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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 14.3.2025**

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the Human Rights and Democracy  
thematic programme for 2025 to 2027**

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## on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme for 2025 to 2027

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

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 (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on Human Rights and Democracy for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision<sup>3</sup>, which is to constitute the multiannual work programme for the years 2025, 2026 and 2027, 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>4</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 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.
- (5) The Commission has adopted the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme for the period 2021 to 2027<sup>5</sup> as amended following the mid-term review<sup>6</sup>.

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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> A multiannual financing decision always constitutes a multiannual action plan/measure.

<sup>4</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 of the European Union. In case of discrepancy, the Official Journal of the European Union prevails.

<sup>5</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 9620 of 8.12.2021, adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the thematic programme on human rights and democracy for the period 2021-2027.

<sup>6</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2024)7502 final of 31.10.2024, amending country, multi-country and regional Multiannual Indicative Programmes 2021-2027 for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and

- (6) On the basis of the objectives of the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy<sup>7</sup>, the multiannual indicative programme of the for human rights and democracy thematic programme, as set out in Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 9620, focuses on five priorities pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 ('the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation'): (i) protecting and empowering individuals; (ii) building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies; (iii) promoting a global system for human rights and democracy; (iv) safeguarding fundamental freedoms, including harnessing the opportunities and addressing challenges of digital and new technologies; (v) delivering by working together.
- (7) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, 'Human Rights and Democracy' thematic programme, are the worldwide promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law.
- (8) The action entitled 'Global actions for human rights and human rights defenders' aims at contributing to the full enjoyment of all human rights by everyone, be they civil, political, economic, social and cultural. In particular, it aims at supporting progress towards the abolition of torture and death penalty, the protection of human rights defenders and civic space, the engagement and participation of indigenous peoples in policy and development processes and increased accountability for serious human rights violations including gender-based violence.
- (9) The action entitled 'Team Europe Democracy Initiative' aims at improving democracy and rule of law worldwide by contributing to a coordinated strategic European response in support of democracy and rule of law.
- (10) The action entitled 'Women and Youth Democratic Engagement (WYDE)' aims at fostering functioning pluralistic, participatory, inclusive, and representative democracy worldwide.
- (11) The action entitled 'Promoting a global system for human rights' aims at promoting and protecting international human rights law, as the foundation of cooperative relations between countries and peoples, by supporting the effectiveness of key international, regional and national actors, as well as academic actors.
- (12) The action entitled 'Supporting Information integrity' aims at promoting information integrity and safeguarding freedom of expression and information across the world by strengthening the resilience of the independent media sector and by countering the spread of false, misleading, manipulated and otherwise harmful information, safeguarding citizens' access to reliable information.
- (13) The action entitled 'Support measures for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme' aims at ensuring the sound management of the human rights and democracy thematic programme, the achievement of its objectives and results, its political relevance and outreach and the measurement and analysis of its impact and reporting thereon.

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the Pacific, Americas and the Caribbean and the Multiannual Indicative Programmes on Civil Society Organisations, Global Challenges and Human Rights and Democracy.

<sup>7</sup> [Council Conclusions agreed on 17/11/2020, ref. 12848/20.\[Why are we referring to the Council conclusions rather than the link to the action plan on the EEAS website? eu action plan on human rights and democracy 2020-2024.pdf\]](#)

- (14) The action entitled ‘Promoting and protecting human rights and democracy at country level’ aims at supporting national and local civil society actors, including human rights defenders, working on human rights and democracy issues in partner countries.
- (15) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contribution(s) from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contribution(s) are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (16) The objective and design of all 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 contributing to goals 5, 10, 16 and 17. The countries benefiting from the action which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action document.
- (17) Pursuant to Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c), of the Financial Regulation and Article 26(1) of the NDICI-Global Europe Regulation, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of actions set out in the Annexes.
- (18) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regard to persons and entities entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 157(3) of the Financial Regulation.
- (19) To that end, and before a contribution agreement can be signed, such persons and entities are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation<sup>8</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (20) 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 (c), (d), (f), of the Financial Regulation.
- (21) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for proposals by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (22) 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 for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme for 2025 to 2027, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Global actions for human rights and human rights defenders’ as set out in Annex I;

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<sup>8</sup> Except for the cases referred to in Article 157(7) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide not to require an ex-ante assessment.

- (b) 'Team Europe Democracy Initiative' as set out in Annex II;
- (c) 'Women and Youth Democratic Engagement (WYDE)' as set out in Annex III;
- (d) 'Promoting a global system for human rights' as set out in Annex IV;
- (e) 'Supporting Information integrity' as set out in Annex V;
- (f) 'Support measures for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme' as set out in Annex VI;
- (g) 'Promoting and protecting human rights and democracy at country level' as set out in Annex VII.

## *Article 2*

### **Union contribution**

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2025, 2026 and 2027 is set at EUR 359 317 072, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.020211 of the general budget of the Union.

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:

- (a) as provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2025, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths;
- (b) as provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027 as adopted by the budgetary authority.

## *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, considering each financial year separately, 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 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.

## *Article 4*

### **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 Annexes I to V, and in point 4.3.3 of Annexes VI and VII.

*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 referred to in Annexes I and II or selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of Annexes I to VII.

Launching a call for proposals 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 Annex VII.

Done at Brussels, 14.3.2025

*For the Commission*

*Jozef SÍKELA*

*Member of the Commission*