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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 26.10.2022

on the financing of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Prosperity) for 2022-2023 part 1

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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) 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) for action plans thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Prosperity) for 2022-2023 part 1, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2022 to 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 thematic programme for Global Challenges⁴. Under the 'Prosperity' priority, the programmes aim to support the global dimension of the efforts needed to create and promote decent, green jobs, especially for women and young people. Furthermore it aims to progress in human development, including training, skill development and re-skilling to accompany the green and digital transitions, and promote climate-neutral, sustainable economic development and resilient economies.

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 C(2021)9157 of 15.12.2021

- (5) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 thematic programme ‘Global Challenges’ are to scale up private and public investments in the spirit of an inclusive, low-emission, climate-resilient green economy; to foster sustainable economic growth by advancing in more equitable digital transformation and quality infrastructure; and through action in key domains that provide jobs and trade opportunities for many.
- (6) The action entitled ‘Sustainable investment climate and due diligence for more and better jobs’ will promote sustainable and inclusive value chains growth and employment in partner countries through the adherence to environmental and social standards. It will improve the adherence to EU due diligence legislation and practice, and access to external markets for the compliant companies in partner countries; enhance the engagement of country partners into transparency and traceability along the global value chains including garment and footwear, with possible links to leather and beef industry; and promote the responsible management of extractive resources in partner countries.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Accelerating the global transition to a green and circular economy’ will catalyse a just transition to an inclusive, carbon-neutral, green and circular economy, globally. It will contribute in particular to increased global advocacy, policy support and knowledge sharing for the just transition to an inclusive carbon-neutral resource efficient circular economy through knowledge development, awareness raising, multilateral dialogues and partnerships, and to increased adoption of circular economy policies, regulations, and practices in partner countries.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Multilateralism and Digitalisation’ will promote EU values-based human-centric and gender responsive digital transformation through the multilateral system, whilst supporting the EU’s vision of multi-stakeholderism as a model to help shape the global narrative. It will contribute to the fulfilment of the EU’s global ambition of promoting a fair, inclusive and accessible, green, gender responsive and human centric digital transformation worldwide, inspired by the EU’s human-centric approach, as well as provide an alternative solution against the competing models for a digital economy and society currently present in the international sphere.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Support to Quality Infrastructure investments (SOURCE Platform)’ will support the implementation of quality infrastructure investments principles in targeted partner countries; and ensure the coordination with development financial institutions and multilateral development banks throughout such intervention thanks to the integrations of the SOURCE platform in those countries. It will operationalise and customize the SOURCE platform according to the regulatory frameworks and project development processes in partner countries; and enable adoption of SOURCE at the national level across all agencies involved in the development, funding and management of infrastructure projects in partner countries.
- (10) The action entitled ‘EU Expert Facility on Employment, Labour and Social Protection, SOCIEUX+ - phase 4’ will expand and improve access to better employment opportunities and inclusive social protection systems in partner countries, especially for women and youth. It will provide for employment and social protection policies, strategies and systems in partner countries to become more inclusive, addressing in particular women, children, youth and vulnerable groups needs; effective and sustainable.
- (11) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contribution(s) from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the conclusion of

the relevant agreement. Where such contribution(s) are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimated of conversion should be made.

- (12) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (13) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for proposals by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (14) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (15) 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 Regulation⁵ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (16) 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.
- (17) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the 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.
- (1) The action plan 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 action plan*

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual action plan for the implementation of the multiannual action plan for the thematic programme on Global Challenges (Prosperity) for 2022-2023 part 1, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Sustainable investment climate and due diligence for more and better jobs set out in Annex 1;
- (b) Accelerating the global transition to a green and circular economy set out in Annex 2;
- (c) Multilateralism and Digitalisation set out in Annex 3;
- (d) Support to Quality Infrastructure investments (SOURCE Platform) set out in Annex 4;
- (e) EU Expert Facility on Employment, Labour and Social Protection, SOCIEUX+ - phase 4 set out in Annex 5.

⁵ 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 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2022-2023 is set at EUR 80 million, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- budget line 14.020242 – Global Challenges Prosperity: EUR 80 million.

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 general budget of the Union for 2023 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

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 4 and Annex 5; in point 4.3.2 of Annex 1 and Annex 2, point 4.3.3 of Annex 3.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes⁶ 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.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annexes selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annex 1, Annex 2 and Annex 3.

⁶ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

Launching a call for proposals under a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in point 4.3.2 of Annex 3.

Done at Brussels, 26.10.2022

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission