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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 7.12.2022**

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

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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

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 966/2012<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 part I in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean region for 2022, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2022. 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 actions provided for in this Decision contribute to environment, climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement, including also a gender equality and rights-based approach.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Americas and the Caribbean for the period 2021-2027<sup>4</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: climate change adaptation/mitigation, digital transformation and innovation, social inclusion and inclusive and sustainable economic growth, democratic governance, security and migration.
- (5) The objective pursued by the annual action plan part I to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global

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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> Decision C(2021)9356, 13.12.2021

Europe, geographic programme ‘the Americas and the Caribbean’ is to contribute to the EU’s overall strategic objectives for its external action, as laid out by the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for the Americas and the Caribbean for the period 2021-2027. It will seek to build partnerships with LAC and advance the external dimension of the Union’s policy priorities, notably the Green Deal and the Digital transformation and innovation, democratic governance and security.

- (6) The action entitled ‘EU Policy and Outreach Partnership in the US and Policy Dialogue Support Facility US’ aims to support the achievement of the EU foreign policy objectives through strategic public diplomacy activities in the United States that engage meaningfully with targeted audiences and stakeholders, in order to build trust and mutual understanding.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Public Diplomacy in Argentina and Brazil’ aims at building trust and mutual understanding with key target audiences and partners in Argentina and Brazil and, by doing so, facilitate future cooperation across policy areas. To do so, this action will reinforce the capacities of the EU Delegations in both countries to engage with key actors, foster and mobilise networks of influencers and partners to enhance the EU’s soft power projection by building alliances and allowing better-informed engagement and decision-making.
- (8) The action entitled ‘EU-Canada Policy Dialogues Support Facility Phase II’ aims to 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.
- (9) The action entitled ‘International Urban and Regional Cooperation - North America (IURC NA) Phase III’ aims to continue promoting city-to-city cooperation in the field of sustainable and inclusive urban development, both one-to-one and, primarily, in thematic clusters with a focus on particular urban development themes based on the UN New Urban Agenda and the Urban Agenda for the EU.
- (10) The action entitled ‘EL PAcCTO 2.0 Programa de Asistencia contra el Crimen Transnacional Organizado’ aims to establish an effective EU-LAC partnership on strengthening the rule of law and fight against organized crime, fostering citizen security and stability, both in Latin America, the Caribbean (LAC) and in Europe.
- (11) The action entitled ‘2022 Regional Cooperation Facility for Americas and the Caribbean’ aims at strengthening EU’s partnership with the Latin America and the Caribbean region, its multi-country actors and the countries concerned.
- (12) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of Financial Regulation, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (13) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (14) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (15) 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>5</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (16) 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.
- (17) 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.
- (18) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe 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 part I in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean region for 2022, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted. The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) 'EU Policy and Outreach Partnership in the US and Policy Dialogue Support Facility US' set out in Annex I;
- (b) 'Public Diplomacy in Argentina and Brazil' set out in Annex II;
- (c) 'EU-Canada Policy Dialogues Support Facility Phase II' set out in Annex III;
- (d) 'International Urban and Regional Cooperation - North America (IURC NA) Phase III' set out in Annex IV;
- (e) 'EL PAcCTO 2.0 - Programa de Asistencia contra el Crimen Transnacional Organizado' set out in Annex V;
- (f) '2022 Regional Cooperation Facility for Americas and the Caribbean' set out in Annex VI.

#### *Article 2* *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan part I for 2022 is set at EUR 91 100 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- 1. budget line 14 02 01 40 - C1-INTPA: EUR 84 300 000
- 2. budget line 14 02 01 40 - C5-INTPA: EUR 5 800 000
- 3. budget line 14 02 01 40 - C4-INTPA: EUR 1 000 000

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<sup>5</sup> Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment

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 the Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.2 of Annex V and point 4.3.3 of Annex VI.

### *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>6</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 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*

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 selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annex V and point 4.3.1 of the Annex VI.

Launching a call for proposals 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 VI.

Done at Brussels, 7.12.2022

*For the Commission*

*Jutta URPILAINEN*

*Member of the Commission*

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<sup>6</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.