had the irregularity not been identified, expressed in terms of the Union's contribution and the national contribution;
- (o) the nature of the irregular expenditure;
- (p) the suspension of payments, where applicable, and the possibility of recovery of amounts paid.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the Member States shall not report to the Commission irregularities referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 122(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

In all other cases, in particular, those preceding a bankruptcy or in cases of suspected fraud, the detected irregularities and the associated preventive and corrective measures shall be reported to the Commission.

4. Irregularities relating to operational programmes under the European territorial cooperation goal shall be reported by the Member State in which the expenditure is paid out by the beneficiary in implementing the operation. The Member State shall inform the managing authority, the certifying authority for the programme and the audit authority.

5. Where national provisions provide for the confidentiality of investigations, communication of the information shall be subject to the authorisation of the competent tribunal, court or other body in accordance with national rules.

#### Article 4

#### **Follow-up reporting**

1. Where some of the information referred to in Article 3(2), in particular information concerning the practices employed in committing the irregularity and the manner in which it was discovered, is not available or needs to be rectified, Member States shall provide the missing or correct information in follow-up reports of irregularities to the Commission.

2. Member States shall keep the Commission informed on the initiation, conclusion or abandonment of any procedures or proceedings for imposing administrative measures, administrative penalties, or criminal penalties with regard to the reported irregularities, as well as the outcome of those procedures or proceedings. With regard to irregularities for which penalties have been imposed, Member States shall also indicate:

- (a) whether the penalties are of an administrative or a criminal nature;
- (b) whether the penalties result from a breach of Union or national law and details of the penalties;
- (c) whether fraud was established.

3. At the Commission's written request the Member State shall provide information in relation to a specific irregularity or group of irregularities.

*Article 5*

**Use and processing of information**

1. The Commission may use any information provided by Member States in accordance with this Regulation to perform risk analysis, using information technology support, and may, on the basis of the information obtained, produce reports and develop systems serving to identify risks more effectively.

2. Information provided under this Regulation shall be covered by professional confidentiality and protected in the same way as it would be protected by the national legislation of the Member State that provided it and by the provisions applicable to the Union's institutions. Member States and the Commission shall take all necessary precautions to ensure that the information remains confidential.

3. The information referred to in paragraph 2 may not, in particular, be disclosed to persons other than those in the Member States or within the Union's institutions whose duties require that they have access to it, unless the Member State providing it has given its express consent.

4. The information referred to in paragraph 2 may not be used for any purposes other than the protection of the Union's financial interests unless the authorities that have provided it have given their express consent.

*Article 6*

**Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2015.

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
Jean-Claude JUNCKER

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**COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2015/1971****of 8 July 2015****supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 1848/2006**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 50(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The purpose of this Regulation is to determine which irregularities Member States should report to the Commission. In order to allow the Commission to perform its tasks concerning the protection of the financial interests of the Union, in particular, to allow the Commission to perform risk analysis, it should also be established which data are to be provided.
- (2) Financial interests of the Union should be protected in the same way irrespective of the fund used to deliver the objectives for which it was established. To that end Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, as well as Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 <sup>(2)</sup>, (EU) No 223/2014 <sup>(3)</sup> and (EU) No 514/2014 <sup>(4)</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council, empower the Commission to adopt rules on the reporting of irregularities. To ensure that identical rules apply in respect of all the funds governed by those Regulations, it is necessary that this Regulation contains provisions identical to those in Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2015/1970 <sup>(5)</sup>, (EU) 2015/1972 <sup>(6)</sup> and (EU) 2015/1973 <sup>(7)</sup>.
- (3) To enable a coherent application of the reporting requirements across the Member States it is necessary to define the term 'suspected fraud', taking into account the definition of fraud contained in the Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests <sup>(8)</sup>, and the term 'primary administrative or judicial finding'. For the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund 'economic operator' should mean any natural or legal person or other entity taking part in the implementation of assistance from the fund or having to pay an assigned revenue within the meaning of Article 43(1) point (b) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, with the exception of a Member State exercising its prerogatives as a public authority.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549.

<sup>(2)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112).

<sup>(5)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1970 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (see page 1 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(6)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1972 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (see page 11 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(7)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1973 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (see page 15 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(8)</sup> OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 49.

- (4) Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 determine the reporting threshold below which irregularities do not need to be reported to the Commission and cases for which there is no need for reporting. In order to simplify and to align the provisions, and to strike a balance between the administrative burden on Member States and the common interest in the provision of accurate data for the purpose of analysis in the Union's fight against fraud, it is necessary to apply the same reporting threshold and the same derogations for the reporting of irregularities under Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 514/2014.
- (5) In order to ensure consistency of reporting it is necessary to establish criteria for determining when irregularities are to be initially reported and the data to be provided in such initial reports.
- (6) In order for the data provided to the Commission to be accurate, follow-up reporting is necessary. Member States should, therefore, provide the Commission with up-to-date information on any significant progress in the administrative and legal procedures or proceedings related to each initial report.
- (7) In light of Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(1)</sup> and Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(2)</sup>, the Commission and the Member States should, in relation to the information provided pursuant to this Regulation, prevent any unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. In addition, this Regulation should specify the purposes for which the Commission and the Member States may process that data.
- (8) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1848/2006 <sup>(3)</sup>, which laid down rules applicable in the programming period 2007-2013 under Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 <sup>(4)</sup> should be repealed. However, it should continue to apply for the reporting of irregularities in respect of assistance granted under Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005.
- (9) As payments have already been made for the funds concerned and irregularities could occur, the provisions of this Regulation should apply immediately. This Regulation should therefore enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### Article 1

##### Subject matter

This Regulation determines which irregularities are to be reported and establishes which data are to be provided by Member States to the Commission.

#### Article 2

##### Definitions

The definitions in Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 1303/2013 shall apply. In addition, for the purposes of this Regulation:

- (a) 'suspected fraud' means an irregularity that gives rise to the initiation of administrative or judicial proceedings at national level in order to establish the presence of intentional behaviour, in particular fraud, as referred to in Article 1(1)(a) of the Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests;

<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data (OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31).

<sup>(2)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

<sup>(3)</sup> Commission Regulation (EC) No 1848/2006 of 14 December 2006 concerning irregularities and the recovery of sums wrongly paid in connection with the financing of the common agricultural policy and the organisation of an information system in this field and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 595/91 (OJ L 355, 15.12.2006, p. 56).

<sup>(4)</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005 of 21 June 2005 on the financing of the common agricultural policy (OJ L 209, 11.8.2005, p. 1).

- (b) 'primary administrative or judicial finding' means a first written assessment by a competent authority, either administrative or judicial, concluding on the basis of specific facts that an irregularity has been committed, without prejudice to the possibility that this conclusion may subsequently have to be revised or withdrawn as a result of developments in the course of the administrative or judicial procedure.

### Article 3

#### Initial reporting

1. Member States shall report irregularities to the Commission which:
  - (a) affect an amount that exceeds EUR 10 000 in contribution from the funds;
  - (b) have been the subject of a primary administrative or judicial finding.
2. In the initial report Member States shall provide the following information:
  - (a) the fund, support scheme, measure, operation concerned and where appropriate, the name and the Common Identification Code (CCI) number of the operational programme, common market organisations affected, the sectors and products concerned and the budget line;
  - (b) the identity of the natural or legal persons concerned, or both, or of any other entity having a role in the commission of the irregularity and their role, except where that information is irrelevant for the purposes of combating irregularities, given the nature of the irregularity concerned;
  - (c) the region or area where the operation has been carried out, identified using appropriate information such as the NUTS level;
  - (d) the provision or provisions which have been infringed;
  - (e) the date and source of the first information leading to the suspicion that an irregularity has been committed;
  - (f) the practices employed in committing the irregularity;
  - (g) where appropriate, whether the practice gives rise to suspected fraud;
  - (h) the manner in which the irregularity was discovered;
  - (i) where appropriate, the Member States and third countries involved;
  - (j) the period during which, or the date on which, the irregularity was committed;
  - (k) the date on which the primary administrative or judicial finding on the irregularity was established;
  - (l) the total amount of expenditure, expressed in terms of the Union's contribution, the national contribution and the private contribution;
  - (m) the amount affected by the irregularity expressed in terms of the Union's contribution and the national contribution;
  - (n) in the case of suspected fraud, and where no payment of the public contribution has been made to the beneficiary, the amount which would have been unduly paid had the irregularity not been identified, expressed in terms of the Union's contribution and the national contribution;
  - (o) the nature of the irregular expenditure;
  - (p) the suspension of payments, where applicable, and the possibility of recovery of amounts paid.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the Member States shall not report to the Commission irregularities in relation to the following:

- (a) cases where the irregularity consists solely of the failure to execute, in whole or in part, an operation included in the co-financed programme or direct payment owing to the bankruptcy of the beneficiary;
- (b) cases brought to the attention of the managing authority, paying agency or other competent authority by the beneficiary voluntarily and before detection by either authority, whether before or after the payment of the public contribution;
- (c) cases which are detected and corrected by the managing authority, paying agency or other competent authority, before inclusion of the expenditure concerned in a statement of expenditure submitted to the Commission.

In all other cases, in particular those preceding a bankruptcy or in cases of suspected fraud, the detected irregularities and the associated preventive and corrective measures shall be reported to the Commission.

4. Where national provisions provide for the confidentiality of investigations, communication of the information shall be subject to the authorisation of the competent tribunal, court or other body in accordance with national rules.

#### *Article 4*

#### **Follow-up reporting**

1. Where some of the information referred to in Article 3(2), in particular information concerning the practices employed in committing the irregularity and the manner in which it was discovered, is not available or needs to be rectified, Member States shall provide the missing or correct information in follow-up reports of irregularities to the Commission.

2. Member States shall keep the Commission informed on the initiation, conclusion or abandonment of any procedures or proceedings for imposing administrative measures, administrative penalties or criminal penalties, with regard to the reported irregularities, as well as the outcome of those procedures or proceedings. With regard to irregularities for which penalties have been imposed, Member States shall also indicate:

- (a) whether the penalties are of an administrative or a criminal nature;
- (b) whether the penalties result from a breach of Union or national law and details of the penalties;
- (c) whether fraud was established.

3. At the Commission's written request the Member State shall provide information in relation to a specific irregularity or group of irregularities.

#### *Article 5*

#### **Use and processing of information**

1. The Commission may use any information provided by Member States in accordance with this Regulation to perform risk analysis, using information technology support, and may, on the basis of the information obtained, produce reports and develop systems serving to identify risks more effectively.

