



Brussels, 18.11.2024
C(2024) 8153 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 18.11.2024

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of The Gambia for
2024**

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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 Union¹, 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 480/2009², and in particular Article 23(1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of The Gambia for 2024, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes 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 TFEU³.
- (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 allow changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) The actions provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁴ and in the Inter-institutional 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 resources⁵.

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

² OJ L 209, 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 OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (6) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme⁶ for the period 2021-2027⁷, as amended following the mid-term review⁸, which sets out the following priorities ‘Promoting Good Governance’, ‘Green Economy for sustainable growth and jobs. and ‘Human development’.
- (7) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Sub-Saharan Africa’ are to to foster a transformational shift towards an inclusive green growth economic model and to enhance the human capital of The Gambia.
- (8) The action entitled ‘EU support to improve Secondary Education for the Youth (EU-ISEY)’ aims at improving Senior Secondary Education completion rates while reducing the gender and socioeconomic attainment inequalities in The Gambia especially in rural areas.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Accelerating the sustainable and inclusive transformation of agri-food systems in The Gambia’ aims at accelerating a people-centred (particularly for women and young people), resilient, market-driven and nutrition-sensitive agro-ecological transition in The Gambia.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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 Regulation⁹ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (13) 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 annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of The Gambia for 2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

⁶ Decision C(2021)9361 final, 14.12.2021.

⁷ Commission Implementing Decision adopting the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Republic of The Gambia for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9361 final of 14.12.2021.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) 'EU support to improve Secondary Education for the Youth (EU-ISEY)' set out in Annex 1;
- (b) 'Accelerating the sustainable and inclusive transformation of agri-food systems in The Gambia' set out in Annex 2;

Article 2 *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2024 is set at EUR 40 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line

14.020120 – Western Africa of the general budget of the Union: EUR 40 000 000.

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 Annex[es], may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.4.1 of Annex 1.

Article 4 *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 changes¹⁰ 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 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.

Done at Brussels, 18.11.2024

Par la Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission

¹⁰ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.