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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 24.11.2023**

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Belize for 2023 to be financed  
from the general budget of the Union**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Belize for 2023 to be financed from the general budget of the Union

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 for 2023, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2023 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 Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme<sup>4</sup> for the period 2021-2027 which sets out the following priorities (1) Green growth and sustainable socio-economic development, (2) Regional integration and border management.
- (4) The objective pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947, geographic programme 'Americas and the Caribbean' is to reduce inequality and enhance the sustainable management of the southern and western regions of Belize.

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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)9098, 14.12.2021. The action is also partially funded by the National Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2021-2027 for Guatemala (Decision C(2021)9072, 14.12.2021).

- (5) The action entitled ‘Effective and sustainable management of southern and western part of Belize’ will be achieved through two specific objectives: (1) promoting inclusive development, with particular regard to women, youth and indigenous people, based on a green growth model and a territorial approach (shared responsibility across levels of government); and (2) increasing border management, security and trade facilitation capacities at land and maritime borders. The Commission should acknowledge and accept contribution[s] from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contribution[s] are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (6) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (8) 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>5</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the NDICI-Global Europe 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 Belize for year 2023 as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following action: Effective and sustainable management of southern and western part of Belize, set out in the Annex.

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<sup>5</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.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2023 is set at EUR 12 600 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

budget line BGUE-B2023-14.020141: EUR 10 300 000;

budget line BGUE-B2023-14.020140: EUR 2 300 000.

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 Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.4.3 of the Annex.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, 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, where 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*  
*Grants*

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

Done at Brussels, 24.11.2023

*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.