2. Information provided under this Regulation shall be covered by professional confidentiality and protected in the same way as it would be protected by the national legislation of the Member State that provided it and by the provisions applicable to the Union's institutions. Member States and the Commission shall take all necessary precautions to ensure that the information remains confidential.

3. The information referred to in paragraph 2 may not, in particular, be disclosed to persons other than those in the Member States or within the Union's institutions whose duties require that they have access to it, unless the Member State providing it has given its express consent.

4. The information referred to in paragraph 2 may not be used for any purposes other than the protection of the Union's financial interests unless the authorities that have provided it have given their express consent.

#### *Article 6*

#### **Repeal and transitional provisions**

Regulation (EC) No 1848/2006 is repealed.

It shall, however, continue to apply for the reporting of irregularities in respect of assistance granted under Regulation (EC) No 1290/2005.

#### *Article 7*

#### **Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2015.

*For the Commission*

*The President*

Jean-Claude JUNCKER

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**COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2015/1972****of 8 July 2015****supplementing Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular the fifth subparagraph of Article 30(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The purpose of this Regulation is to determine which irregularities Member States should report to the Commission. In order to allow the Commission to perform its tasks concerning the protection of the financial interests of the Union, in particular to allow the Commission to perform risk analysis, it should also be established which data are to be provided.
- (2) Financial interests of the Union should be protected in the same way irrespective of the fund used to deliver the objectives for which it was established. To that end Regulation (EU) No 223/2014, as well as Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 <sup>(2)</sup>, (EU) No 1306/2013 <sup>(3)</sup> and (EU) No 514/2014 <sup>(4)</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council, empower the Commission to adopt rules on the reporting of irregularities. To ensure that identical rules apply in respect of all of the funds governed by those Regulations, it is necessary that this Regulation contains provisions identical to those in Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2015/1970 <sup>(5)</sup>, (EU) 2015/1971 <sup>(6)</sup> and (EU) 2015/1973 <sup>(7)</sup>.
- (3) To enable a coherent application of the reporting requirements across the Member States it is necessary to define the term 'suspected fraud', taking into account the definition of fraud contained in the Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests <sup>(8)</sup>, and the term 'primary administrative or judicial finding'.
- (4) Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 determine the reporting threshold below which irregularities do not need to be reported to the Commission and cases for which there is no need for reporting. In order to simplify and to align the provisions, and to strike a balance between the administrative burden on Member States and the common interest in the provision of accurate data for the purpose of analysis in the Union's fight

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549).

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112).

<sup>(5)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1970 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (see page 1 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(6)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1971 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 1848/2006 (see page 6 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(7)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1973 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (see page 15 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(8)</sup> OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 49.

against fraud, it is necessary to apply the same reporting threshold and the same derogations for the reporting of irregularities under Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 514/2014.

- (5) In order to ensure consistency of reporting it is necessary to establish criteria for determining when irregularities are to be initially reported and the data to be provided in such initial reports.
- (6) In order for the data provided to the Commission to be accurate, follow-up reporting is necessary. Member States should, therefore, provide the Commission with up-to-date information on any significant progress in the administrative and legal procedures or proceedings related to each initial report.
- (7) In light of Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(1)</sup> and Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(2)</sup> the Commission and the Member States should, in relation to the information provided pursuant to this Regulation, prevent any unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. In addition, this Regulation should specify the purposes for which the Commission and the Member States may process that data.
- (8) As payments have already been made for the fund and irregularities could occur, the provisions of this Regulation should apply immediately. This Regulation should therefore enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### *Article 1*

##### **Subject matter**

This Regulation determines which irregularities are to be reported and establishes which data are to be provided by Member States to the Commission.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Definitions**

The definitions in Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 shall apply. In addition, for the purposes of this Regulation:

- (a) 'suspected fraud' means an irregularity that gives rise to the initiation of administrative or judicial proceedings at national level in order to establish the presence of intentional behaviour, in particular fraud, as referred to in Article 1(1)(a) of the Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests;
- (b) 'primary administrative or judicial finding' means a first written assessment by a competent authority, either administrative or judicial, concluding on the basis of specific facts that an irregularity has been committed, without prejudice to the possibility that this conclusion may subsequently have to be revised or withdrawn as a result of developments in the course of the administrative or judicial procedure.

#### *Article 3*

##### **Initial reporting**

1. Member States shall report irregularities to the Commission which:
  - (a) affect an amount that exceeds EUR 10 000 in contribution from the fund;
  - (b) have been the subject of a primary administrative or judicial finding.

<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data (OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31).

<sup>(2)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

2. In the initial report Member States shall provide the following information:
- (a) the name and the Common Identification Code (CCI) number of the operational programme and operation concerned;
  - (b) the identity of the natural or legal persons concerned, or both, or of any other entity having a role in the commission of the irregularity and their role, except where that information is irrelevant for the purposes of combating irregularities, given the nature of the irregularity concerned;
  - (c) the provision or provisions which have been infringed;
  - (d) the date and source of the first information leading to the suspicion that an irregularity has been committed;
  - (e) the practices employed in committing the irregularity;
  - (f) where appropriate, whether the practice gives rise to suspected fraud;
  - (g) the manner in which the irregularity was discovered;
  - (h) where appropriate, the Member States and third countries involved;
  - (i) the period during which, or the date on which, the irregularity was committed;
  - (j) the date on which the primary administrative or judicial finding on the irregularity was established;
  - (k) the total amount of expenditure of the operation concerned expressed in terms of the Union's contribution and the national contribution;
  - (l) the amount affected by the irregularity expressed in terms of the Union's contribution and the national contribution;
  - (m) in the case of suspected fraud, and where no payment of the public contribution has been made to the beneficiary, the amount which would have been unduly paid had the irregularity not been identified, expressed in terms of the Union's contribution and the national contribution;
  - (n) the nature of the irregular expenditure;
  - (o) the suspension of payments, where applicable, and the possibility of recovery of amounts paid.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the Member States shall not report to the Commission irregularities referred to in the second subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 223/2014.

In all other cases, in particular those preceding a bankruptcy or in cases of suspected fraud, the detected irregularities and the associated preventive and corrective measures shall be reported to the Commission.

4. Where national provisions provide for the confidentiality of investigations, communication of the information shall be subject to the authorisation of the competent tribunal, court or other body in accordance with national rules.

#### Article 4

#### **Follow-up reporting**

1. Where some of the information referred to in Article 3(2), in particular information concerning the practices employed in committing the irregularity and the manner in which it was discovered, is not available or needs to be rectified, Member States shall provide the missing or correct information in follow-up reports of irregularities to the Commission.

2. Member States shall keep the Commission informed on the initiation, conclusion or abandonment of any procedures or proceedings for imposing administrative measures, administrative penalties or criminal penalties with regard to the reported irregularities, as well as the outcome of those procedures or proceedings. With regard to irregularities for which penalties have been imposed, Member States shall also indicate:

- (a) whether the penalties are of an administrative or a criminal nature;
- (b) whether the penalties result from a breach of Union or national law and details of the penalties;
- (c) whether fraud was established.

3. At the Commission's written request the Member State shall provide information in relation to a specific irregularity or group of irregularities.

#### Article 5

#### Use and processing of information

1. The Commission may use any information provided by Member States in accordance with this Regulation to perform risk analysis, using information technology support, and may, on the basis of the information obtained, produce reports and develop systems serving to identify risks more effectively.

2. Information provided under this Regulation shall be covered by professional confidentiality and protected as it would be protected by the national legislation of the Member State that provided it and by the provisions applicable to the Union's institutions. Member States and the Commission shall take all necessary precautions to ensure that the information remains confidential.

3. The information referred to in paragraph 2 may not, in particular, be disclosed to persons other than those in the Member States or within the Union's institutions whose duties require that they have access to it, unless the Member State providing it has given its express consent.

4. The information referred to in paragraph 2 may not be used for any purposes other than the protection of the Union's financial interests unless the authorities that have provided it have given their express consent.

#### Article 6

#### Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2015.

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
Jean-Claude JUNCKER

**COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2015/1973****of 8 July 2015****supplementing Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 5(5) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The purpose of this Regulation is to determine which irregularities Member States should report to the Commission. In order to allow the Commission to perform its tasks concerning the protection of the financial interests of the Union, in particular to allow the Commission to perform risk analysis, it should also be established which data are to be provided.
- (2) Financial interests of the Union should be protected in the same way irrespective of the fund used to deliver the objectives for which it was established. To that end Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, as well as Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 <sup>(2)</sup>, (EU) No 1306/2013 <sup>(3)</sup>, and (EU) No 223/2014 <sup>(4)</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council, empower the Commission to adopt rules on the reporting of irregularities. To ensure that identical rules apply in respect of all the funds governed by those Regulations, it is necessary that this Regulation contains provisions identical to those in Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2015/1970 <sup>(5)</sup>, (EU) 2015/1971 <sup>(6)</sup> and (EU) 2015/1972 <sup>(7)</sup>.
- (3) The definition of 'irregularity' used for the purposes of this Regulation should be that of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 <sup>(8)</sup>. For the purposes of that definition, 'economic operator' should mean any natural or legal persons or other entity taking part in the implementation of assistance from the fund, with the exception of a Member State exercising its prerogatives as a public authority.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112.

<sup>(2)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549).

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

<sup>(5)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1970 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions for the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (see page 1 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(6)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1971 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 1848/2006 (see page 6 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(7)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1972 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (See page 11 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(8)</sup> Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).

- (4) To enable a coherent application of the reporting requirements across the Member States it is necessary to define the term 'suspected fraud', taking into account the definition of fraud contained in the Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests <sup>(1)</sup>, and the term 'primary administrative or judicial finding'.
- (5) Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 determine the reporting threshold below which irregularities do not need to be reported to the Commission and cases for which there is no need for reporting. In order to simplify and to align the provisions, and to strike a balance between the administrative burden on Member States and the common interest in the provision of accurate data for the purpose of analysis in the Union's fight against fraud, it is necessary to apply the same reporting threshold and the same derogations for the reporting of irregularities under Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013 and (EU) No 514/2014.
- (6) In order to ensure consistency of reporting it is necessary to establish criteria for determining when irregularities are to be initially reported and the data to be provided in such initial reports.
- (7) In order for the data provided to the Commission to be accurate, follow-up reporting is necessary. Member States should, therefore, provide the Commission with up-to-date information on any significant progress in the administrative and legal procedures or proceedings related to each initial report.
- (8) In light of Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(2)</sup> and Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(3)</sup> the Commission and the Member States should, in relation to the information provided pursuant to this Regulation, prevent any unauthorised disclosure of, or access to, personal data. In addition, this Regulation should specify the purposes for which the Commission and the Member States may process that data.
- (9) The United Kingdom and Ireland are bound by Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 and are as a consequence bound by this Regulation.
- (10) Denmark is not bound by Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, nor by this Regulation.
- (11) As payments have already been made for the funds concerned and irregularities could occur, the provisions of this Regulation should apply immediately. This Regulation should therefore enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### Article 1

