



Brussels, 1.9.2023
C(2023) 6053 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 1.9.2023

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Uzbekistan for 2023

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 1.9.2023

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Uzbekistan for 2023

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) 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 plan in favour of Uzbekistan for 2023, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2023. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') 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 Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme⁴ for the period 2021-2027⁵, which sets out the following priorities: Effective Governance and Digital Transformation, with the objective of supporting Uzbekistan's transition to a pluralist democratic system through support to the rule of law, universal values of human rights, a flourishing civil society and elimination of all forms of discrimination, especially gender-related.
- (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 the quality of life of people in rural areas, particularly those vulnerable – including

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 Decision C(2021)9137.

⁵ Commission Decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and Uzbekistan C(2021)9137 final of 14.12.2021.

women, youth and children, elderly, people with disabilities, and people from socio-economically disadvantaged situations – by supporting the further advancement of the public service reform in Uzbekistan to transition to a more holistic, operational, efficient, coherent, and people-centred service delivery model.

- (5) The action entitled ‘Further Improvement of Public Services Delivery in Uzbekistan’ aims at transforming institutional, legal, and regulatory frameworks underpinning the back office of the national public services delivery system; enhancing the capacity of institutions and agencies comprising the back office of the public service delivery system to ensure their effective operation at the national, regional and local levels. This will be done in a gender responsive and inclusive way i.e.: allowing increased participation/benefit for women, girls and other vulnerable groups as well as people most disadvantaged from remote regions and people with disabilities etc; conducting digital transformation of the public service delivery system through introducing innovation and digitising operation of the back offices to improve availability and quality of public services and transforming the system of local governance to ensure responsiveness, accountability and to better operation of regional and local institutions functioning as back offices.
- (6) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (7) 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 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 154(4) of the Financial Regulation⁶ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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 Uzbekistan for 2023, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following action: ‘Further Improvement of Public Services Delivery in Uzbekistan’ set out in the Annex.

⁶ 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.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 is set at EUR 5 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union : BGUE-B2023-14.020130-C1-INTPA.

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, 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 Annex.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20% of the 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 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.

Done at Brussels, 1.9.2023

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission

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