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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 14.11.2024

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Asia-Pacific for 2024-2025
covering ASEAN, and migration, forced displacement and mobility**

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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, ¹and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 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 (1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of Asia-Pacific for 2024-2025 covering ASEAN, and migration, forced displacement and mobility, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which is to constitute the multiannual work programme, for 2024 and 2025. Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('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 mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁴ and in the Inter-institutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 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 239, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

² OJ L 209 of 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 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).

- (4) The actions provided for in this Decision should contribute to social equality and inclusion and accessibility mainstreaming in line with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union⁶, and the Commission Communications ‘Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025’⁷ and ‘Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’⁸ and the European Standards on accessibility⁹.
- (5) The Commission has adopted the Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme¹⁰ for the period 2021-2027 for Asia and the Pacific region, as amended following the mid-term review¹¹, which sets out which sets out the following priorities that includes a component that foresees regional integration and cooperation, pursuing EU interests with key partners, and migration, forced displacement and mobility.
- (6) The objective pursued by the multiannual action plan in favour of Asia-Pacific for 2024-2025 covering ASEAN, and migration, forced displacement and mobility, to be financed under Regulation (EU) 2021/947, geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ is to ensure a regional response to (1) climate induced migration through data collection capacity-building in South and South-East Asia; (2) labour migration in the blue economy in South-East Asia, (3) the Afghan regional forced displacement crisis, with a focus on women, children and vulnerable groups, and (4) strengthening the Strategic Partnership with ASEAN through support to biodiversity, policy dialogue and strategic communication.
- (7) The action entitled “Comprehensive approach to Climate Mobility in South Asia” pursues the specific objectives of (1) increased availability and coordination of climate mobility data for evidence-based policymaking and implementation; (2) enhanced adaptation and resilience of governments, communities, migrants to climate-induced migration and displacement, and (3) improved policy and institutional response to climate risks and climate mobility.
- (8) The action entitled “Building knowledge and capacity on the migration and climate change nexus in South-East Asia” pursues the specific objectives of (1) improved evidence on climate-induced migration is made available for policymaking at regional, national, and sub-national levels amongst the selected ASEAN countries; (2) improved policy action and initiatives on climate adaptation and migration management aimed at reducing risks for vulnerable populations of all genders, ages and disabilities in the targeted ASEAN countries, and (3) improved inclusion of climate-induced migration evidence and policy approaches in regional and multilateral dialogues and ASEAN governance initiatives.
- (9) The action entitled “Ship to Shore Rights in South-East Asia – Safe migration for decent work in the blue economy” pursues the specific objectives of (1) increase ASEAN and sub-regional connectivity and cooperation on safe labour migration and decent work in the fish and seafood supply chain; (2) support national authorities to design, implement and enforce stronger legal and policy frameworks on labour

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A12012P%2FTXT>

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152>

⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0152>

⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1485&langId=en>

¹⁰ Decision C(2021)9251 of 15.12.2021.

¹¹ Commission Implementing Decision amending country, multi-country and regional Multiannual Indicative Programmes 2021-2027 for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Americas and the Caribbean and the Multiannual Indicative Programmes on Civil Society Organisations, Global Challenges and Human Rights and Democracy, C(2024)7502 final of 31.10.2024.

migration, labour protection, and sustainable fisheries; (3) promote a culture of accountability, sustainable corporate practices, due diligence, and responsible fishing practices among employers and enterprises, including promoting promising practices and exchanging knowledge, and (4) promote social dialogue, increase freedom of association and collective bargaining, and empower migrant workers, their families and communities to protect and assert their human and labour rights.

- (10) The action entitled “Regional Programme in support of durable solutions for displaced and returning Afghan and their host communities” pursues the specific objectives of (1) improved access to health services and education, increased economic self-reliance and enhanced legal protection are achieved for Afghan refugees and other segments of Afghan population in the region (Iran, Pakistan, Central Asia); (2) access to sustainable livelihood opportunities, services and urgent needs assistance for Afghan returnees arriving in Afghanistan, with particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women headed households, unaccompanied minors and persons with disabilities. (Afghanistan), and (3) increased access of Afghans, especially children, in Iran to national services with a focus on accessible education and health services while strengthening the resilience of the services.
- (11) The action entitled “Biodiversity financing in ASEAN” pursues the specific objective of supporting biodiversity protection and livelihoods through the sustainable management of natural resources and inclusive green business models in selected areas and economic sectors.
- (12) The action entitled “EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership Dialogue Facility” pursues the specific objective of contributing to the delivery of the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-EU Strategic Partnership (2023-2027) / its possible successor through support to policy dialogues in a range of sectors and strengthening of capacities of ASEAN institutions, including on gender.
- (13) The action entitled “Strategic Communication Facility for EU in ASEAN” pursues the specific objectives of (1) measurably increase awareness, understanding and perception of the EU partnership, in particular around key Global Gateway priorities and (2) contribute to the achievement of the objectives and expected results of the Asia-Pacific regional MIP priorities for cooperation with ASEAN.
- (14) It is necessary to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants in accordance with Article 198 of the Financial Regulation¹².
- (15) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c), of the Financial Regulation and Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions included in this Decision.
- (16) 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 157(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 157(4) of the Financial

¹²To be inserted if exceptions to calls for proposals apply pursuant to Article 198 of the Financial Regulation. The application of the respective exception ground needs to be duly justified in accordance with the requirements of the respective point of Article 198 FR for each direct award.

Regulation¹³ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (17) 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.
- (18) 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.
- (19) 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 multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual action plan for the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of Asia-Pacific for 2024-2025 covering ASEAN, and migration, forced displacement and mobility, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) “Comprehensive approach to Climate Mobility in South Asia” set out in Annex I;
- (b) “Building knowledge and capacity on the migration and climate change nexus in South-East Asia” set out in Annex II;
- (c) “Ship to Shore Rights in South-East Asia – Safe migration for decent work in the blue economy” set out in Annex III;
- (d) “Regional Programme in support of durable solutions for displaced and returning Afghan and their host communities” set out in Annex IV;
- (e) “Biodiversity financing in ASEAN” set out in Annex V;
- (f) “EU-ASEAN Strategic Partnership Dialogue Facility” set out in Annex VI;
- (g) “Strategic Communication Facility for EU in ASEAN” set out in Annex VII.

Article 2 *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 and 2025 is set at EUR 94 500 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) BGUE-B2024-14.020130-C1-INTPA (Middle East and Central Asia): EUR 38 000 000;
- (b) BGUE-B2024-14.020131-C1-INTPA (South and East Asia): EUR 49 500 000;
- (c) BGUE-B2025-14.020131-C1-INTPA (South and East Asia): EUR 7 000 000.

¹³ Except for the cases of Article 157(7) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide not to require an ex-ante assessment.

The appropriations provided for 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 general budget of the Union for 2025, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

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 of Annexes I II, III, V, and in point 4.3.2 of the Annex IV.

Article 4

Procurement

The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision. 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 4.3.1 of Annexes VI and VII.

Article 5

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, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes¹⁴ 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 6

Grants

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

Done at Brussels, 14.11.2024

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN

Member of the Commission

¹⁴These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.