##### **Subject matter**

This Regulation determines which irregularities are to be reported and establishes which data are to be provided by Member States to the Commission

#### Article 2

##### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

- (a) 'suspected fraud' means an irregularity that gives rise to the initiation of administrative or judicial proceedings at national level in order to establish the presence of intentional behaviour, in particular fraud, as referred to in Article 1(1)(a) of the Convention drawn up on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests;

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ C 316, 27.11.1995, p. 49.

<sup>(2)</sup> Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data (OJ L 281, 23.11.1995, p. 31).

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

- (b) 'primary administrative or judicial finding' means a first written assessment by a competent authority, either administrative or judicial, concluding on the basis of specific facts that an irregularity has been committed, without prejudice to the possibility that this conclusion may subsequently have to be revised or withdrawn as a result of developments in the course of the administrative or judicial procedure.

### Article 3

#### Initial reporting

1. Member States shall report irregularities to the Commission which:
  - (a) affect an amount that exceeds EUR 10 000 in contribution from the funds;
  - (b) have been the subject of a primary administrative or judicial finding.
2. In the initial report Member States shall provide the following information:
  - (a) the name and the Common Identification Code (CCI) number of the national programme and the reference of the project;
  - (b) the identity of the natural or legal persons concerned, or both, or of any other entity having a role in the commission of the irregularity and their role, except where that information is irrelevant for the purposes of combating irregularities, given the nature of the irregularity concerned;
  - (c) the region or area where the project has been carried out, identified using appropriate information such as the NUTS level;
  - (d) the provision or provisions which have been infringed;
  - (e) the date and source of the first information leading to the suspicion that an irregularity has been committed;
  - (f) the practices employed in committing the irregularity;
  - (g) where appropriate, whether the practice gives rise to suspected fraud;
  - (h) the manner in which the irregularity was discovered;
  - (i) where appropriate, the Member States and third countries involved;
  - (j) the period during which, or the date on which, the irregularity was committed;
  - (k) the date on which the primary administrative or judicial finding on the irregularity was established;
  - (l) the total amount of expenditure of the project expressed in terms of the Union's contribution, the national contribution and the private contribution;
  - (m) the amount affected by the irregularity, expressed in terms of the Union's contribution and the national contribution;
  - (n) in the case of suspected fraud, and where no payment of the public contribution has been made to the beneficiary, the amount which would have been unduly paid had the irregularity not been identified, expressed in terms of the Union's contribution and the national contribution;
  - (o) the nature of the irregular expenditure;
  - (p) the suspension of payments, where applicable, and the possibility of recovery of amounts paid.

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the Member States shall not report to the Commission irregularities in relation to the following:

- (a) cases where the irregularity consists solely of the failure to execute, in whole or in part, a project owing to the bankruptcy of the beneficiary;
- (b) cases brought to the attention of the responsible authority or the audit authority by the beneficiary voluntarily and before detection by either authority, whether before or after the payment of the public contribution;
- (c) cases which are detected and corrected by the responsible authority, or the audit authority, before inclusion of the expenditure concerned in a statement of expenditure submitted to the Commission.

In all other cases, in particular, those preceding a bankruptcy or in cases of suspected fraud, the detected irregularities and the associated preventive and corrective measures shall be reported to the Commission.

4. Where national provisions provide for the confidentiality of investigations, communication of the information shall be subject to the authorisation of the competent tribunal, court or other body in accordance with national rules.

#### *Article 4*

#### **Follow-up reporting**

1. Where some of the information referred to in Article 3(2), in particular information concerning the practices employed in committing the irregularity and the manner in which it was discovered, is not available or needs to be rectified, Member States shall provide the missing or correct information in follow-up reports of irregularities to the Commission.

2. Member States shall keep the Commission informed on the initiation, conclusion or abandonment of any procedures or proceedings for imposing administrative measures, administrative penalties, or criminal penalties with regard to the reported irregularities, as well as the outcome of those procedures or proceedings. With regard to irregularities for which penalties have been imposed, Member States shall also indicate:

- (a) whether the penalties are of an administrative or a criminal nature;
- (b) whether the penalties result from a breach of Union or national law and details of the penalties;
- (c) whether fraud was established.

3. At the Commission's written request the Member State shall provide information in relation to a specific irregularity or group of irregularities.

#### *Article 5*

#### **Use and processing of information**

1. The Commission may use any information provided by Member States in accordance with this Regulation to perform risk analysis, using information technology support, and may, on the basis of the information obtained, produce reports and develop systems serving to identify risks more effectively.

2. Information provided under this Regulation shall be covered by professional confidentiality and protected in the same way as it would be protected by the national legislation of the Member State that provided it and by the provisions applicable to the Union's institutions. Member States and the Commission shall take all necessary precautions to ensure that the information remains confidential.

