



Brussels, 11.12.2024
C(2024) 8895 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.12.2024

on the financing of the individual measure in favour of West Africa for 2025

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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 for individual measures Article 23(1) and (3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the individual measure in favour of West Africa for 2025, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which is to constitute the annual work programme, for 2025 in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('the Financial Regulation').
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215³ of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
- (3) 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.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the measure, it is appropriate to determine the changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) One of the actions provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁴ and in the Inter-institutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources⁵.

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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>.

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 COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁵ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (6) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa for the period 2021-2027⁶, as amended following the mid-term review⁷, which sets out the following priorities: human development; governance, peace and security, culture; green transition; digital and science, technology, and innovation; sustainable growth and decent jobs; migration and forced displacement.
- (7) The objectives pursued by the individual measure to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme 'Sub-Saharan Africa' are to enhance migration management and boost green socio-economic development in key partner countries in West Africa.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 23(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 the use of an individual measure after the adoption in 2024 of the multi-annual action plan for the Sub-Saharan Africa regional programme⁸ is justified to support the vulnerable population of West African countries impacted by the proliferation of insecurity, political, and socio-economic challenges, climate extremes and exacerbated by prevailing governance deficits. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees have increased substantially in West Africa, creating more tensions on public services and land, as well as facilitating their recruitment by armed groups. Additionally, West Africa remains a pivotal origin and transit region for migrants making irregular journeys to the EU through the Central Mediterranean Route and the Atlantic/Western Mediterranean Route. In addition, part of the activities will improve the inclusion of youth in resilient and climate-smart green economic transitions that address the root causes of irregular migration in West African countries.
- (9) The action entitled 'Managing migration better in Western Africa' seeks to improve the sustainability of the migration management systems in relevant West African countries, while placing migrants' rights at the centre.
- (10) The action entitled 'Unleashing the potential of youth in West Africa' seeks to improve the inclusion of youth in resilient and climate-smart green economic transitions that address the root causes of irregular migration in West African countries.
- (11) The objective and design of the actions fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance established by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC), as per the requirements of Article 3(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 agenda by supporting the achievement of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 10: Reduced inequalities, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG 16: Peace justice and strong institutions, SDG 4: Quality education, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 12: Sustainable Consumption and Production, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. The countries benefiting from the actions which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action document.

⁶ Commission Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for Sub-Saharan Africa for the period 2021-2027, C(2021) 9373 final of 20.12.2021

⁷ Commission Implementing Decision amending country, multi-country and regional Multiannual Indicative Programmes 2021-2027 for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Americas and the Caribbean and the Multiannual Indicative Programmes on Civil Society Organisations, Global Challenges and Human Rights and Democracy, C(2024)7502 final of 31.10.2024.

⁸ C(2024) 3825 final of 04.06.2024.

- (12) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions of this individual measure.
- (13) 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 157(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 157(4) of the Financial Regulation⁹ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (14) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the NDICI-Global Europe Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The measure

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual measure for the implementation of the individual measure in favour of West Africa for 2025, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Managing migration better in Western Africa’ set out in Annex 1;
- (b) ‘Unleashing the potential of youth in West Africa’ set out in Annex 2.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2025 is set at EUR 201 660 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.020120 of the general budget of the Union.

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 provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2025, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

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 4.4.2 of Annex 1 and points 4.4.2 of Annex 2.

⁹ Except for the cases referred to in Article 157(7) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide not to require an ex-ante assessment.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes¹⁰ 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, 11.12.2024

For the Commission
Jozef SÍKELA
Member of the Commission

¹⁰ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.