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THIS ACTION IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

ANNEX III

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan part I in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean for 2022

Action Document for the EU-Canada Policy Dialogues Support Facility Phase II

ANNUAL

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans/measures in the sense of Article 23(2) of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title OPSYS business reference Basic Act	EU-Canada Policy Dialogues Support Facility – Phase II OPSYS number: ACT-60959 Financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in Canada
4. Programming document	MIP for the Americas and the Caribbean 2021-2027 ¹
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	Cooperation with Canada. Support to policy dialogues and people to people exchanges in the framework of the EU Canada Strategic Partnership.
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION	
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	All sectors covered by EU-Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Main SDG: 17 - Partnerships for the Goals Other significant SDGs: 7 - Affordable and clean energy 8 - Decent work and economic growth 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure 12 - Responsible production and consumption 13 - Climate Action

¹ Pan America window: [...] This window will include support to those countries without a specific MIP in Latin America, namely Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela. It will also contribute to the EU's engagement with the US and Canada, including public diplomacy, people-to-people contacts and policy outreach.

	14 - Life Below Water 15 - Life on Land 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions			
8 a) DAC code(s)	99810 Sectors not specified			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	Private Sector in Provider Country- 61000			
9. Involvement of multilateral partners	No			
10. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
11. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women's and girl's empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital governance		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital entrepreneurship		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital skills/literacy		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital services		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Connectivity @ transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
13. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14 02 01 40 Total estimated cost: EUR 2 800 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 2 800 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
14. Type of financing	Direct management through: Procurement			

1.2 Summary of the Action

This action proposes to provide additional funds to the EU-Canada Policy Dialogue Support Facility (PDSF) and to extend for three years the duration of the current contract. PDSF (EUR 2.8 M) is funded by the Partnership Instrument and implemented since February 2019 and will conclude in December 2022. It has demonstrated to be a useful tool to support the implementation of the EU Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement-SPA and the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement- CETA.

It will continue to strengthen EU-Canada engagement by supporting activities that will help advance bilateral dialogues in key priority areas. Notably it will facilitate existing EU-Canada dialogues in attaining their objectives and support the establishment of new ones as required.

Dialogue between EU and Canada is rich including summit level, ministerial, senior officials, Members of Parliament and working levels. Consultations are held in a wide array of issues such as political cooperation, foreign policy, security and defence, trade and trade related matters, geographical and thematic issues.

In line with the overall strategic framework defined by the Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy ('Global Strategy')² and Commission Priorities, the project will continue supporting, through expert, logistical assistance, intelligence gathering, and people to people initiatives, the implementation of sectoral and high level dialogues and other cooperation and partnership agreements between the EU and Canada.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

Canada is one of the EU's closest partners and allies. Respect for democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms and a commitment to the rules-based international order underpin this relationship. In 2016, the EU and Canada signed the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and Comprehensive Economic and Trade

² COM(2017)650

Agreement (CETA), lifting the relationship to a new level. The EU and Canada are also close partners in the framework of the G7 and G20.

The SPA has institutionalised an already strong EU-Canada collaboration. It foresees (1) several consultation mechanisms, including summits, meetings at foreign minister level, consultations at ministerial level, consultations of officials at senior and working level, the promotion of exchanges of delegations from the European Parliament and the Parliament of Canada, (2) a Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) and (3) a Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC). The dialogues allow the European Union and Canada not only to exchange information but also to ensure coordination whenever possible and to explore ways to expand the areas to work together.

CETA is an ambitious and inclusive trade agreement, demonstrating our mutual commitment to the rules-based multilateral trading system and to sustainable development. It provisionally entered into force on September 21, 2017. Full implementation will follow when all EU Member States ratify the agreement (12 MS ratification still needed). The balance of these four years is very positive: compared with 2016 – the last full year before CETA entered into force – total trade flows between the EU and Canada witnessed an increase of 15.3% for goods in 2020 despite the pandemic. Similarly, trade in agricultural goods increased 34.7% in 2020 compared to 2016. The picture is very positive on both sides. CETA's governance structure has been established.

Political Dialogues and consultation between EU and Canada exist on a wide range of matters (over 25), including on Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East, Human Rights, UN matters, security and defence, energy, climate, ocean governance, migration and development. EU and Canada have also set up cooperation on sectors of mutual priority, such as the Strategic Partnership on Raw Materials or global scope, such as the Global Action on Artificial Intelligence to name some examples.

The MIP for the Americas and the Caribbean 2021-2027 includes a specific chapter to support cooperation with US and Canada and more specifically with Canada to support policy dialogue and people to people engagement. Therefore the current Action is fully aligned with NDICI's objectives.

2.2 Problem Analysis

Short problem Analysis:

In a changing geopolitical context the European Union needs to strengthen its partnership with like-minded countries such as Canada. Working together to tackle global challenges (e.g. security, climate change or access to energy and raw materials) and to promote a world order based on shared principles and values is essential. However the partnership with Canada cannot be taken as granted, generational and demographical changes are shifting the interest towards other regions of the globe, i.e., the Pacific.

This is why it is important to maximize the use of the political, policy and trade mechanisms already in place for EU cooperation with Canada, and more specifically the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and the Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA)

The EU has a wide range of policy and political dialogues with Canada at different levels. In order to maximise the impact of those dialogues there is a need to make them more insightful, inclusive and strategic, by :

- Supporting the preparation, implementation and follow up of those dialogues by gathering intelligence, promoting networking, putting together specialised papers which can help to deepen the content of the matters discussed in the framework of the dialogues and to make them more strategic and focused.
- Expanding the reach out of the dialogues by engaging with specialists within both administrations and with non-governmental, provincial and local stakeholders. The Action will therefore promote through these means a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of the priority topics.
- Increasing awareness and engagement on these partnerships areas and processes and building joint responses to global challenges.

The key stakeholders are:

- EU and Canadian Federal government, institutions, agencies, services and other relevant bodies;
- EU Member States and Canadian provincial institutions and bodies, according to the subject area;

- European and Canadian academia, think tanks and civil society, including social partners (trade unions and employer organisations) as well as youth organisations, the private sector, according to subject area;
- Local governments, professional, business organisations or other similar bodies, as appropriate and according to subject area.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective** (Impact) of this action is to contribute to strengthening and further enlarging the strategic partnership between the EU and Canada

The **Specific Objectives (Outcomes)** of this action are to

1. To support dialogue in specific EU priority areas and of mutual interest with Canada, namely the implementation of the EU-Canada SPA and other relevant agreements concluded between the EU and the Canadian Federal Government
2. To support dialogue in specific EU priority areas and of mutual interest with Canada related to the CETA

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objectives (Outcomes) are

O1 contributing to Outcome 1 (or Specific Objective 1)

Cooperation in shared priority areas of SPA is reinforced and concrete preparatory and follow-up measures to policy dialogues are put in place and implemented;

O2 contributing to Outcome 2 (or Specific Objective 2)

Bilateral cooperation in support of initiatives to facilitate and support the implementation of CETA is established

O3 contributing to Outcome 1 and 2

Synergies in terms of business opportunities for EU companies in Canada are created in the context of the dialogues

O4 contributing to Outcome 1 and 2

Updated information on the evolution and “state of the art” contents and results of the different dialogues are available and regularly disseminated.

3.2 Indicative Activities

The indicative project activities included in this section will contribute to the achievement of all the outputs and specific objectives referred to in point 3.1 - The preparation of baselines, benchmarking, mapping, specific sector studies, polls, etc.

- The organization of events (conferences, seminars, workshops, training, experts meetings, mutual technical visits and other exchanges activities, press conferences, etc.) within the scope of the priority topics identified, including business-related events;
- The provision of specialised technical assistance to relevant stakeholders from the EU and Canada
- The support of exchanges between Canadian and EU Stakeholders, experts, civil society and social partners;
- Developing focused clusters of activities as part of medium-term engagement strategies for limited selected priority topics (e.g. raw materials, energy efficiency, circular economy or digital)
- The consolidation and further development of monitoring, communication and visibility tools.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Fight against Climate change and Environmental Protection are key policies to be supported through this action in line with the EU Green Deal and the post-COVID- Green Recovery strategy

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that equal gender participation will be promoted in all activities and that some specific gender activities will be designed in the framework of EU Canada dialogues or CETA implementation.

Human Rights

Human Rights is specifically targeted as part of the policy dialogues included under SPA

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that although the fact that online events may benefit the participation of some disabled people and, also because of COVID 19, the Action will continue supporting virtual and hybrid events, it is not expected to directly support disability related activities.

