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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 22.12.2021

**on the financing of the special measure in favour of contributing to the global
immunisation efforts against the COVID-19 in low and lower-middle income countries
for 2021**

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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 966/2012¹, 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 and amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (hereafter referred to as ‘Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe’)², and in particular Article 23(4).

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the special measure in favour of contributing to the global immunisation efforts against the COVID-19 in low and lower-middle income countries³, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision for 2021, which constitutes the annual work programme for 2021. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046⁴ (‘the Financial Regulation’) establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

³ Low income: Afghanistan, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Dem. Rep., Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, The Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Korea, Dem. People's Rep., Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Yemen, Rep., Lower-middle income: Angola, Algeria, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Rep. Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Arab Rep., El Salvador, Eswatini, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyz Republic Lao PDR, Lesotho, Mauritania, Micronesia, Fed. Sts., Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, West Bank and Gaza, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Additional IDA eligible: Dominica, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Kosovo, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Samoa, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Tonga, Tuvalu.

⁴ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁵.
- (3) Developing and having access to safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19 constitutes one of the most pressing challenges of our time. The COVID-19 pandemic undermines all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), for this reason, the EU should increase efforts aiming at supporting universal vaccination.
- (4) The primary objective pursued by the special measure to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe is to speed up the global immunisation against COVID-19, as no one is safe until everyone is safe. Together with other technological tools and public health measures, vaccines play a pivotal role to prevent the spread of the disease and protect the most vulnerable populations.
- (5) The special measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with Article 23(4) of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe. Ensuring the availability of vaccines in Q2 of 2022 requires rapid provision and distribution of vaccines to beneficiary countries.
- (6) The special measure responds to the urgency of increasing immunisation rates in low and lower middle income countries with the lowest vaccination coverage against COVID-19. The massive inequity in global access to COVID vaccines has now been further exacerbated by the unexpected spread of new variants and the previously unforeseen need for early booster doses globally. In light of the need to provide a substantial amount of vaccines, the emergency challenges and priorities cushion laid down in Article 17 of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe is mobilised to reinforce the Global Challenges budget line with EUR 450 000 000. The funding covered in this decision includes the mobilisation of EUR 450 000 000 from the Flexibility Instrument⁶.
- (7) The European Commission has informed the European Parliament in detail pursuant to recital 71 of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, and taken into account its observations.
- (8) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, 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) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (10) 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ [OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/L/433I/2020/12/22)

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 Regulation⁷ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (11) 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.
- (12) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the special measure, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Articles 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (13) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument Committee established under Article 45 of Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 *The measure*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the special measure in favour of contributing to the global immunisation efforts against the COVID-19 in low and lower-middle income countries, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following action:

‘Contribution to the global immunisation efforts against the COVID-19 in low and lower-middle income countries’, set out in the Annex.

Article 2 *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the special measure for the year 2021 is set at EUR 900 000 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.020240 of the general budget of the Union.

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 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.

⁷ 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 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 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 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.

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 referred to in point 4.3.2 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 22.12.2021

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission