



Brussels, 1.8.2023
C(2023) 5367 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 1.8.2023

amending Commission Decision C(2020)8017 final on the financing of the Annual Action Programme 2020 Part 1 in favour of West Africa as regards the zone benefiting from the action

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/322 of 2 March 2015 on the implementation of the 11th European Development Fund¹, and in particular Article 9(1) and 9(4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2018/1877 of 26 November 2018 on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund, and repealing Regulation (EU) 2015/323², and in particular Article 24 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By its Decision C(2020)8017 final of 13.11.2020 the Commission has adopted the financing of the Annual Action Programme 2020 Part 1 in favour of West Africa.
- (2) The Annual Action Programme 2020 Part 1 in favour of West Africa established the action entitled ‘West Africa contribution to EFSD guarantees’ Technical Assistance’. The action aims at fostering sustainable economic growth and job creation through support of private sector development and improved (micro), small and medium enterprises’ access to finance from capital markets. That objective will be reached by contributing to the Technical Assistance component of the individual European Fund for Sustainable Development (‘EFSD’) Guarantee agreements. Development Financial Institutions (‘DFIs’) implement EFSD investment programmes that have two interrelated components: an EFSD Guarantee component and an EFSD Technical Assistance component. The EFSD Guarantee component covers the whole Sub-Saharan Africa region, while the EFSD Technical Assistance component is limited to the West Africa region. In order to ensure the achievement of the action’s objective, it is necessary to extend its geographical coverage to the whole Sub-Saharan Africa region. By doing so, DFIs that implement EFSD investment programmes will be enabled to use EFSD Technical Assistance to support more regional local financial institutions (‘LFIs’). These LFIs will be helped to seize investment opportunities in other African regions, where they have lower presence and capacity. LFIs currently not present in West Africa will be also be enabled to reach this region. As a result, the number of LFIs offering financial products covered by the EFSD Guarantee will increase. Furthermore, thanks to a whole Sub-Saharan Africa coverage, the combination of EFSD Guarantee and Technical Assistance will support LFIs to benefit better from the opportunities deriving from the African Continental Free Trade Area (‘AfCFTA’). Investments and access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises across West Africa will also increase, improving the chances of a full

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 307, 3.12.2018, p. 1.

deployment of EFSD investment programmes. A narrower geo-graphical coverage is likely to leave EFSD Guarantee's capacity unused. Only by expanding the action geographical coverage, the EFSD investment programmes implemented by Development Financial Institutions will be fully deployed, thus maximising benefits for the West Africa region.

- (3) Therefore, Commission Decision C(2020)8017 final should be amended accordingly.
- (4) This amending decision is in accordance with the opinion of the European Development Fund Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Annex to the Commission Decision C(2020) 8017 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 1.8.2023

For the Commission
Jutta URPIAINEN
Member of the Commission