



Brussels, 21.11.2019
C(2019) 8509 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 21.11.2019

**on the financing of the Annual Action Programme 2019 in favour of the Republic of
Liberia**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/322 of 2 March 2015 on the implementation of the 11th European Development Fund¹, and in particular Article 9(1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2018/1877 of 26 November 2018 on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund, and repealing Regulation (EU) 2015/323², and in particular Article 24 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Annual Action Programme 2019 in favour of the Republic of Liberia, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision. Article 24 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877 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 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for Liberia for the period 2014-2020⁴, which sets out the following priorities: Good Governance to contribute to Liberia's Agenda for Transformation objectives of wealth creation and increased inclusiveness for a more equal and just society; Energy to increase access to renewable energy services and affordable power for communities and support economic transformation; Education to ensure equal access to a high-quality free and compulsory basic education and to a variety of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Skill Development opportunities that lead to improved livelihoods; Agriculture to promote a robust, competitive, sustainable and modernised agriculture sector supportive of sustainable economic growth and development.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement⁵ ("Internal Agreement") are to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable and inclusive growth by strengthening the

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 307, 3.12.2018, p. 1.

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 Commission Decision C(2015) 1267 of 26.2.2015 on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and Liberia.

⁵ Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the financing of European Union aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies, OJ L 210, 6.8.2013, p. 1.

TVET sector and to strengthen EU-Liberia development cooperation through aid effectiveness.

- (5) The action entitled "EU Support to a Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) and National Authorising Officer (NAO) Support in Liberia" will provide operational and technical support to the office of the NAO and the Aid Management and Coordination Unit (AMCU) of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) in Liberia and additionally, a new Technical Cooperation Facility will be established to support current NIP priorities and the identification and implementation of future EU-Liberia programming priorities.
- (6) The action entitled "EU Support to demand driven Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for young people in Liberia" will respond to economic growth opportunities by increasing young people's employability and entrepreneurship potential through strengthening the TVET sector, including development of a demand-driven model of TVET system. The action is designed to support the implementation of the Africa-Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs and the private sector in Liberia.
- (7) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (9) 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) 2018/1046⁶, applicable in accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877.
- (10) 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, both applicable in accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877, before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (11) The Commission in accordance with Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, applicable by virtue of Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877, retains the financial management responsibilities laid down in point 5.4.3 of Annex 1.
- (12) 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, applicable in accordance with Articles 24(2) and 25 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877.
- (13) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the programme, 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, applicable in accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877.

⁶ 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 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

- (14) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the EDF Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The programme

The financing decision on the Annual Action Programme 2019 in favour of the Republic of Liberia is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- "EU Support to a Technical Cooperation Facility (TCF) and National Authorising Officer (NAO) Support in Liberia", set out in Annex 1;
- "EU Support to demand driven Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) for young people in Liberia, set out in Annex 2.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme is set at EUR 15 500 000 and shall be financed from the 11th European Development Fund.

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 to be 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 5.4.3 of Annex 1 and in points 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 of Annex 2.

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 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, applicable in accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877, provided that these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph, acting in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 21.11.2019

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission