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C(2021) 9454 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 16.12.2021**

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Kazakhstan for 2022-2023**

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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 966/2012<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(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of Kazakhstan for 2022-2023, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme. 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 National Multiannual Indicative Programme<sup>4</sup> for the period 2021-2027<sup>5</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: Sustainable Economic Growth and Rule of Law.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme 'Asia and the Pacific' are to

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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) 9095.

<sup>5</sup> Commission Implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for Kazakhstan for the period 2021-2027, C(2021) 9095 final of 14.12.2021.

support the implementation of the EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA)<sup>6</sup>, which entered fully into force on 1 March 2020.

- (6) The action entitled 'EU–Kazakhstan Cooperation Facility 2022-2023' aims to support capacity development and institution building, policy dialogues leading to policy reforms and engagement with the government and other stakeholders, support to facilitate coordination between the EU and its Member States at country level, support the participation of Kazakhstan in EU programmes and cooperation with EU agencies, as well as financing communication activities, including strategic communication, fight against disinformation, EU visibility actions, and public and cultural diplomacy specific interventions to promote EU policies as well as its multilateral agenda in Kazakhstan.
- (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 and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation 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 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.
- (11) 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) 2021/947.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1* *The action plan*

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual action plan for the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of Kazakhstan for 2022-2023, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the action: EU–Kazakhstan Cooperation Facility 2022 - 2023.

#### *Article 2* *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of Kazakhstan for 2022-2023 is set at EUR 9 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line 14.020130: EUR 9 000 000 of the general budget of the Union.

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<sup>6</sup> [EU-Kazakhstan relations - European External Action Service \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-communications/infographic/Pages/infographic-eu-kazakhstan-relations-2020-2023.aspx)

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:

- (a) as provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2022, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths;
- (b) as provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2023 as adopted by the budgetary 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 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 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes<sup>7</sup> 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.

Done at Brussels, 16.12.2021

*For the Commission*

*Jutta URPILAINEN*

*Member of the Commission*

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