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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 16.12.2021**

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Honduras for 2021**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Honduras for 2021

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) No 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> (hereafter referred to as ‘Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe’ or as ‘Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021’), and in particular Article 23 and Article 24 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Honduras for 2021, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2021. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2021-2027<sup>4</sup> which sets out the following priorities: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and Climate Change; Employment, Decent Work and Growth; Rule of Law and Democratic Governance.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe geographic programme ‘Americas and the Caribbean’ are to support climate

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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> C(2021)9102, 14.12.2021

actions in Honduras and the implementation of the Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for Honduras 2021-2027.

- (6) The action entitled “Towards a Decarbonised Economy: Adapting Agricultural Production to Climate Change in the context of the EU-Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement” will conserve forest and biodiversity, increase carbon sequestration and reduce migration caused by climate change impacts.
- (7) The specific objectives pursued by the action “Towards a Decarbonised Economy: Adapting Agricultural Production to Climate Change in the context of the EU-Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement” are: 1) To adapt current agricultural practices by introducing Climate-Smart Agriculture; 2) To increase access to differentiated markets with better quality products; 3) To increase control of illegal timber activities; and 4) To enable frameworks for a carbon free economy in place.
- (8) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contribution[s] from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (9) The action entitled “**Cooperation Facility for Honduras**” will contribute to the national objective of achieving an educated and healthy country, free of extreme poverty, displaying consolidated social welfare systems.
- (10) The specific objectives pursued by the action “**Cooperation Facility for Honduras**” are: 1) To build capacity for a more effective and efficient implementation of public policies to enhance results, impact and visibility of MIP focal sectors, with a special focus on supporting and accompanying the public sector and government initiatives in developing and improving gender sensitive strategic plans and budgets (*Public Sector Institutional Strengthening*); 2) To contribute to strengthen the enabling environment for CSOs, and to increase CSOs capacity to access and engage in policy dialogue and oversight processes at all levels, especially in the EU’s different priority areas of intervention (*Civil Society Strengthening*); 3) To promote strong EU visibility and communication, including through public diplomacy actions, to consolidate the EU’s role as a key actor in Honduras (*EU Strategic Communication and Public Diplomacy Actions*).
- (11) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (12) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender and of a call for proposals by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (13) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021 indirect management and direct management are to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (14) 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

To this end, the Commission in accordance with Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 retains the financial management responsibilities laid down in point 4.3.3 of Annex I.

- (15) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (16) 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (17) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The action plan*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Honduras for 2021, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) “Towards a Decarbonised Economy: Adapting Agricultural Production to Climate Change in the context of the EU-Honduras Voluntary Partnership Agreement” set out in Annex I;
- (b) “Cooperation Facility for Honduras” set out in Annex II;

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan measure for the year 2021 of budget implementation is set at EUR 18 450 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

– budget line BGUE-B2021-14.020140-C1-INTPA: EUR 18 450 000;

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, 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 I.

*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>5</sup> to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution as well as extensions of the implementation period

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<sup>5</sup>

shall not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies selected in accordance with point 4.3.1.1 of the Annex I.

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.

#### *Article 6*

##### *Procurement*

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 Annex I and 4.3.1 of Annex II.

Done at Brussels, 16.12.2021

*For the Commission*

*Jutta URPILAINEN*

*Member of the Commission*