



Brussels, 9.11.2023
C(2023) 7730 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 9.11.2023

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Bolivia for 2023

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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) 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) 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 Article 23(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Bolivia for 2023, it is necessary to adopt a annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2023. 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme⁴ for the period 2021-2027⁵, which sets out the following priorities: (1) Environment, Climate Change and Inclusive Economic Development and (2) Governance and Human Rights.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme 'Americas and the Caribbean' are to support Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management, Sustainable and Climate-Resilient

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, 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 Decision C(2021) 8999, 14.12.2021

⁵ Commission Decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and Bolivia, C(2021)8999 final of 14.12.2021.

Agri-Food systems, Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings, and Support Measures in Bolivia.

- (6) The action entitled ‘Support to Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management sectors’ aims at improving the living conditions of the population living in Bolivia by increasing the coverage of drinking water and sanitation services and to strengthen the framework conditions to transform lineal waste management towards a circular economy model.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Agri-Food systems’ aims at supporting the transition towards sustainable and climate-resilient Agri-Food systems in Bolivia.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Support to Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings’ aims at supporting the current Bolivia policy on fight against human trafficking through a single intervention and will build on the current experiences and good practices that have been developed by the ongoing projects, mostly funded by the EU both at bilateral and regional level.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Support Measures 2023’ aims at contributing to a stronger and more effective EU-Bolivia partnership, enhancing the impact of the interventions programmed or implemented within the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for Bolivia 2021-2027, the Joint European Strategy (JES) 2022-2025, the Bolivian Team Europe Initiative (TEI) ‘Green and Resilient Development’, regional TEIs and other programmes and strategic documents (as the Roadmap for civil society, Gender Action Plan, Global Gateway, etc).
- (10) 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.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions I, II and III.
- (12) 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 Regulation⁶ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (13) 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.
- (14) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the annual 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.
- (15) 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,

⁶ Except for the cases referred to in Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Bolivia for 2023, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The annual action plan shall include the following actions and measure:

- (a) ‘Support to Water, Sanitation and Solid Waste Management sectors’ set out in Annex I;
- (b) ‘Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Agri-Food systems’ set out in Annex II;
- (c) ‘Support to Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings’ set out in Annex III;
- (d) ‘Support Measures 2023’ set out in Annex IV.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the multiannual action plan for 2023 is set at EUR 34 000 000 for 2023, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

– General budget of the Union for 2023: budget line 14.020140: EUR 34 000 000

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 4.3.1 of Annex I, 4.3.2 of Annex II and 4.3.1 of Annex III.

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 changes⁷ 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.

⁷ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

Article 5

Grants

Launching a call for proposals/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 the Annex II.

Article 6

Procurement

Launching a call for proposals/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 the Annex IV.

Done at Brussels, 9.11.2023

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN

Member of the Commission