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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 16.12.2021**

**on the financing of the 2021 annual action plan for the thematic programme on Global  
Challenges (Prosperity)**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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### on the financing of the 2021 annual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Prosperity)

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 966/2012<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(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the 2021 annual action plan of the thematic programme Global Challenges (Prosperity), it is necessary to adopt a 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 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the thematic programme for Global challenges<sup>4</sup>. Under the ‘Prosperity’ priority the programme aims to support sustainable and inclusive economic recovery and growth; it will strive also to induce progress in human development and advance the European Green Deal and digital ambition, including by the use of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), to promote climate-neutral, climate resilient and sustainable economic development across the SDG framework. This programme will also complement the EU’s efforts to lead the transition to a human-centric digital world, supporting actions of global scope or trans-regional nature to build a global, open, stable and secure cyber space, grounded on the rule of law, human rights and democratic values that leave no one behind, through an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> [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 (OJ). In case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

<sup>4</sup> COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Thematic Programme “Global Challenges” for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9157 of 15.12.2021

- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under this Decision are to contribute to the five priority areas of the thematic programme for Global challenges 'Prosperity' through five actions supporting these priorities.
- (5) The action entitled '*Sustainable Aquatic and Agri-Food Systems (SAAFS)*' aims to increase the sustainability of agri-food systems, the following five components will be supported: (1) International Agriculture Research and Innovation (One CGIAR) Renewed Agenda to enhance knowledge generation, dissemination and uptake, as well as innovative agro-ecological policies and actions; (2) Nutrition to develop and strengthen strategic partnerships with the SUN Movement, EU Member State agencies, targeted regional bodies and partner countries' structures for nutrition; (3) Land Governance and Inequality to support global processes and networks to promote the adoption and application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the responsible Governance of Tenure of land (VGGTs), on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, the principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture (RAI) and transparency and equality in land governance; (4) Information and Data Exchange to support the Food Security Portal (FSP); and (5) GP4SAAFS – Global Partnership for Sustainable Aquatic and Agri-Food Systems to nourish global debate, consensus-building processes, and governance for the effective transition towards Sustainable Aquatic and Agri-food Systems (SAAFS).
- (6) The action entitled '*Global Action to End Child Labour*' aims at reducing the number of children in child labour in key sectors and countries where child labour is persistent and prevalent, and for which trade with the EU is significant through the following three components: (1) Increasing root causes knowledge and data to identify global value chains for evidence-based actions; (2) Supporting pilot interventions for innovative solutions based on the recommendations emerged from the first component; (3) Supporting global initiatives and partnerships to reinforce advocacy and knowledge in international fora and business networks.
- (7) The action entitled '*Contribution to the UN Road Safety Fund (UN RSF)*' will contribute to the reduction of the number of road traffic deaths and injuries and thus help meet the objectives of the 2nd Decade of Action for Road Safety by preventing 50% of road traffic deaths and injuries and to contribute to the implementation of the EU Road Safety Policy Framework 2021-2030 - Next steps towards "Vision Zero".
- (8) The action entitled '*Knowledge Hub - Global Gateway Support Mechanism*' will contribute to the quality infrastructure and connectivity agenda via support of the following four components: (1) Initial mapping and establishing national and regional quality infrastructure and connectivity sector related policies including planning, regulations and reforms; (2) Capacity building on G20 Principles for quality infrastructure investment; (3) Technical support in programming and preparation of projects; and (4) Operationalisation of the EU connectivity strategy.
- (9) The action entitled '*Knowledge Hub Digital (Part I)*' aims to support of the EU's digital and STI ambitions at the global, regional and national level: 1) A Knowledge Hub Digital will be implemented; 2) the role of EU in international partnerships as regard to STI and digitalisation will be strengthened through improved collaboration and policy dialogue among EU and non-EU key actors also through the D4D Hub; 3) outreach, as well as knowledge-management regarding the European Commission's role in the Digital for Development and STI domain will be strengthened.

- (10) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions 1, 2, 3 and 5.
- (12) 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.
- 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) 2018/1046<sup>5</sup> 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.
- (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.
- (15) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument 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 for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Prosperity) for 2021, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions and measures:

- (a) Action “Sustainable Aquatic and Agri-Food Systems (SAAFS)”, set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Action “Global Action to End Child Labour”, set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Action “Contribution to the UN Road Safety Fund (UN RSF)”, set out in Annex 3;
- (d) Action “Global Gateway Support Mechanism”, set out in Annex 4;
- (e) Action “Knowledge Hub Digital (Part I)”, set out in Annex 5.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2021 is set at EUR 135 661 470, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the Budget line 14.020242 – Global Challenges Prosperity: EUR 131 561 470 of the general budget of the Union for 2021 and for an amount of EUR 4 100 000 from the general budget of the European

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

Union for 2022. 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 provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2021 and 2022, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

### *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 4.3.2 of Annex 1, in point 4.3.1. of Annex 2, in point 4.3.1 of Annex 3, and in point 4.3.4 of Annex 5.

### *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<sup>6</sup> 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 (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*

#### *Procurement*

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 4.3.2 of Annex 5.

Done at Brussels, 16.12.2021

*For the Commission*

*Jutta URPILAINEN*

*Member of the Commission*

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<sup>6</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.