Democracy

Security, defence and support of rule of law are topics in which the action is specifically already supporting activities and will continue to do so under the extended period.

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The action will support engagement with Canada on promoting multilateralism as well as peace building and conflict prevention

Disaster Risk Reduction

NA

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category³	Risks	Likelihood (High/Medium/Low)	Impact (High/Medium/Low)	Mitigating measures
1	COVID 19 pandemic	Medium	Low	The Action has already demonstrated that it can effectively perform with Covid related restrictions.
5	Poor availability of EU institutions and services to get involved in the actions, including the necessary provision of human resources needed to steer them.	Medium	Medium	Strategic selection of the areas of intervention, in line with EU's interests and policy priorities. Extensive internal coordination among EU services.

³ The risk (category) can be related 1-to the external environment; 2-to planning, processes and systems; 3-to people and the organisation; 4-to legality and regularity aspects; 5-to communication and information.

1	Irritants coming from political developments, trade-related disputes or others, negatively affecting bilateral relations	Low	Low	Careful monitoring of the bilateral agenda and continuous engagement with Canadian counterparts by the EU Delegation. The project will be informed by the EU Delegation of relevant political developments so as to adapt to evolving circumstances.
2	Overlaps with activities from other DGs or EU Member States	Medium	Low	Internal monitoring and informal coordination with MS through the EU Delegation in Ottawa and through the EEAS in Brussels; ensure enough flexibility to avoid overlaps.
2	Scattered activities can dilute the impact of the facility	Medium	Medium	This Action will allow the possibility to develop inter-connected clusters of activities as part of medium-term strategies on priority topics

Lessons Learnt:

A global evaluation of past and ongoing similar actions funded under the Partnership Instrument is currently ongoing. The results of this evaluation will be integrated in the implementation phase of this action.

After three years of implementation of the Facility, including the period of COVID 19 pandemic, the following lessons have been learnt:

1. It is important to increase the engagement of EU Services and Member States, whereas human resources limitations may present a challenge
2. It is important that PDSF is systematically used as the tool to support the operationalisation of High level dialogue outcomes and Sectoral Dialogue road maps.
3. It is recommended to maintain the same level of flexibility and rapid response but at the same time to try to maximize the impact of the activities ensuring that the result of the actions feed into the high level political dialogue.
4. Having to rely on virtual activities for two years, has showed the capacity of online events to increase participation from EU and Canada stakeholders and to reach out to more participants from the EU and Canada.
5. The development of a mix of interconnected activities to respond to identified priorities may help to support policy dialogues content-wise, improving peer to peer cooperation while decreasing the burden on EU services.
6. It is necessary to systematically bring in communication units from Delegation, Commission Services and EEAS to ensure that communication material produced by the project is efficiently used and disseminated.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that it will support Policy Dialogues at different levels in the framework of implementation of SPA and CETA through a top up and an extension of the on-going action “EU Canada Policy Dialogues Support Facility (EU-CAN PDSF)”

The Facility will continue to work on a “demand-basis”, maintaining the capacity to quickly react to policy needs in a flexible way. At the same time, in line with the lessons learnt from the on-going Action, a component to allow PDSF to work on a more strategic and coordinated manner on selected priority topics is introduced.

Engagement with EU and Canada stakeholders is crucial for a successful implementation of this Action and its effective and efficient use.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention. On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (e): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (e): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to strengthening and further enlarging the strategic partnership between the EU and Canada	1 Number of EU bilateral, regional, inter-regional and multi-lateral cooperation partnership strategies which have been enhanced 2 Number of regulations and standards relating to trade, investment and business in partner countries which have been aligned to EU/international standards			EU-Canada Summit Conclusions, official discourses on the head-of-state level; qualitative interviews with experts; CETA Joint Committee; Project progress reports	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome 1	Dialogue in EU specific priority areas and of mutual interest with Canada, namely the implementation of the EU-Canada SPA and other relevant agreements concluded between the EU and the Canadian Federal Government supported	1.1 Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multi-lateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced			Joint Statements of the SPA's Ministerial Committee; Conclusions of the SPA Cooperation Committee meetings; Annual Report on SPA; Dialogues' meeting reports;	Relevant dialogues have been concluded and influenced

