



Brussels, 13.12.2021
C(2021) 9450 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.12.2021

**on the financing of the annual action plan - part 2 - in favour of the Latin America and
Caribbean region for 2021**

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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) 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 966/2012¹, and 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(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action programme part 2 in favour of the Latin America and Caribbean region, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2021. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 action provided for in this Decision contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Americas and the Caribbean for the period 2021-2027⁴, which sets out the following priorities: Climate change adaptation/mitigation, Digital transformation and innovation, Social inclusion and Inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
- (5) The objective pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe, geographic programme ‘the Americas and the Caribbean’ is to contribute to

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

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 Commission Implementing Decision adopting a Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Americas and the Caribbean for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9356 of 13.12.2021.

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 European Commission's policy priorities, notably the Green Deal and the Digital transformation and innovation.

- (6) The actions entitled: 'Euroclima LAC' have the specific objective of strengthening the policies of the Latin American and Caribbean region and their implementation, supporting LAC institutions to improve their transformative approaches towards decarbonization, climate resilience and the protection of biodiversity; 'Euroclima Caribbean' have the specific objective of improving the enabling frameworks and available opportunities for a transition to a fully risk informed, sustainable, carbon neutral, circular economies in the Caribbean; 'Amazon Basin Green Transition Initiative' have the specific objectives of strengthening the prevention of deforestation and forest degradation of the Amazon Forest in cooperation with indigenous peoples and local communities and promoting sustainable use of forest goods and services; 'EU-LAC Digital Alliance' aim at achieving an ambitious digital bi-regional partnership, based on mutual interest of the EU and LAC regions to join efforts towards achieving an inclusive and human-centred digital transformation and innovation.
- (7) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (8) 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 programme.
- (9) 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (10) 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046⁵ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (11) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (12) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (13) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (14) 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

⁵ 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.

- (15) 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) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the financing of the annual action programme part 2 for 2021, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- Euroclima LAC, set out in Annex I
- Euroclima Caribbean, set out in Annex II
- Amazon Basin Green Transition Initiative, set out in Annex III
- EU-LAC Digital Alliance, set out in Annex IV

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2021 is set at **EUR 190 000 000**, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union :

Budget line LAC: 14020140⁶ **EUR 140 000 000**

Budget line Caribbean: 14020141 **EUR 50 000 000**

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 Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3 of Annexes I, II, III and IV.

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 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 Regulation

⁶ The LAC budget includes also the allocations of Argentina, Brazil and Mexico under the LAC regional programme

(EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 referred to in the Annexes selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 of the Annexes I, III, IV.

Done at Brussels, 13.12.2021

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN

Member of the Commission