



Brussels, 21.10.2024
C(2024) 7464 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 21.10.2024

amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2022)8416 of 16.11.2022 on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho for 2022

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 21.10.2024

amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2022)8416 of 16.11.2022 on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho for 2022

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹, 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(1) and (2), and Article 25(2)(d) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By its Decision C(2022)8416 of 16.11.2022 the Commission has adopted the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Kingdom of Lesotho for 2022.
- (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 objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Sub-Saharan Africa’ are to facilitate Lesotho’s move towards a circular economy that becomes increasingly sustainable and self-sufficient with regard to energy generation and consumption, and to support the improvement of service delivery to the citizenry, particularly social protection. The annual action plan includes three actions, two of which are subject to an amendment.
- (4) The action entitled ‘Renewable Lesotho’ aims to ensure energy security in Lesotho, improve access to reliable and affordable clean energy, and promote green growth. A substantial change is required to increase the EU contribution beyond the flexibility margin by EUR 10 000 000 in order to leverage greater investment in favor of the identified project pipeline, by increasing the EU grant contribution to blending operations. No new implementation modalities are introduced.
- (5) The action entitled ‘Cooperation Facility and Support Measures for Civil Society in Lesotho’ aims to strengthen civil society in Lesotho and to establish a cooperation facility to support the implementation of the Multi-annual Indicative Programme

¹ OJ L 239, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

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.

2021-2027 and Team Europe Initiatives, including strategic communication activities. A substantial change is required to increase the EU contribution beyond the flexibility margin by EUR 2 000 000 in order to extend its implementation period for an additional 12 months and to increase activities under specific objective 2 and 3 and outputs 2.1, 2.2, 3.1 and 3.2 (cooperation facility and visibility and communication), maintaining the same implementation modalities.

- (6) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for proposals by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (7) Therefore, Commission Implementing Decision C(2022)8416 of 16.11.2022 should be amended accordingly.
- (8) This amending decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Commission Implementing Decision C(2022)8416 of 16.11.2022 is amended as follows:

- (1) Article 2 is replaced by the following article:

“Article 2 Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2022 is set at EUR 41 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line BGUE-B2022-14.020122-C1 (EUR 29 000 000) and BGUE-B2024-14.020122-C1 (EUR 12 000 000) of the general budget of the Union.

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

- (2) Article 5 is added:

“Article 5 Grants - Procurement

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex 2. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annexes selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annex 2.

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 the Annex 2.

Launching a call for tender under a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in point 4.3.2 of the Annex 2.”

- (3) The Annexes 1 and 3 to the Commission Implementing Decision C(2022)8416 of 16.11.2022 are replaced by Annexes 1 and 2 to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 21.10.2024

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission