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C(2024) 7721 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 29.10.2024**

**on the financing of the individual measure in favour of the Pacific region for 2024**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union<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(1) and (3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the individual measure in favour of the Pacific region for 2024, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which is to constitute the annual work programme, for 2024, in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('the Financial Regulation').
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) 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.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the measure, it is appropriate to determine the changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) The action entitled 'Vanuatu Sustainable and Inclusive Rural Development Programme (VaVaC II)' provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate, and biodiversity and gender equality mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication "The European Green Deal"<sup>4</sup> and the Inter-institutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 on budgetary discipline, on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 239, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1., ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>.

<sup>3</sup> See [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> COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources<sup>5</sup>.

- (6) The Commission has adopted the Pacific Multi-Country Multi-annual Indicative Programme<sup>6</sup> for the period 2021-2027<sup>7</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: to provide a response to global warming in terms of mitigation, adaptation and resilience and to support integrated approaches to ecosystem management and circular economy; to create opportunities for income, jobs and growth, while at the same time contributing to climate and environmental goals as well as economic diversification; to advance universal values and promote gender equality, tackling the widespread problem of violence against women and children and to create the enabling environment for civil society.
- (7) The objectives pursued by the individual measure to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ are to contribute to promote climate-resilient food systems in Vanuatu, to support the EU’s partnership with Civil Society Organisations and to strengthen EU’s engagement with young people in the Pacific region.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Vanuatu Sustainable and Inclusive Rural Development Programme (VaVaC II)’ will support the government budget to create fiscal space for rural development, and specifically support climate-resilient production, value addition, trade, safety and quality.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Technical Cooperation Facility for Pacific Civil Society Organisations and Youth’ aims to support the EU’s partnership with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the Pacific region by promoting an enabling environment for civil society and ensuring that targeted technical support is provided to CSOs (whether linked to advocacy, monitoring of civic space or contract management and implementation). Moreover, it will strengthen EU’s engagement with young people in the Pacific by creating a structured framework for collaboration with youth in the form of a Pacific Youth Sounding Board.
- (10) The objective and design of the actions 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 the support to their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The countries benefiting from the action which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action documents.
- (11) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (12) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

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<sup>5</sup> Interinstitutional 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 resources (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_interinst/2020/1222/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinst/2020/1222/oj)).

<sup>6</sup> C(2021) 9052 final of 14.12.2021.

<sup>7</sup> Commission Implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for countries in the Pacific for the period 2021-2027, C(2021) 9052 final of 14.12.2021.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The measure*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual measure for the implementation of the individual measure in favour of the Pacific region for year 2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Vanuatu Sustainable and Inclusive Rural Development Programme (VaVaC II)’ set out in Annex I;
- (b) ‘Technical Cooperation Facility for Pacific Civil Society Organisations and Youth’ set out in Annex II.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the measure for 2024 is set at EUR 19 500 000<sup>8</sup>, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line BGUE-B2024-14.020132-C1-INTPA of the general budget of the Union.

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

*Article 3*  
*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<sup>9</sup> 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 provided that those 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.

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<sup>8</sup> This amount must include the appropriations corresponding to assigned revenue, if they are available at the time the financing decision is adopted. This amount must also include the total amount of all foreseen instalments in case of budgetary commitments broken down into annual instalments over multiple budgetary years.

<sup>9</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

*Article 4*  
*Procurement*

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 4.4.1 of Annex I.

Done at Brussels, 29.10.2024

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