



Brussels, 25.11.2024  
C(2024) 8491 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 25.11.2024**

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Central Asia for 2024**

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### on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Central Asia for 2024

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

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 Union, 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>1</sup>, and in particular Article 23 (1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Central Asia for 2024, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which is to constitute the annual work programme, for 2024, 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 215 of TFEU<sup>2</sup>.
- (3) The action set out in Annex I provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'<sup>3</sup> 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 resources<sup>4</sup>.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the Regional Multiannual Indicative Programme<sup>5</sup> for the period 2021-2027, as amended following the mid-term review<sup>6</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: Partnering for Resilience and Partnering for Prosperity.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

<sup>2</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>3</sup> COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

<sup>5</sup> Commission Implementing Decision adopting the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Asia Pacific region for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9251 final of 15/12/2021.

<sup>6</sup> 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

- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ are to advance the green development of seamless transport connections between Europe and Central Asia and within the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor; and to contribute to increased overall security and stability in Central Asia, in particular as concerns cross-border connectivity.
- (6) The action entitled ‘EU-Central Asia Global Gateway: support to the development of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor’ will contribute to the development of seamless transport connections (including land and maritime transport modes) between Europe and Asia within the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC), to reduce transit time between Europe and Central Asia, and strengthen cooperation and sustainable opportunities for low-carbon and resilient economic development in the region.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Securing Connectivity in Central Asia’ will advance regional cross-border cooperation, tackle organised crime and improve living conditions for people living in border areas, and reduce drug supply and demand in the region to promote regional stability and advance public safety.
- (8) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c), of the Financial Regulation and Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (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 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 Regulation<sup>7</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(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 the Financial Regulation.
- (12) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to determine the changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (13) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The action plan*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan in favour of Central Asia for 2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

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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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) 'EU-Central Asia Global Gateway: support to the development of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor' set out in Annex I;
- (b) 'Securing Connectivity in Central Asia' set out in Annex II.

## *Article 2* *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 is set at EUR 60 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.020130 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 Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.2 of Annex I and point 4.3.1 of Annex II.

## *Article 4* *Flexibility clause*

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 or cumulated changes<sup>8</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, 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.

## *Article 5* *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 4.3.1 of Annex I.

Done at Brussels, 25.11.2024

*For the Commission*  
*Jutta URPILAINEN*  
*Member of the Commission*

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<sup>8</sup> These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.