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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 16.12.2021**

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Asia region for 2021-  
2022**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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### on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Asia region for 2021-2022

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 multiannual action plan in favour of the Asia region for 2021-2022, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2021-2022. 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 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 Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme<sup>4</sup> for the period 2021-2027<sup>5</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: regional integration and cooperation, migration and mobility, priority areas of the EU Green Deal.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme 'Asia and the Pacific' are to

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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 Asia Pacific region for the period 2021-2027, C(2021) 9251 final of 15.12.2021

<sup>5</sup> C(2021) 9251

address global challenges (e.g. a green, fair and sustainable recovery, climate change, environment, migration and forced displacement, human development – health, TVET), support for multilateralism, promotion of human rights and democracy, as well as security and stability through a Team Europe approach in a direction consistent with the external dimension of the European Green Deal, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the EU’s geopolitical priorities, in particular with a focus on the EU Strategy on Globally Connected Europe and the EU Strategy for the Indo-Pacific.

- (6) The action entitled **“Central Asia COVID-19 Crisis Response (CACCR) - Phase 2”** aims to contribute to mitigating the impact and controlling of the COVID-19 pandemic in the five Central Asian republics (CARs), thus reinforcing their longer-term health resilience. It pursues three specific objectives: (1) a rapid and safe deployment of COVID-19 vaccines in CAR will be achieved; (2) routine immunization services in CAR will be strengthened; (3) the capacity of CA countries to achieve universal health coverage through the digitalization of health systems and increased ability to collect and use quality health data will be improved.
- (7) The action entitled **“Dialogue and Action for Resourceful Youth in Central Asia (DARYA)”** aims to contribute to post-COVID recovery in Central Asia by fostering improved employability of young women and men in the regions through inclusive and labour-market oriented skills development. It pursues two specific objectives: i) to foster the quality and inclusiveness of education, training and employment systems in Central Asia; and ii) to foster participatory and inclusive dialogue and cooperation mechanisms at national and regional level.
- (8) The action entitled **“Support to encamped Myanmar refugees in Thailand”** aims to support the Myanmar refugees in camps in Thailand along the border with Myanmar so that they can fully benefit from their rights in their host/resident societies. The Specific Objectives are: i) to enhance resilience of refugees through the provision of basic services and awareness raising activities; ii) to empower refugees through their active involvement to improve camp governance and protection measures; and iii) to enhance self-reliance of refugees in preparation for durable solutions including the eventual voluntary return.
- (9) The action entitled **“EU-ASEAN Green Initiative”** aims to enhance the EU-ASEAN partnership, promote green and inclusive sustainable development, and reduce negative environmental impacts, as well as climate-related and disaster risks. Its scope broadly corresponds to the key areas of the European Green Deal.
- (10) The action entitled **“Strengthening Public Finance Management (PFM), Oversight and Accountability in the Pacific Region”** aims to strengthen the governance mechanisms enabling Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to achieve fiscal sustainability, diversify Pacific economies and support their ability to recover from the global pandemic and local natural disasters in a fair and responsible manner. The project will strengthen PFM systems and governance of key domestic institutions at the national level, increasing transparency, public participation, and accountability. To achieve this purpose, the action focuses on two specific objectives: strengthen the governance mechanisms enabling Pacific Island Countries (PICs) to achieve fiscal sustainability, diversify their economies and support their ability to recover from the global pandemic and local natural disasters in a fair and responsible manner. More specifically it will i) support the strengthening of national PFM systems in the PICs and ii) enhance greater public finance oversight and accountability roles of Parliaments and other oversight institutions with engagement of civil society organisations in the PICs

- (11) The action entitled **“Asia-Pacific Investment Facility (APIF)”** aims to contribute to long-term sustainable and socially inclusive economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region, by promoting strategic inclusive investments with a priority focus on Green Deal, Jobs and Growth, Digital Transition. The specific objectives of this action are: i) supporting strategic and inclusive investments in the fields of climate change and resilience, energy transition, sustainable connectivity, urbanisation and agriculture, and sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems; ii) boosting strategic and inclusive investments for job creation and sustainable growth, by leveraging private sector resources as additional funding source and iii) improving equal access to digital infrastructure and foster digital entrepreneurship and job creation for women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity.
- (12) The action entitled **“SWITCH-Asia - Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (Policy Support Component)”** aims to continue addressing the economic transformation in the region to deliver sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns and stimulate exchanges on SCP practices in line with the external dimension of the European Green Deal, the sustainable jobs and growth agenda and SDG12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) of the Agenda 2030. It will underpin economies of scope on a continental scale, extending its support to the Middle-East and the Pacific sub-regions, and effectively complement bilateral actions to sustain policy dialogue and know-how exchanges on key cross-cutting sustainability issues of shared interest to partners in the region. At the same time the programme will facilitate the gradual alignment of SCP patterns in the region with EU standards and practices, both from a sustainability and level playing field perspective.
- (13) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (14) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (15) 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, pillar assessed entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed. In regard to entities for which an ex-ante assessment is not required pursuant to Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, the Commission retains the financial management responsibilities laid down in point 4.3.1 of the Annex II.
- (16) 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.
- (17) 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.
- (18) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe 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 the Asia region for 2021-2022, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) 'Central Asia COVID-19 Crisis Response (CACCR) - Phase 2' set out in Annex I;
- (b) 'Dialogue and Action for Resourceful Youth in Central Asia (DARYA)' set out in Annex II;
- (c) 'Support to encamped Myanmar refugees in Thailand' set out in Annex III;
- (d) 'EU-ASEAN Green Initiative' set out in Annex IV;
- (e) 'Strengthening Public Finance Management (PFM), Oversight and Accountability in the Pacific Region' set out in Annex V;
- (f) 'Asia-Pacific Investment Facility (APIF)' set out in Annex VI;
- (g) 'SWITCH-Asia - Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (Policy Support Component)' set out in Annex VII.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for the year 2021 and the year 2022 of budget implementation is set at EUR 268 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 14.020130: EUR 78 000 000;
- (b) budget line 14.020131: EUR 152 000 000;
- (c) budget line 14.020132: EUR 38 000 000.

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 2022 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

*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 Annexes I, II, V and VI and in point 4.4.3 of Annex IV.

*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, considering each financial year separately, 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 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.

*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 4.3.1 of Annex VII.

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.