



Brussels, 12.12.2024
C(2024) 8988 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 12.12.2024

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Uzbekistan for 2024

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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 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 Uzbekistan for 2024, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which is to constitute 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) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2021-2027⁴, as amended following the mid-term review⁵, which sets out the following priorities: democratic governance and digital transformation; inclusive, digital and green growth; development of a smart and eco-friendly agri-food sector.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme 'Asia and the Pacific' are to improve availability of geospatial data to support climate-resilient, inclusive territorial planning in Uzbekistan; and to promote women's equal participation in the economy and labour force of Uzbekistan without being affected by gender stereotypes and harmful social norms.

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 Commission Implementing Decision adopting the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Uzbekistan for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9137 final of 14.12.2021.

⁵ 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.

- (5) The action entitled ‘Digitalisation and Integration of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in Uzbekistan’ aims at enhancing the regulatory and institutional framework governing territorial planning and at expanding and mainstreaming the usage and analysis of spatial data for sustainable territorial development and urbanisation.
- (6) The action entitled ‘Women’s Economic Empowerment in Uzbekistan’ aims at ensuring women’s, including women with disabilities’ access to public goods, services and resources enabling them to secure decent work and grow their businesses; encouraging a positive shift in societal perceptions around gender stereotypes and harmful social norms limiting women’s empowerment to contribute to upholding women’s rights and promoting women’s economic participation in the workforce; guaranteeing women of fertile age have access to a full range of modern family planning resources distributed at the primary level based on evidence-informed needs.
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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 Regulation⁶ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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 in favour of Uzbekistan for 2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Digitalisation and Integration of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) in Uzbekistan’ set out in Annex I;
- (b) ‘Women’s Economic Empowerment in Uzbekistan’ set out in Annex II.

⁶ Except for the cases of Article 157(7) of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) , where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 is set at EUR 11 780 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.020130 of the general budget of the Union.

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 4.3.1 of the Annexes.

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 changes⁷ 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, 12.12.2024

For the Commission
Jozef SÍKELA
Member of the Commission

⁷ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.