



Brussels, 17.6.2024
C(2024) 3913 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 17.6.2024

amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)6793 of 24.09.2021 on the financing of the Special measure in favour of contributing to the availability and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in low and lower-middle income countries through the COVAX Facility for 2021

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

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 480/2009¹, and in particular Article 23(4) thereof,

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 966/2012², and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By its Decision C(2021) 6793 of 24.09.2021 the Commission has adopted the contribution to the availability and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines in low and lower-middle income countries through the COVAX Facility.
- (2) The purpose of this amendment is to modify the objectives of the action to extend the scope beyond the contribution to the COVAX Facility. This change is proposed to take account of the new context with the World Health Organisation (WHO) having declared the end of COVID-19 as a public health emergency of international concern (May 2023) and the COVAX facility being transformed into a COVID-19 programme, aiming at integrating COVID-19 vaccines in routine immunisation programs.
- (3) The proposed amendment also takes into account critical bottlenecks to equitable access to life saving vaccines in Africa evidenced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Africa has been unable to achieve significant COVID-19 vaccination coverage³, due among other reasons, to the continent's reliance on limited international manufacturing capacity, which has shown to be constrained in times of high global demand. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic severely affected access to basic health

¹ OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

² OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

³ As of April 2024, 40% of the population received at least one dose and 33% completed the complete primary series against a 70% coverage target (WHO Africa COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiYWJiNDNiZDIiYmViZS00NWQ2LTgwNDQtY2JmNTM5NTNiNDM0IiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQtNGIzOS04MTBiLTNkYzI4MGFmYjU5MCIslmMiOjh9>).

services, including immunisation services hampering progress in immunisation routine coverage and resulting in an increase in zero-dose children.

- (4) The proposed amendment therefore aims at contributing to the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) mechanism to join the global efforts to strengthen African local pharmaceutical systems and manufacturing capacity to improve access to medical countermeasures to better prepare for future health emergencies. In addition, the proposed amendment will further strengthen routine immunisation programs and contribute to catching up zero-dose children through contributing to GAVI core funding.
- (5) Therefore, Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 6793 of 24.09.2021 should be amended accordingly.
- (6) This amending decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 6793 of 24.09.2021 is amended as follows:

- (1) In Article 1 the title of the action is replaced by the following article:

" The measure shall include the following action:

‘Contribution to the availability and equitable access to COVID-19 and other GAVI eligible vaccines in low and lower-middle income countries’, set out in the Annex."

- (2) The Annex is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 17.6.2024

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission