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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 11.3.2025**

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of South Africa for  
2025**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of South Africa for 2025**

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 Union<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(1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of South Africa for 2025, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which is to constitute the annual work programme, for 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 Union<sup>3</sup>.
- (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 actions provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and gender-equality mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'<sup>4</sup> and in the Inter-institutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 239, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>.

<sup>3</sup> See [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> COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources<sup>5</sup>.

- (6) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2021-2027<sup>6</sup>, as amended following the mid-term review<sup>7</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: supporting sustainable, resilient, transformative and inclusive growth, reducing inequalities, and strengthening the EU-South Africa Partnership.
- (7) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947, geographic programme ‘Sub-Saharan Africa’ are to support South Africa’s Just Energy Transition (JET) contributing to the development of key green value chains, creation of jobs, strengthening public finance management and enhancing gender equality.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Sustainable Development of Strategic Value Chains: Critical Raw Materials, and Green Hydrogen and its derivatives’ aims to support the development of South Africa’s critical raw materials and green hydrogen (including its derivatives such as methanol, ammonia, or sustainable aviation fuel) value-chains, contributing to South Africa’s just transition to a green economy.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Enabling the Just Energy Transition through Job creation and Public Financial Management’ aims to facilitate the creation of sustainable and decent employment to mitigate the negative effects of the energy transition on coal-dependent communities and associated economic sectors; the action also contributes to strengthen public finance management.
- (10) The action entitled ‘Gender-Inclusive Education: Preventing Gender-Based Violence, Building a Fairer & Safer Society through Schools’, aims to prevent gender-based violence in schools in South Africa by addressing harmful gender norms and stereotypes that contribute to violence against women and girls.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of actions set out in the Annexes.
- (12) 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 Regulation<sup>8</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation.

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<sup>5</sup> Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28, ELI: [http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree\\_interinst/2020/1222/oj](http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinst/2020/1222/oj)).

<sup>6</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)9112 final of 14.12.2021, adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Republic of South Africa for the period 2021-2027.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

- (13) It is necessary to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants in accordance with Article 198 of the Financial Regulation.
- (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 annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of South Africa for 2025, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Sustainable Development of Strategic Value Chains: Critical Raw Materials, and Green Hydrogen and its derivatives set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Enabling the Just Energy Transition through Job creation and Public Financial Management set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Gender-Inclusive Education: Preventing Gender-Based Violence, Building a Fairer & Safer Society through Schools set out in Annex 3.

### *Article 2* **Union contribution**

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2025 is set at EUR 86 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line 14.020122 of the general budget of the Union.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

### *Article 3* **Flexibility clause**

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes<sup>9</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, 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.

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<sup>9</sup> 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 points 4.4.2 and 4.4.3 of Annex 1, point 4.4.2 of Annex 2 and points 4.4.2 and 4.4.3 of Annex 3.

*Article 5*

**Grants**

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex 1. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex 1 selected in accordance with point 4.4.1 of Annex 1.

Done at Brussels, 11.3.2025

*For the Commission*

*Jozef SÍKELA*

*Member of the Commission*