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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 23.8.2022**

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2022  
Part 1**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2022 Part 1

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 23(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2022 Part 1, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The action plan provided for in this Decision comprises actions that contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Asia Pacific region for the period 2021-2027<sup>4</sup>. The programme supports the regional priorities and EU interests in full complementarity, coherence and synergy with country and thematic programmes in the following broad areas: Green Deal; digital agenda; sustainable jobs and sustainable growth; migration, forced displacement and mobility; peace and security, governance and rule of law; and multilateralism. The

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

<sup>4</sup> Commission Implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Asia Pacific region for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9251 final of 15.12.2021.

programme sets out the following priority areas: regional integration and cooperation; pursuing EU interests with key partners; and migration, forced displacement and mobility.

- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ are to address global challenges (e.g. climate change; a just and clean energy transition; biodiversity; ocean management; migration and forced displacement; green, digital and resilient supply chains) as well as support multilateralism, promote EU values and interests, and support EU trade and investments with key partners in the region. The objectives of this plan will be pursued in a Team Europe approach and in a direction consistent with the external dimension of the European Green Deal, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the EU’s geopolitical priorities, in line with the EU Strategy for the Indo-Pacific and related areas of the Global Gateway.
- (6) The action entitled ‘**Kiwa Initiative II – Nature-based solutions for climate resilience**’ represents a new phase of the existing Kiwa initiative, a joint Pacific initiative to build on an international coalition of donors to be able to take prompt and efficient action on adaptation to climate change and biodiversity. The action aims at making Pacific Island ecosystems, economies and communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change through improved donor coordination in alignment with regional priorities while also facilitating access to funds for project developers and strengthening capacity for project development.
- (7) The action entitled ‘**Pacific solutions: Integrated Ocean management**’ will prepare the ground for a larger project “Pacific solutions for a healthy Blue Pacific Continent: integrated ocean management to sustain livelihoods today and in the Future”. The action will be strengthening ocean governance in Pacific Island countries, including in Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, mainly through improved capacity to harness science and knowledge to inform and implement integrated ocean management across the Blue Pacific.
- (8) The action entitled ‘**Pacific NDC hub**’ will help the Pacific Island Countries to finance and implement their respective National Determined Contributions, driving sustainable and resilient development and transition to a low carbon development pathway. The action will support the 13 Pacific Island Countries and Papua New Guinea, already members of the Pacific NDC Hub. Efforts to widen the geographic scope of the NDC Hub to include Timor Leste will be included.
- (9) The action entitled ‘**Enhancing the role of EU in multilateral fora in Asia and supporting the Asia-Europe Foundation**’ aims at boosting the EU’s influence in the region and to help position the EU in a way that is conducive to advance its interests and values in and with Asian partners at a time of numerous regional and global geopolitical and sustainability challenges. To contribute to reach this overall objective, the action addresses three main existing fora, namely the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). This is complemented by working with non-government actors, in particular through the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF).
- (10) The action entitled ‘**Prottasha II - Sustainable reintegration of Bangladeshi returnees and improved migration governance**’ will provide social, psychosocial and economic reintegration assistance to Bangladeshi returnees, including from the

EU, transit countries<sup>5</sup> and other third countries and awareness-raising on safe and legal migration and return, including on perils of irregular migration. At the same time, it will foster ownership of the Bangladeshi authorities by strengthening their capacity and contributing to better coordination between national and local authorities on sustainable reintegration.

- (11) The action entitled **‘Support for EU trade, gender, consumer safety, migration, employment and social affairs policies in China’** intends to promote EU values and interests in the bilateral relations with China, in line with our multi-faceted approach.
- (12) The action entitled **‘Public and Cultural Diplomacy in China’** aims to contribute to building a more favourable context for EU-China dialogues, intensifying bilateral relations and advancement of the EU’s policy priorities in China, by means of nurturing mutual trust and establishing networks, alliances and partnerships with target audiences and key stakeholders in China.
- (13) The action entitled **‘Business to Business (B2B) cooperation with Japan and the Republic of Korea’** aims to strengthen the presence and visibility of EU companies in Japan and the Republic of Korea through an increase and diversification of export and/or investments and more resilient, green and digital value chains.
- (14) The action entitled **‘Support Facility for the implementation of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement’** aims to improve conditions for EU companies accessing the Japanese market through an increase and diversification of exports and/or investments and more resilient, green and digital value chains.
- (15) The action entitled **‘Responsible Business Conduct for green, digital and resilient supply chains in Asia’** aims to contribute to enhancing convergence and alignment around responsible business conduct (RBC) policies and practices in Asia, based on internationally-recognised RBC rules and standards for global supply chains, with a view to build a level playing field for businesses and promote due diligence-related EU policies.
- (16) The action entitled **‘EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition’** aims to to deepen engagement between EU and GCC stakeholders in the area of climate change and to promote the uptake of green transition policies and technologies by the GCC countries.
- (17) In accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the action described in Annex IV is of a trans-regional nature, fostering regional cooperation with Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The action's objective and design fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance established by the OECD/DAC, as per the requirements of Article 3(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 agenda by forging international partnerships at continental, intra- and inter-regional levels which are aligned with EU external priorities, principles and values, to facilitate cooperation across policy areas, promoting cultural cooperation between Europe and Asia and reinforcing security and

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<sup>5</sup> The country through which migration flows (regular or irregular) move. In the context of this Action this means the country (or countries), different from the country of origin, which a migrant passes through in order to enter an EU Member State country.

defence cooperation, inclusive and democratic governance and conflict resolution and prevention, counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism and cooperation on cyber security and organised crime. It also contributes to implementation of the EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership, through policy dialogue and cooperation, responding to Global Challenges, and regional integration.

Due to the project's nature and the importance to ensure complete regional coverage, the eligibility of the action extends exceptionally to Canada, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as their participation constitutes a substantial element to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing and to foster regional cooperation.

- (18) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (19) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (20) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions described in Annexes I, II, III, V, VI and X.
- (21) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation.

To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation<sup>6</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (22) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (23) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (24) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1* *The action plan*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2022 Part 1, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) 'Kiwa Initiative II – Nature-based solutions for climate resilience' set out in Annex I;

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<sup>6</sup> Except for the cases referred to in Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

- (b) 'Pacific solutions: Integrated Ocean management' set out in Annex II;
- (c) 'Pacific NDC hub' set out in Annex III;
- (d) 'Enhancing the role of EU in multilateral fora in Asia and supporting the Asia-Europe Foundation' set out in Annex IV;
- (e) 'Prottasha II: Sustainable reintegration of Bangladeshi returnees and improved migration governance' set out in Annex V;
- (f) 'Support for EU trade, gender, consumer safety, migration, employment and social affairs policies in China' set out in Annex VI;
- (g) 'Public and Cultural Diplomacy in China' set out in Annex VII;
- (h) 'Business to Business (B2B) cooperation with Japan and the Republic of Korea' set out in Annex VIII;
- (i) 'Support Facility for the implementation of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement' set out in Annex IX;
- (j) 'Responsible Business Conduct for green, digital and resilient supply chains in Asia' set out in Annex X;
- (k) 'EU-GCC Cooperation on Green Transition' set out in Annex XI.

## *Article 2*

### *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2022 Part 1 is set at EUR 73 150 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line BGUE-B2022-14.020130: EUR 3 000 000;
- (b) budget line BGUE-B2022-14.020131: EUR 59 650 000;
- (c) budget line BGUE-B2022-14.020132: EUR 10 500 000.

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

## *Article 3*

### *Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons*

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in Annexes I, II, III, V, VI and X, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.1 of Annexes I, II and III, point 4.3.2 of Annexes V and VI and point 4.2.1 of Annex X.

## *Article 4*

### *Flexibility clause*

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes<sup>7</sup> to the allocations of specific

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<sup>7</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation (provided that these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions).

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

*Article 5*  
*Grants and procurement*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex IV. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to under point 4.3.1 of Annex IV, selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of Annex IV.

Launching a call for tender under a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in point 4.3.2 of Annex IV and 4.3.1 of Annex XI.

Done at Brussels, 23.8.2022

*For the Commission*  
*Jutta URPILAINEN*  
*Member of the Commission*