					interviews with stakeholders, including interviews from expert surveys; Project progress reports	
Outcome 2	Dialogue in specific EU priority areas and of mutual interest with Canada related to the CETA supported	2.1 Number of processes related to the negotiation, implementation or enforcement of EU trade and investment agreements with partner countries which have been influenced 2.2 Percentage of EU companies which acknowledge a positive change in their perceptions of the business, trade and investment climate in partner countries			Conclusions of the CETA Specialised Committees' meetings; qualitative interviews with stakeholders, including interviews from expert surveys TORs of specific projects; Project progress reports	
Output 1 related to Outcome 1	Cooperation in shared priority areas of SPA is reinforced and concrete preparatory and follow-up measures to policy dialogues are put in place and implemented;	1.1 Number of participants in the events organised/supported 1.2 Percentage of participants who report having benefitted from an event 1.3 Number of knowledge-based products developed, funded by FPI (reports, surveys, analysis, implementation plans, etc.)			Registration lists, Surveys, Project progress reports	EU and Canada institutional partners involved in the dialogues are interested in developing coordination and expanding cooperation
Output 2 related to Outcome 2	Bilateral cooperation in support of initiatives to facilitate and support the implementation of CETA is established	2.1 Number of participants in the events organised/supported 2.2 Percentage of participants who report having benefitted from an event 2.3 Number of knowledge-based products developed, funded by FPI (reports, surveys, analysis, implementation plans, etc.)			Registration lists, Surveys, Project reports	
Output 3 related to Outcome 1 and 2	Synergies in terms of business opportunities for EU companies in	3.1 Number of EU companies that participated in an event			Registration lists; Project progress reports	

	Canada are created in the context of the dialogues	3.2 Percentage of participating EU companies which report having benefitted from an event 3.3 Number of knowledge-based products developed, funded by FPI (reports, surveys, analysis, implementation plans, etc.)				
Output 4 Related to Outcome 1 and 2	Updated information on the evolution and “state of the art” contents and results of the different dialogues are available and regularly disseminated.	4.1 Number of knowledge-based products developed, funded by FPI (reports, surveys, analysis, implementation plans, etc.) 4.2 Number of communication products developed			Database of Dialogues; Project progress reports	

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision which includes a period of three months for negotiating and signing an addendum to the current contract (N+1), an indicative 36 months of action implementation and 21 months until the FDI.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures⁴

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

This action will be implemented in its totality through Direct Management (Procurement).

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4	
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.1	2 800 000
Total	2 800 000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

The basic structure of the project will consist of

- The project manager appointed by the Contracting Authority
- A Steering Committee co-chaired by EEAS and FPI which will provide strategic guidance to the project, in compliance with the decisions taken and agreements made at high political level, and will ensure the regular monitoring of the project and appraise the results achieved; this steering committee should be composed of the EEAS, FPI, Commission services concerned by the Action. Member States

⁴ www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please 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 between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

could be invited to participate to these meetings as observers. This steering committee shall meet virtually at least once a year

- The project manager may convene meetings (virtual or in person) with the service provider and the EU Delegation to Canada to inform on the implementation of the Action and to identify upcoming needs to be supported.
- For each relevant group of activities a reference group will be created including relevant stakeholders.

4.7 Pre-conditions

N/A

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports.

Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding PIMS indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Based on this monitoring, the Delegation to Canada will report when relevant to the Member States through the monthly Economic Counsellor Representatives or Deputy Head of Missions meetings.

The implementing partner is the main responsible for data collection analysis and monitoring and will need to put in place appropriate coordination mechanisms with stakeholders to receive the relevant information during implementation of the activities to be used for monitoring and reporting.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term or final evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

The Evaluation (especially if a mid-term) will be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to the intention to launch a second phase of the action.

In the case of a final evaluation, it will be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision).

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 15 days in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU Member States.

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention⁵ (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: ‘a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one’. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a ‘support entities’. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as;

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract 1	Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 4.3.1

⁵ [Ares\(2021\)4450449](#) - For the purpose of consistency between terms in OPSYS, DG INTPA, DG NEAR and FPI have harmonised 5 key terms, including ‘action’ and ‘Intervention’ where an ‘action’ is the content (or part of the content) of a Commission Financing Decision and ‘Intervention’ is a coherent set of activities and results which constitutes an effective level for the operational follow-up by the EC of its operations on the ground. See more on the [concept of intervention](#).