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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 16.12.2021**

**on the financing of the Annual Action Plan for Planet (Global Challenges) for 2021**

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## on the financing of the Annual Action Plan for Planet (Global Challenges) for 2021

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

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 Annual Action Plan for Planet (Global Challenges), 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 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the thematic programme for Global Challenges<sup>4</sup>. The priorities of the programme fall under the “Planet” heading and include key areas such as climate change and disaster risk reduction, environment and natural resources (biodiversity, land, forests, water and oceans), and the green transition (sustainable energy, green cities, and sustainable mobility).
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe thematic programme ‘Global Challenges’ - are to strengthen international action on climate change, biodiversity and environment. It will do so by reinforcing

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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> C(2021)9157

international governance and global knowledge, capacities, partnerships, innovation and coordinated action. The annual action plan will support transformative action in areas that are central to the transition to climate-neutral, resource-efficient economies and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely: climate adaptation and resilience; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; international environmental governance; forests and biodiversity; water and circular economy.

- (6) The action entitled ‘International Climate Governance – Part II’ aims to ensure that developing countries are in a position to both agree to ambitious international commitments on climate change and implement them. This includes ensuring that the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP26) and its associated events lead to agreements that are ambitious, have benefitted from the contribution and support of all countries, in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and help translate international commitments into domestic climate action.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions’ aims to contribute to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from coal use by accelerating the phasing out of coal mining and coal power production, while ensuring inclusive and sustainable economic growth with decent employment opportunities in coal regions. This includes strengthening international policy dialogue on just transition topics and integrating the perspectives and needs of coal regions, setting up a global knowledge hub on the just energy transition to produce, collect and disseminate knowledge among relevant stakeholders, and supporting a global network of coal regions to facilitate peer-to-peer exchanges, capacity development and technical assistance.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Reducing Methane Emissions through an Integrated Data Approach’ aims to accelerate reductions of methane emissions by integrating and reconciling emissions data sources, linking findings to ambitious action, and supporting the science-policy interface. It will do by supporting the activities of the International Methane Emission Observatory (IMEO) with a view to increase the use of data by governments and companies in order to design and adopt methane emission mitigation strategies and targets. The objectives of the action are fully in line with Commission’s objectives and priorities, as outlined in the EU methane strategy COM(2020) 663.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Regional Energy Transition Outlooks (RETOs) for Africa and Latin America-Caribbean’ aims to support the development of the RETOs by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). IRENA’s World Energy Transitions Outlook, published in June 2021, provides a pathway for a 1.5-degree world: the Regional Outlooks would translate this vision into regional frameworks that could guide policy actions and investment toward resilient, renewable-centric systems, most importantly in the short-and mid-term until 2030. They will enable the relevant regions to better plan and implement an energy transition pathway consistent with the Paris Agreement and UN 2030 Agenda.
- (10) The action entitled ‘Global information on forests and biodiversity for better implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework’ aims to enhance the conservation, sustainable management and use of forests and natural ecosystems and their contribution to poverty alleviation, security and stability. This includes capacity-building to transpose the global biodiversity framework in national strategies, support partner country monitoring capacities in relation to multilateral environmental

agreements and establishment of a reference global knowledge platform on biodiversity.

- (11) The action entitled ‘Improving international environmental governance through targeted support to multilateral environmental agreements and processes’ aims to act at the global level to achieve better environmental governance for sound policy-making on different topics (biodiversity, circular economy, chemicals, etc.), thus promoting the external dimension of the European Green Deal. This action will provide voluntary support to international organisations and to the secretariats of environmental conventions. The components aim to enhance developing and middle-income countries’ involvement in multilateral negotiations, and to equip them with suitable tools and guidelines to support implementation.
- (12) The action entitled ‘Green Deal Knowledge Hub (Planet) – Part I’ concerns the establishment and management of a Green Deal Knowledge Hub, crucial to support the implementation of the European Green Deal’s external dimension towards a global transition to inclusive, climate-neutral, resilient, equitable and sustainable development pathways. This Action establishes the first components of the Hub, covering the following areas: water, circular economy, and urban development. It will improve the quality and impact of interventions in these areas by supporting the design process, improving knowledge exchanges and supporting policy dialogues and decision making processes.
- (13) The action entitled ‘Support Measures’ aims at contributing to the Specific Objective 1 of the MIP Global Challenges Planet by providing relevant support services through the procurement of services contracts managed directly by the European Commission.
- (14) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (15) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision
- (16) 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 action.
- (17) 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.
- (18) 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.
- (19) 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.

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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.

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

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 Planet (Global Challenges), as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) International Climate Governance – Part II, set out in Annex I;
- (b) Just Energy Transition in Coal Regions, set out in Annex II;
- (c) Reducing methane emissions through an integrated data approach, set out in Annex III;
- (d) Regional Energy Transition Outlooks (RETOs) for Africa and Latin America-Caribbean, set out in Annex IV;
- (e) Global information on forests and biodiversity for better implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework, set out in Annex V;
- (f) Improving international environmental governance through targeted support to multilateral environmental agreements and processes, set out in Annex VI;
- (g) Green Deal Knowledge Hub (Planet) – Part I, set out in Annex VII;
- (h) Support Measures, set out in Annex VIII.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2021 is set at EUR 70 400 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line 14.020241 – Global Challenges Planet: EUR 68 900 000 of the general budget of the Union for 2021 and for an amount of EUR 1 500 000 from the general budget of the 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 4.3.1 of Annex I, point 4.3.1 of Annex II, 4.3.1 of Annex III, 4.3.2 of Annex V, and 4.3.2 of Annex VI.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million 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 (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 and Procurement*

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 of Annex IV and point 4.3.1 of Annex VI.

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 4.3.1 of Annex VII.

Done at Brussels, 16.12.2021

*For the Commission*  
*Jutta URPILAINEN*  
*Member of the Commission*