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COMMISSION DECISION

of 15 December 2004

setting up an executive agency, the 'Executive Agency for the Public Health Programme', for the management of Community action in the field of public health — pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003

(2004/858/EC)

(OJ L 369, 16.12.2004, p. 73)

Amended by:

		Official Journal		
		No	page	date
►**M1**	Commission Decision 2008/544/EC of 20 June 2008	L 173	27	3.7.2008

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(2004/858/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003 of 19 December 2002 laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes [1], and in particular Article 3(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EC) No 58/2003 empowers the Commission to set up executive agencies in accordance with the general statute laid down by the said Regulation and to entrust them with certain management tasks relating to one or more Community programmes; this Decision does not affect the scope of the Regulation.

(2) The purpose of empowering the Commission to set up executive agencies is to allow it to focus on core activities and functions which cannot be outsourced, without relinquishing control over, or ultimate responsibility for, activities managed by the said executive agencies.

(3) Management of the programme of Community action in the field of public health, adopted by Decision No 1786/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002 [2], involves implementation of technical projects which do not entail political decision-making and requires a high level of technical and financial expertise throughout the project cycle.

(4) The delegation to an executive agency of tasks related to programme implementation is possible, with a clear separation between the project programming stage, which is the task of the Commission, and the project implementation stage, which would be entrusted to the executive agency.

(5) A cost-benefit study carried out for that purpose showed that the executive agency would be a more economical means of improving the effectiveness of the way in which the public health programme is implemented. Based on the characteristics of this programme, the emphasis is on delegating technical tasks, the main aim being to strengthen the connections between the said Community programme and communities of experts in the Member States.

(6) The agency will have to mobilise high-level expertise in order to meet the objectives defined by the Commission and under its control. The agency will also have to make it possible to optimise the implementation of the programme by facilitating the recruitment of specialists in public health matters.

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[1] OJ L 11, 16.1.2003, p. 1.

[2] OJ L 271, 9.10.2002, p. 1. Decision as last amended by Decision No 786/2004/EC (OJ L 138, 30.4.2004, p. 7).

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(7) In addition to its tasks in the long term, the agency will improve flexibility in the implementation of the programme. The agency's annual work programme will ensure that it supports the setting of annual priorities for the implementation of the public health programme, arranged and decided by the Commission following the opinion of the programme committee.

(8) Management based on the results obtained by the agency, together with the establishment of the necessary procedures and channels of control and coordination, will make it possible to simplify the ways in which the programme is implemented by the Commission. The Commission will be able to capitalise on the technical work carried out by the agency, by developing, in parallel and in an appropriate manner, tasks which require political discretion. The Commission will also develop tasks relating to the implementation of the programme which it would be inappropriate to entrust to the agency.

(9) Cooperation between the agency and the Commission, and the accomplishment of the agency's specific tasks as regards disseminating information and providing assistance to networks, should help to raise the profile of Community action in the field of public health.

(10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee for Executive Agencies,

DECIDES:

Article 1

Establishment

1. An executive agency for the management of the Community programme in the field of public health (the Agency), the statute of which is laid down in Regulation (EC) No 58/2003, is hereby established.

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2. The name of the Agency shall be the ‘Executive Agency for Health and Consumers.’

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Article 2

Location

The Agency shall be located in Luxembourg.

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Article 3

Duration

The Agency shall carry out its tasks from 1 January 2005 until 31 December 2015.

Article 4

Objectives and tasks

1. The Agency shall be responsible for carrying out the following implementation tasks for the management of the second Public Health Programme 2008-2013 as adopted by Decision No 1350/2007/EC, the Consumer programme for 2007-2013 as adopted by Decision No

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1926/2006/EC and the food safety training measures covered by Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Directive 2000/29/EC:

(a) managing the phases in the lifetime of specific projects to be defined by the Commission in the instrument of delegation within the meaning of Article 6(3) of Regulation (EC) No 58/2003 in the context of implementing the above referred Community programmes and measures, as well as the necessary checks to that end, by taking the relevant decisions where the Commission has empowered it to do so;

(b) adopting the instruments of budget implementation for revenue and expenditure and carrying out, where the Commission has empowered it to do so, all the operations necessary to implement the above referred Community programmes and measures and, in particular, those linked to the award of contracts and grants;

(c) gathering, analysing and transmitting to the Commission all the information needed to guide and evaluate the implementation of the above referred Community programmes and measures.

2. The Agency shall also manage all the phases in the lifetime of the implementing measures delegated to it in the framework of the programme of Community action in the field of public health 2003-2008, adopted by Decision No 1786/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002.

3. The Commission decision delegating authority to the Agency shall set out in detail all the tasks entrusted to it. The Commission decision will be transmitted, for information, to the committee established by Article 24 of Regulation (EC) No 58/2003.

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Article 5

Organisational structure

1. The Agency shall be managed by a Steering Committee and a Director appointed by the Commission.

2. The members of the Steering Committee shall be appointed for two years.

3. The Director shall be appointed for four years.

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Article 6

Grants

The Agency shall receive subsidies which shall be entered in the general budget of the European Communities from the funds allocated to the second Public Health Programme 2008-2013 as adopted by Decision No 1350/2007/EC, the Consumer programme for 2007-2013 as adopted by Decision No 1926/2006/EC and the food safety training measures covered by Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 and Directive 2000/29/EC.

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Article 7

Supervision and reporting requirement

The Agency shall be subject to supervision by the Commission and shall report regularly on progress in implementing the programmes for which it is responsible, in accordance with the arrangements and at the intervals stipulated in the instrument of delegation.

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Article 8

Implementation of the operating budget

The Agency shall implement its operating budget in accordance with the provisions of the standard financial regulation ([1]).

([1]) Commission Regulation (EC) No 1653/2004 of 21 September 2004 on a standard financial regulation for the executive agencies pursuant to Council Regulation (EC) No 58/2003 laying down the statute for executive agencies to be entrusted with certain tasks in the management of Community programmes (OJ L 297, 22.9.2004, p. 6).