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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 8.11.2024

on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Paraguay for 2024 and 2025

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

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 multiannual action plan for Paraguay for 2024 and 2025, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which is to constitute the multiannual work programme, for 2024 and 2025 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 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union³.
- (3) 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.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to determine the changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme for Paraguay, for the period 2021-2027⁴, as amended following the mid-term review⁵, which sets out the following priorities: Green and Resilient Economy, with the objective of supporting Paraguay in making its development more sustainable, its

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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>.

³ See 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 a multiannual indicative programme for Paraguay for the period 2021-2027, C(2021) 8988 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.

economy resource-efficient and more competitive; and Fight against Inequalities, aiming at sectors where the EU has an added-value and can generate a transformational impact in fighting inequalities.

- (6) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Americas and the Caribbean’ are to reduce inequalities in education through improved access and quality, improve access to formal employment, and support the achievement of objectives and results of the MIP and the Global Gateway Strategy.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Boosting opportunities through education: EDU-Impulsa Paraguay’ will contribute to reducing inequalities by promoting greater access, inclusion, and quality in the education system, with a focus on the needs of the most vulnerable groups in society.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Promote access to formal employment for young people (18-29 years old) in vulnerable situation’ aims to contribute to the objective of promoting access to formal employment for the Paraguayan youth population (18-29 years), to support labour and productive inclusion as one of the pillars of the Social Protection System, and to expand contributory-based social security.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Support Measures for Paraguay’ will contribute to a stronger and more effective EU-Paraguay partnership, enhancing the impact of the interventions in eradicating extreme poverty and promoting sustainable development, supporting both joint and EU areas of interest.
- (10) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contribution[s] from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contribution[s] are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (11) The objective and design of the actions fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance established by the OECD/DAC, as per the requirements of Article 3(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 agenda by Paraguay. The countries benefiting from the action which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action document.
- (12) 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 action set out in the Annexes.
- (13) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regard to persons and entities entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 157(3) of the Financial Regulation. To that end, and before a contribution agreement can be signed, such persons and entities 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) of the Financial Regulation.

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

(14) 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 multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual action plan for the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of Paraguay for 2024 and 2025, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Boosting opportunities through education: EDU-Impulsa Paraguay, set out in Annex I;
- (b) Promote access to formal employment for young people (18-29 years old) in vulnerable situation, set out in Annex II;
- (c) Support Measures for Paraguay, set out in Annex III.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 and 2025 is set at EUR 23 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 14.020140: EUR 18 000 000 (2024);
- (b) budget line 14.020140: EUR 5 000 000 (2025).

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 general budget of the Union for 2025 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

Article 3

Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, 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 those 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.

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

Article 4

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 4.3.4 of the Annexes I, II and III.

Article 5

Grants

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 the Annex II.

Done at Brussels, 8.11.2024

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN

Member of the Commission