



Brussels, 15.12.2023
C(2023) 9080 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 15.12.2023

**on the financing of the Annual Action Plan in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean
– part III – for 2024**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

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 966/2012¹, 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 480/2009², and in particular Article 23(2) for action plans thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Annual Action Plan in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean for 2024 part III, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2024. 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁴ and in the Inter-institutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources⁵.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

³ 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.

⁴ COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁵ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Americas and the Caribbean⁶ for the period 2021-2027, which prioritises the green transition, digital transformation, sustainable and inclusive economy, democratic governance, security and migration as well as social cohesion and addressing inequalities.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Americas and the Caribbean’ are to support both the agricultural green transition and the digital transition as well as to create an environment conducive to improving EU-Argentina trade and investment links.
- (6) The action entitled ‘Strengthening the Private Sector in the context of the digital transition in Argentina’ will strengthen the EU chambers of commerce ecosystem in Argentina as well as level-up Argentina’s digital policy and regulatory framework.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Supporting Agricultural Green Transition in Argentina’ will link small local agricultural producers with community food centres whilst boosting local sustainable food-production clusters as well as develop a public policy proposal promote a greener and more sustainable food system based on local resources.
- (8) The objective and design of the action are to 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. The countries benefiting from the action which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action document.
- (9) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (11) 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 Regulation⁷ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (12) 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.
- (13) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to determine the changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (14) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the NDICI-Global Europe Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947,

⁶ Decision C(2021)9356 of 13.12.2021.

⁷ 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.

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 Americas and the Caribbean for 2024 part III, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Strengthening the Private Sector in the context of the digital transition in Argentina’ set out in Annex I;
- (b) ‘Supporting Agricultural Green Transition in Argentina’ set out in Annex II.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 is set at EUR 10 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line

- (a) ‘The Americas’ 14.020140: EUR 10 000 000

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2024, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

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 the Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.1.1 of Annex I and point 4.3 of Annex II.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific 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, where 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 & Procurement

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred in point 4.3.1 of the Annexes I and II.

Done at Brussels, 15.12.2023

For the Commission
Margaritis SCHINAS
Vice-President