



Brussels, 13.12.2024  
C(2024) 9086 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 13.12.2024**

**on the financing of the annual action plan 2024 in favour of the Republic of Liberia**

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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 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 2024 in favour of the Republic of Liberia, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2024 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 TFEU<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 allow 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 contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with the "European Green Deal"<sup>4</sup> and the inter-institutional 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<sup>5</sup>.
- (6) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme<sup>6</sup> for the period 2021-2027<sup>7</sup>, as amended following the mid-term review<sup>8</sup> which sets out the

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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.

<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> COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

<sup>6</sup> Decision C(2021)9361 final, 14.12.2021.

following priorities: Enhancing and preserving natural resources for sustainable growth (priority area 1), Promoting decent jobs and inclusive growth (priority area 2) and Improving financial and democratic governance (priority area 3).

- (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 reinforce the financial governance and sustainable use of natural resources; enhance private sector development; promote gender balance and address the root causes of sexual and gender-based violence; and facilitate the implementation of the EU cooperation programme with Liberia.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Financial governance for natural resource management’ aims at promoting accountable and sustainable development in Liberia’s forest and agriculture sectors through a strengthened public financial management system.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Private sector development in Liberia’ aims at improving the investment climate and business environment to facilitate private sector development and fostering entrepreneurship and decent employment in the country.
- (10) The action entitled ‘Liberia Spotlight Initiative 2.0: reducing sexual and gender-based violence to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment’ aims at advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment by significantly reducing the violation of women’s and girls’ rights.
- (11) The action entitled ‘Support measures for the MIP of Liberia’ aims at facilitating the implementation of the EU cooperation with Liberia, while reinforcing the partnership with the country.
- (12) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (13) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (14) 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 157(3) of the Financial Regulation. To that end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation<sup>9</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (15) 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,

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<sup>7</sup> Commission Implementing Decision adopting the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Republic of Liberia for the period 2021 - 2027, C(2021)9061 final of 14.12.2021.

<sup>8</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>9</sup> Except for the cases of Article 157(7) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The action plan*

The annual financing decision for the implementation of the annual action plan 2024 in favour of the Republic of Liberia, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Financial governance for natural resource management set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Private sector development in Liberia set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Liberia Spotlight Initiative 2.0: reducing sexual and gender-based violence to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment set out in Annex 3;
- (d) Support measures for the MIP of Liberia set out in Annex 4.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 is set at EUR 108 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.02010 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*  
*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 4.4.1 of Annexes 1, 2 and 3, and point 4.4.3 of Annex 4.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

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

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<sup>10</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

*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 points 4.4.1 of Annex 4.

Done at Brussels, 13.12.2024

*For the Commission*

*Jozef SÍKELA*

*Member of the Commission*