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C(2023) 2902 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 25.4.2023**

**on the financing of the individual measure in favour of the Asia-Pacific region for 2023**

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## on the financing of the individual measure in favour of the Asia-Pacific region for 2023

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 966/2012<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(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the individual measure in favour of the Asia-Pacific region 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 action provided for in this Decision contributes to climate mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the Regional Multiannual Indicative programme for the Asia and the Pacific for the period 2021-2027<sup>4</sup>, which sets out the following priority: to improve sustainable connectivity between the EU and ASEAN/South-East Asia, and within the latter.
- (5) The objective pursued by the measure to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme 'Asia and the Pacific' is to improve sustainable connectivity between the EU and ASEAN/South-East Asia, and within the latter, in line with the EU's Global Gateway Strategy.

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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> Commission Decision on the adoption of the regional multiannual indicative programme for Asia and the Pacific region C(2021)9251 final of 15.12.2021.

- (6) The action entitled “EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package” will support trade and economic, energy, transport as well as digital connectivity between the EU and ASEAN/South-East Asia, and within the latter. This will contribute in particular to better conditions for trade and investment flows, to more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive value chains, and to complementing regional efforts on the clean energy transition. The action will also support people-to-people connectivity, notably in the area of higher education and research, and address the digital gender divide.
- (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 measure, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (11) The measure 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 measure*

The annual financing decision, constituting the measure for the implementation of the individual measure in favour of the Asia-Pacific region for 2023, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following action: “EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package”, as set out in the Annex.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the measure for 2023 is set at EUR 60 million, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union: B2023-14.020131 (South and East Asia): EUR 60 million.

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

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<sup>5</sup> 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.

### *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 4.3.3. of the Annex.

### *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>6</sup> to the allocations of specific components of the action 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 action).

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, 25.4.2023

*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.