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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 25.7.2022

on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on human rights and democracy for 2022-2024

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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 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, 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 480/2009², and in particular Article 23(2) and Article 24 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on human rights and democracy for 2022-2024, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2022, 2023 and 2024. 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the thematic programme on human rights and democracy⁴. On the basis of the objectives of the EU Action Plan for Human Rights and Democracy⁵, the multiannual indicative programme focuses on the following five priorities: (i) protecting and empowering individuals; (ii) building resilient, inclusive and democratic societies; (iii) promoting a global system for human rights and democracy; (iv) safeguarding fundamental freedoms, including harnessing the opportunities and addressing challenges of digital and new technologies; (v) delivering by working together.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

³ 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.

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision [C\(2021\)9620](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/9620/oj) of 8.12.2021 adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the thematic programme on human rights and democracy for the period 2021-2027

⁵ [Council conclusions 18/11/2020](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/106274/main/attachment/data/file/142222).

- (4) The multiannual action plan to be financed under the human rights and democracy thematic programme pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 aims to contribute to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law worldwide. It is composed of 15 actions structured around the five priorities of the multiannual indicative programme.
- (5) The action entitled ‘Human rights and democracy activities at country level 2022-2024’ aims at supporting national and local civil society actors, including human rights defenders, working on human rights and democracy issues in partner countries. That action should be managed by the Union Delegations and should cover over 116 countries.
- (6) The action entitled ‘Human Rights Crises Facility’ aims at providing rapid and confidential support to civil society actors where they are the most vulnerable and threatened.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Fair, Accountable and Inclusive Trade and Business - Flagship Action on Business and Human Rights, Forced and Child Labour and Indigenous Peoples’ Rights’ aims at enhancing the State’s duty to protect human rights and the corporate responsibility to respect human rights globally through improved engagement of civil society actors.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Global actions on human dignity, non-discrimination and inclusion’ aims at upholding human rights as essential to human dignity and to promote equality, inclusion and respect for diversity in all spheres of life.
- (9) The action entitled ‘EU Human Rights Defenders Mechanism 2022-2027’ aims at fostering an enabling environment for human rights defenders, to enable and empower them to continue their work for the promotion and protection of human rights for all.
- (10) The action entitled ‘Fighting against impunity’ aims at contributing to justice and the rule of law through an increased accountability for serious human rights violations and abuses.
- (11) The action entitled ‘Team Europe Democracy Initiative’ aims at improving democracy and rule of law worldwide by contributing to a coordinated strategic European response in support of democracy and rule of law.
- (12) The action entitled ‘Youth and Women in Democracy Initiative (YWDI)’ aims at fostering functioning pluralistic, participatory, inclusive and representative democracy worldwide.
- (13) The action entitled ‘Support to targeted key actors and processes - regional human rights instruments and mechanisms’ aims at improving the effectiveness and engagement of regional human rights instruments, mechanisms and structures for the promotion and protection of human rights and access to justice for all individuals.
- (14) The action entitled ‘National Human Rights Institutions 2022-2025’ aims at enhancing the role and capacity of national human rights institutions as well as of their global and regional networks in promoting and protecting human rights of all individuals.
- (15) The action entitled ‘Supporting global key actors – Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (2025, 2026 and 2027)’ aims at enhancing the global leadership of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to reinforce its policy influence within the United Nations system and worldwide and ensure a human rights based approach to development.

- (16) The action entitled ‘Support to the International Criminal Court (2025, 2026, 2027)’ aims at contributing to the fight against impunity, by promoting the Rome Statute and increasing support for the International Criminal Court.
- (17) The action entitled ‘Support to the Global Campus of Human Rights (2024-2026)’ aims at fostering new generations of human rights defenders able to contribute to a world in which human rights and democracy are realised.
- (18) The action entitled ‘Supporting Media Actors & Harnessing New Technologies’ aims at promoting and protecting democracy, countering threats to democratic and electoral processes and safeguard fundamental freedoms worldwide through supporting media independence and by harnessing the opportunities and countering the challenges of new digital technologies.
- (19) The measure entitled ‘Support measures for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme’ aims at contributing to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law worldwide by ensuring the sound management of the human rights and democracy thematic programme, the achievement of its expected objectives and results, its political relevance, visibility and outreach and the measurement, analysis and reporting on its impact.
- (20) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (21) The Commission should authorise the launch of calls for proposals by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (22) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (23) 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 Regulation⁶ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (24) 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.
- (25) 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.
- (26) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument committee established by Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947,

⁶ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on human rights and democracy for 2022-2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Human rights and democracy activities at country level for 2022-2024 set out in Annex I;
- (b) Human Rights Crises Facility set out in Annex II;
- (c) Fair, Accountable and Inclusive Trade and Business - Flagship Action on Business and Human Rights, Forced and Child Labour and Indigenous Peoples' Rights set out in Annex III;
- (d) Global actions on human dignity, non-discrimination and inclusion set out in Annex IV;
- (e) European Union Human Rights Defenders Mechanism 2022-2027 set out in Annex V;
- (f) Fighting against impunity set out in Annex VI;
- (g) Team Europe Democracy Initiative set out in Annex VII;
- (h) Youth and Women in Democracy Initiative (YWDI) set out in Annex VIII;
- (i) Support to targeted key actors and processes - regional human rights instruments and mechanisms set out in Annex IX;
- (j) National Human Rights Institutions 2022-2025 set out in Annex X;
- (k) Supporting global key actors – Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (2025, 2026 and 2027) set out in Annex XI;
- (l) Support to the International Criminal Court (2025, 2026, 2027) set out in Annex XII;
- (m) Support to the Global Campus of Human Rights (2024-2026) set out in Annex XIII;
- (n) Supporting Media Actors & Harnessing New Technologies set out in Annex XIV;
- (o) Support Measures for the Human Rights and Democracy thematic programme set out in Annex XV.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the multiannual action plan for 2022, 2023 and 2024 is set at EUR 646 771 557, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14 02 02 11 of the general budget of the Union

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

The implementation of this decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2023 and 2024 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

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 referred to subsequently in this paragraph, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.3 of Annex I and XV, point 4.3.2 of Annexes III, VI, VII, VIII, IX, XIV and point 4.3.1 of Annexes XI and XII.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes⁷ 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.

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 point 4.3.1 of Annexes V, VII, IX, X, and XIII and to the bodies selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of Annexes I to IV, VI, VII, VIII, XIV and XV.

Launching a call for proposals under a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in point 4.3.1 of Annex I.

Done at Brussels, 25.7.2022

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN

Member of the Commission

⁷ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.