



Brussels, 23.11.2023
C(2023) 8169 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 23.11.2023

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Tajikistan for 2023

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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) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Tajikistan 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme⁴ for the period 2021-2027⁵, which sets out the following priorities: Inclusive and Digital Economy, Human Development and Natural Resources Management, Efficiency and Resilience.
- (4) 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 promote a green transition in the cotton value chain of Tajikistan by supporting both certified sustainable production in cotton-based farm systems and the processing into high-

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 C(2021)9315.

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision on the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Tajikistan for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9315 final of 15.12.2021.

quality cotton for new export markets and creating opportunities for domestic private sector development in the sector.

- (5) The action entitled ‘Green Transition through the Cotton Value Chain’ will boost an inclusive agricultural sector reform by supporting agroecological and sustainable production methods in cotton-based farm systems; increase the benefits for women and men farmers; reduce the environmental footprint of cotton and support private sector development in sustainable cotton processing. 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) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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 Tajikistan for 2023, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the action ‘Green Transition through the Cotton Value Chain’ set out in the Annex.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 is set at EUR 19 880 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following budget line of the general budget of the Union: 14.020130.

⁶ 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.

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 4.3.2 of the Annex.

Article 4

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 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, 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.

Done at Brussels, 23.11.2023

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN

Member of the Commission

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