3. The information referred to in paragraph 2 may not, in particular, be disclosed to persons other than those in the Member States or within the Union's institutions whose duties require that they have access to it, unless the Member State providing it has given its express consent.

4. The information referred to in paragraph 2 may not be used for any purposes other than the protection of the Union's financial interests unless the authorities that have provided it have given their express consent.

*Article 6*

**Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in the Member States in accordance with the Treaties.

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2015.

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
Jean-Claude JUNCKER

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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/1974****of 8 July 2015****setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular the sixth subparagraph of Article 122(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Member States are required to report irregularities pursuant to Article 122(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and in accordance with the provisions of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1970 <sup>(2)</sup>.
- (2) Financial interests of the Union should be protected in the same way irrespective of the fund used to deliver the objectives for which it was established. To that end Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, as well as Regulations (EU) No 1306/2013 <sup>(3)</sup>, (EU) No 223/2014 <sup>(4)</sup> and (EU) No 514/2014 <sup>(5)</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council, empower the Commission to adopt rules on the reporting of irregularities. To ensure that identical rules apply in respect of all the funds governed by those Regulations, it is necessary that this Regulation contains provisions identical to those in Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2015/1975 <sup>(6)</sup>, (EU) 2015/1976 <sup>(7)</sup> and (EU) 2015/1977 <sup>(8)</sup>.
- (3) In order to ensure an efficient analysis and overall management of cases of irregularity, Member States are required to submit to the Commission relevant information on detected irregularities on a regular and timely basis. In order to protect the Union's financial interests it is necessary to lay down uniform conditions for the submission of that information, in particular about its frequency and format.
- (4) In order to avoid an irregularity having repercussions outside the territory of the reporting Member State, that Member State should report any such irregularity to the Commission without delay.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1970 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (see page 1 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549).

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

<sup>(5)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime and crisis management (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112).

<sup>(6)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1975 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, under Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 23 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(7)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1976 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, under Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 26 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(8)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1977 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management, under Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 29 of this Official Journal).

- (5) In order to fully exploit the advantages derived from the use of electronic means for the exchange of information while preserving the security of exchanges, Member States should use the dedicated Irregularity Management System (IMS) provided on the Anti-Fraud Information System platform established by the Commission.
- (6) Member States and the Commission should ensure that transfer of data through the Irregularity Management System is performed in a secure manner allowing for availability, integrity, authenticity and confidentiality of information.
- (7) The use of the euro as the only currency for the reporting of irregularities is necessary to ensure the comparability of the information reported. For Member States which have not adopted the euro as their currency it is necessary to define the exchange rate to be used to convert the amounts concerned into euro and the exchange rate to be used to convert expenditure which has not been registered in the accounts of the certifying authority.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Coordination Committee for the European Structural and Investment Funds established by Article 150(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (9) As payments have already been made for the funds concerned and irregularities could occur, the provisions of this Regulation should be applicable immediately. This Regulation should therefore enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### *Article 1*

##### **Subject matter**

This Regulation sets out the frequency and format of the reporting of irregularities referred to in the sixth subparagraph of Article 122(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Frequency of the reporting of irregularities**

1. Within two months following the end of each quarter, Member States shall send to the Commission initial report on irregularities referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1970.
2. Member States shall send to the Commission the follow-up report referred to in Article 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1970 as soon as possible after obtaining the relevant information.
3. A Member State shall immediately report to the Commission irregularities discovered or supposed to have occurred, indicating any other Member States concerned, where the irregularities may have repercussions outside its territory.

#### *Article 3*

##### **Reporting format**

The information referred to in Articles 3 and 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1970 shall be sent by electronic means, using the Irregularity Management System, established by the Commission.

*Article 4***Use of the euro**

1. The amounts reported by Member States shall be denominated in euro.
2. Member States which have not adopted the euro as their currency by the date when the report under Article 3(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1970 is submitted shall convert amounts in national currency into euro in accordance with Article 133 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 or, where appropriate, Article 28 of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(1)</sup>. Where the expenditure has not been registered in the accounts of the certifying authority, the most recent monthly accounting exchange rate, published electronically by the Commission at the moment of initial reporting, shall be used.

*Article 5***Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2015.

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
Jean-Claude JUNCKER

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<sup>(1)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 259).

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/1975****of 8 July 2015****setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, under Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 50(2)(c) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Member States are required to report irregularities pursuant to Article 48(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 and in accordance with the provisions of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1971 <sup>(2)</sup>.
- (2) Financial interests of the Union should be protected in the same way irrespective of the fund used to deliver the objectives for which it was established. To that end Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013, as well as Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 <sup>(3)</sup>, (EU) No 223/2014 <sup>(4)</sup> and (EU) No 514/2014 <sup>(5)</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council, empower the Commission to adopt rules on the reporting of irregularities. To ensure that identical rules apply in respect of all the funds governed by those Regulations, it is necessary that this Regulation contains provisions identical to those in Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2015/1974 <sup>(6)</sup>, (EU) 2015/1976 <sup>(7)</sup> and (EU) 2015/1977 <sup>(8)</sup>.
- (3) In order to ensure an efficient analysis and overall management of cases of irregularity, Member States are required to submit to the Commission relevant information on detected irregularities on a regular and timely basis. In order to protect the Union's financial interests it is necessary to lay down uniform conditions for the submission of that information, in particular about its frequency and format.
- (4) In order to avoid an irregularity having repercussions outside the territory of the reporting Member State, that Member State should report any such irregularity to the Commission without delay.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549.

