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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 6.9.2023**

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia-Pacific region for 2023  
part 2**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia-Pacific region for 2023 part 2

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

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 541/201/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 in favour of the Asia-Pacific region for 2023 part 2, 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 actions provided for in this Decision (namely those described in Annexes II and III) contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'<sup>4</sup> and in 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>.

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

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

- (4) The Commission has adopted the multiannual indicative programme for the Asia Pacific region for the period 2021-2027<sup>6</sup>, which sets out the following priority areas: regional integration and cooperation, pursuing EU interests with key partners, and migration, forced displacement and mobility.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ are to help position the EU as a partner of reference for the Asia-Pacific region and support partner countries in tackling key local and global challenges, including the promotion of sustainable infrastructure, digitalisation, water, energy and climate change, environmental sustainability, inclusive economic development as well as sustainable consumption and production through support to private sector.
- (6) The action entitled ‘Digital Connectivity in Central Asia’ aims to bridge the digital divide in Central Asia by leveraging on the potential of satellite connectivity to reach out to the most unserved or underserved regions, to foster universally accessible, affordable and sustainable broadband across the region.
- (7) The action entitled ‘EU contribution to the Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy and Climate Change’ aims to support the green transformation of Central Asia through improving regional cooperation and governance while at the same time supporting the coordination of the Team Europe Initiative and providing expert and policy advice to actors in the region.
- (8) The action entitled ‘SWITCH-Asia - Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (Support to the greening of value-chains)’ aims to support the green transition of export-led value-chains across the Asia-Pacific region, ensuring that financial instruments available on the market respond to the needs of Micro-small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and encourage the import of more sustainable products to the EU market.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Contribution to the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF)’ aims at supporting the provision of technical advice to PRIF partner countries with a view to improve the development effectiveness and the sustainability of infrastructure investments, with a specific attention to climate resilient infrastructure, resource efficiency and sustainable energy.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action described in Annexes I, II and IV.
- (11) 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 and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (12) 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>6</sup> Commission Implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Asia Pacific region for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9251 final of 15.12.2021. .

- (13) 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.
- (14) 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 the Asia-Pacific region for 2023 part 2, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Digital Connectivity in Central Asia’ set out in Annex I;
- (b) ‘EU contribution to the Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy and Climate Change’ set out in Annex II;
- (c) ‘SWITCH-Asia Programme - Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production (Support to the greening of value-chains)’ set out in Annex III;
- (d) ‘Contribution to the Pacific Regional Infrastructure Facility (PRIF)’ set out in Annex IV.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 part 2 is set at EUR 66 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 14.020130 (Middle East and Central Asia): EUR 40 000 000;
- (b) budget line 14.020131 (South and East Asia): EUR 20 000 000;
- (c) budget line 14.020132 (Pacific): EUR 6 000 000.

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 Annexes I, II and IV, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.2 of Annex I, 4.3.1 of Annex II and point 4.3.1 of Annex IV.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes<sup>7</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.

Done at Brussels, 6.9.2023

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

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