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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 7.12.2022**

**on the financing of the annual action plan part II in favour of the Americas and the  
Caribbean for 2022**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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### on the financing of the annual action plan part II in favour of the Americas and the Caribbean for 2022

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 part II in favour of the Latin America and Caribbean region for 2022, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual programme part II, for 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 Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Americas and the Caribbean<sup>4</sup> for the period 2021-2027, which sets out the following priorities: 'Green Transition', 'Digital Transformation and Innovation', 'Sustainable and Inclusive Economy', 'Democratic Governance, Security and Migration', and 'Social Cohesion and Addressing Inequalities'.

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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> Decision C(2021)9356 of 13.12.2021.

- (5) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programmes for Belize<sup>5</sup>, Costa Rica<sup>6</sup>, El Salvador<sup>7</sup>, Guatemala<sup>8</sup>, Honduras<sup>9</sup>, and Nicaragua<sup>10</sup> for the period 2021-2027, which all set out ‘Green Transition’ as one of the priorities.
- (6) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the geographic programme ‘the Americas and the Caribbean’ is to contribute to the EU’s overall strategic objectives for its external action, as laid out by the Multiannual Indicative Programmes for the Americas and the Caribbean, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua for the period 2021-2027. It will seek to build partnerships with Latin America and the Caribbean and advance the external dimension of the European Commission’s policy priorities, notably the green and digital transition.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Five Great Forests of Mesoamerica’ aims to improve governance mechanisms and capacities for biodiversity conservation, sustainable production and trade in the Five Great Forests of Mesoamerica. The action will strengthen evidence-based decision-making and transparency, foster the inclusive involvement of all stakeholders, and contribute to a more safe and supportive environment for those who defend the environment, land rights and indigenous peoples' rights.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Caribbean Resilience Programme’ has the objective to reduce the impact of disasters, including those related to climate change and epidemics, while increasing the resilience to external shocks in Caribbean countries. Its specific objective is to better prepare institutions and communities to prevent, minimize impacts and recover from slow and rapid onset events. The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (10) 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 Regulation<sup>11</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (11) 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.

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<sup>5</sup> C(2021)9098, 14.12.2021

<sup>6</sup> C(2021)8991, 14.12.2021

<sup>7</sup> C(2021)9492, 16.12.2021

<sup>8</sup> C(2021)9072, 14.12.2021

<sup>9</sup> C(2021)9102, 14.12.2021

<sup>10</sup> C(2021)9160, 15.12.2021

<sup>11</sup> Except for the cases referred to in Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

- (12) 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.
- (13) 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 part II in favour of the Latin America and Caribbean region for 2022, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Five Great Forests of Mesoamerica, set out in Annex I;
- (b) Caribbean Resilience Programme, set out in Annex II.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2022 is set at EUR 40 500 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union :

- (a) budget line 14.020140: EUR 25 000 000<sup>12</sup>;
- (b) budget line 14.020141: EUR 15 500 000<sup>13</sup>.

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 Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3 of the Annex I, and point 4.3 of the Annex II.

*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<sup>14</sup> to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period

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<sup>12</sup> This amount refers to the Union contribution to the action entitled 'Five Great Forests of Mesoamerica', which combines allocations from the regional MIP (EUR 12M from the Central American sub-window and EUR 2M from the funds earmarked for Mexico) and country MIPs: Costa Rica EUR 0,5M, El Salvador EUR 1,5M, Guatemala EUR 3M, Honduras EUR 5M, and Nicaragua EUR 1M.

<sup>13</sup> Includes EUR 0,5M from the allocation for Belize for 'Five Great Forests of Mesoamerica'.

<sup>14</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

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, 7.12.2022

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