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1971 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 1848/2006 (see page 6 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

<sup>(5)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112).

<sup>(6)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1974 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 20 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(7)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1976 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, under Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 26 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(8)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1977 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management, under Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 29 of this Official Journal).

- (5) In order to fully exploit the advantages derived from the use of electronic means for the exchange of information while preserving the security of exchanges, Member States should use the dedicated Irregularity Management System (IMS) provided on the Anti-Fraud Information System platform established by the Commission.
- (6) Member States and the Commission should ensure that transfer of data through the Irregularity Management System is performed in a secure manner allowing for availability, integrity, authenticity and confidentiality of information.
- (7) The use of the euro as the only currency for the reporting of irregularities is necessary to ensure the comparability of the information reported. For Member States which have not adopted the euro as their currency it is necessary to define the exchange rate to be used to convert the amounts concerned into euro and the exchange rate to be used to convert expenditure which has not been registered in the accounts of the paying agency.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on the Agricultural Funds established by Article 116 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.
- (9) As payments have already been made for the funds concerned and irregularities could occur, the provisions of this Regulation should be applicable immediately. This Regulation should therefore enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### *Article 1*

#### **Subject matter**

This Regulation sets out the frequency and format of the reporting of irregularities referred to in Article 48(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013.

#### *Article 2*

#### **Frequency of the reporting of irregularities**

1. Within two months following the end of each quarter, Member States shall send to the Commission an initial report on irregularities referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1971.
2. Member States shall send to the Commission the follow-up report referred to in Article 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1971 as soon as possible after obtaining the relevant information.
3. A Member State shall immediately report to the Commission irregularities discovered or supposed to have occurred, indicating any other Member States concerned, where the irregularities may have repercussions outside its territory.

#### *Article 3*

#### **Reporting format**

The information referred to in Articles 3 and 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1971 shall be sent by electronic means, using the Irregularity Management System, established by the Commission.

*Article 4***Use of the euro**

1. The amounts reported by Member States shall be denominated in euro.
2. Member States which have not adopted the euro as their currency by the date when the report under Article 3(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1971 is submitted shall convert amounts in national currency into euro in accordance with Article 105 and Article 106 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013. Where the expenditure has not been registered in the accounts of the paying agency, the most recent monthly accounting exchange rate, published electronically by the Commission at the moment of initial reporting, shall be used.

*Article 5***Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2015.

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
Jean-Claude JUNCKER

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/1976****of 8 July 2015****setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, under Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular the sixth subparagraph of Article 30(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Member States are required to report irregularities pursuant to Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 and in accordance with the provisions of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1972 <sup>(2)</sup>.
- (2) Financial interests of the Union should be protected in the same way irrespective of the fund used to deliver the objectives for which it was established. To that end Regulation (EU) No 223/2014, as well as Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 <sup>(3)</sup>, (EU) No 1306/2013 <sup>(4)</sup> and (EU) No 514/2014 <sup>(5)</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council, empower the Commission to adopt rules on the reporting of irregularities. To ensure that identical rules apply in respect of all the funds governed by those Regulations, it is necessary that this Regulation contains provisions identical to those in Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2015/1974 <sup>(6)</sup> (EU) 2015/1975 <sup>(7)</sup> and (EU) 2015/1977 <sup>(8)</sup>.
- (3) In order to ensure an efficient analysis and overall management of cases of irregularity, Member States are required to submit to the Commission relevant information on detected irregularities on a regular and timely basis. In order to protect the Union's financial interests it is necessary to lay down uniform conditions for the submission of that information, in particular about its frequency and format.
- (4) In order to avoid an irregularity having repercussions outside the territory of the reporting Member State, that Member State should report any such irregularity to the Commission without delay.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1972 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (see page 11 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549).

<sup>(5)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112).

<sup>(6)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1974 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 20 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(7)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1975 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, under Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 23 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(8)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1977 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management, under Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 29 of this Official Journal).

- (5) In order to fully exploit the advantages derived from the use of electronic means for the exchange of information while preserving the security of exchanges, Member States should use the dedicated Irregularity Management System (IMS) provided on the Anti-Fraud Information System platform established by the Commission.
- (6) Member States and the Commission should ensure that transfer of data through the Irregularity Management System is performed in a secure manner allowing for availability, integrity, authenticity and confidentiality of information.
- (7) The use of the euro as the only currency for the reporting of irregularities is necessary to ensure the comparability of the information reported. For Member States which have not adopted the euro as their currency it is necessary to define the exchange rate to be used to convert the amounts concerned into euro and the exchange rate to be used to convert expenditure which has not been registered in the accounts of the certifying authority.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 63 of Regulation (EU) No 223/2014.
- (9) As payments have already been made for the fund concerned and irregularities could occur, the provisions of this Regulation should be applicable immediately. This Regulation should therefore enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### *Article 1*

#### **Subject matter**

This Regulation sets out the frequency and format of the reporting of irregularities referred to in the sixth subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 223/2014.

#### *Article 2*

#### **Frequency of the reporting of irregularities**

1. Within two months following the end of each quarter, Member States shall send to the Commission an initial report on irregularities referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1972.
2. Member States shall send to the Commission the follow-up report referred to in Article 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1972 as soon as possible, after obtaining the relevant information.
3. A Member State shall immediately report to the Commission irregularities discovered or supposed to have occurred, indicating any other Member States concerned, where the irregularities may have repercussions outside its territory.

#### *Article 3*

#### **Reporting format**

The information referred to in Articles 3 and 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1972 shall be sent by electronic means, using the Irregularity Management System, established by the Commission.

*Article 4***Use of the euro**

1. The amounts reported by Member States shall be denominated in euro.
2. Member States which have not adopted the euro as their currency by the date when the report under Article 3(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1972 is submitted shall convert amounts in national currency into euro in accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 223/2014. Where the expenditure has not been registered in the accounts of the certifying authority, the most recent monthly accounting exchange rate, published electronically by the Commission at the moment of initial reporting, shall be used.

*Article 5***Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2015.

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
Jean-Claude JUNCKER

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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/1977****of 8 July 2015****setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management, under Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management <sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 5(6) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Member States are required to report irregularities pursuant to Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 and in accordance with the provisions of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1973 <sup>(2)</sup>.
- (2) Financial interests of the Union should be protected in the same way irrespective of the fund used to deliver the objectives for which it was established. To that end Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, as well as Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 <sup>(3)</sup>, (EU) No 1306/2013 <sup>(4)</sup> and (EU) No 223/2014 <sup>(5)</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council, empower the Commission to adopt rules on the reporting of irregularities. To ensure that identical rules apply in respect of all the funds governed by those Regulations, it is necessary that this Regulation contains provisions identical to those in Commission Implementing Regulations (EU) 2015/1974 <sup>(6)</sup>, (EU) 2015/1975 <sup>(7)</sup> and (EU) 2015/1976 <sup>(8)</sup>.
- (3) In order to ensure an efficient analysis and overall management of cases of irregularity, Member States are required to submit to the Commission relevant information on detected irregularities on a regular and timely basis. In order to protect the Union's financial interests it is necessary to lay down uniform conditions for the submission of that information, in particular about its frequency and format.
- (4) In order to avoid an irregularity having repercussions outside the territory of the reporting Member State, that Member State should report any such irregularity to the Commission without delay.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112.

<sup>(2)</sup> Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1973 of 8 July 2015 supplementing Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council with specific provisions on the reporting of irregularities concerning the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (see page 15 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(3)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

<sup>(4)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the financing, management and monitoring of the common agricultural policy and repealing Council Regulations (EEC) No 352/78, (EC) No 165/94, (EC) No 2799/98, (EC) No 814/2000, (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 485/2008 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 549).

<sup>(5)</sup> Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (OJ L 72, 12.3.2014, p. 1).

<sup>(6)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1974 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, under Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 20 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(7)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1975 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, under Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 23 of this Official Journal).

<sup>(8)</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1976 of 8 July 2015 setting out the frequency and the format of the reporting of irregularities concerning the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived, under Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council (see page 26 of this Official Journal).

- (5) In order to fully exploit the advantages derived from the use of electronic means for the exchange of information, while preserving the security of exchanges, Member States should use the dedicated Irregularity Management System (IMS) provided on the Anti-Fraud Information System platform established by the Commission.
- (6) Member States and the Commission should ensure that transfer of data through the Irregularity Management System is performed in a secure manner allowing for availability, integrity, authenticity and confidentiality of information.
- (7) The use of the euro as the only currency for the reporting of irregularities is necessary to ensure the comparability of the information reported. For Member States which have not adopted the euro as their currency it is necessary to define the exchange rate to be used to convert the amounts concerned into euro and the exchange rate to be used to convert expenditure which has not been registered in the accounts of the responsible authority.
- (8) The United Kingdom and Ireland are bound by Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 and are as a consequence bound by this Regulation.
- (9) Denmark is not bound by Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, or by this Regulation.
- (10) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Asylum, Migration and Integration and Internal Security Funds Committee established by Article 59 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.
- (11) As payments have already been made for the fund and irregularities could occur, the provisions of this Regulation should be applicable immediately. This Regulation should therefore enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

#### *Article 1*

##### **Subject matter**

This Regulation sets out the frequency and format of the reporting of irregularities referred to in Article 5(2) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

#### *Article 2*

##### **Frequency of the reporting of irregularities**

1. Within two months following the end of each quarter, Member States shall send to the Commission an initial report on irregularities referred to in Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1973.
2. Member States shall send to the Commission the follow-up report referred to in Article 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1973 as soon as possible after obtaining the relevant information.
3. A Member State shall immediately report to the Commission irregularities discovered or supposed to have occurred, indicating any other Member States concerned, where the irregularities may have repercussions outside its territory.

#### *Article 3*

##### **Reporting format**

The information referred to in Articles 3 and 4 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1973 shall be sent by electronic means, using the Irregularity Management System, established by the Commission.

*Article 4***Use of the euro**

1. The amounts reported by Member States shall be denominated in euro.
2. Member States which have not adopted the euro as their currency by the date when the report under Article 3(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/1973 is submitted shall convert amounts in national currency into euro in accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014. Where the expenditure has not been registered in the accounts of the responsible authority, the most recent monthly accounting exchange rate, published electronically by the Commission at the moment of initial reporting, shall be used.

*Article 5***Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in the Member States in accordance with the Treaties.

Done at Brussels, 8 July 2015.

*For the Commission*  
*The President*  
Jean-Claude JUNCKER

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