



Brussels, 23.7.2024
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 23.7.2024

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the PanAsia region for 2024,
under the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Asia-Pacific region**

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**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the PanAsia region for 2024,
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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(1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the PanAsia region for 2024, under the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Asia-Pacific region, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2024. 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, namely those described in Annexes I and II, should contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁴ 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 resources⁵.

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 COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁵ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Asia-Pacific region for the period 2021-2027⁶, which sets out the following priorities regional integration and cooperation, pursuing EU interests with key partners, and migration, forced displacement and mobility.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ is to enhance secure connectivity between EU and Asia-Pacific by supporting aviation cooperation and ports safety and to promote an enabling environment with a view to contribute to a level playing field and more stable and prosperous partner countries, by working on competition issues and prevention of violent extremism in partner countries.
- (6) The action entitled ‘EU-Asia Aviation Partnership Project’ aims to foster safe, sustainable and resilient air connectivity between the EU, North and South Asia by supporting dialogue and cooperation between aviation authorities.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Global Ports Safety project’ aims to develop a resilient and sustainable connectivity between the EU and Asia, in a context of global trade expansion and energy transition by supporting safety and incident management capacities in partner countries in South Asia and South East Asia.
- (8) The action entitled ‘EU-Asia Cooperation on competition and subsidies control’ to foster an enabling environment and a level playing field for trade and investment between the EU and Asian countries by supporting policy dialogues related to competition and subsidies policies.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Supporting Asian countries’ resilience to violent extremism in the digital space’ seeks to address the multi-faceted phenomenon of violent extremism through a multipronged approach, focusing on capacity building, resilience, and the countering of hate speech and misinformation in online and offline spaces.
- (10) The objective and design of all actions fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance established by the OECD/DAC, as per the requirements of Article 3(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 agenda by supporting economic growth through sustainable and safe transports, transparent regulatory frameworks and peaceful societies. The countries benefiting from the action which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action documents.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions described in Annexes I, II and IV.
- (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 Regulation⁷ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

⁶ Commission Decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and the Asia Pacific region C(2021)9251 final of 15/12/2021.

⁷ 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.

- (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 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.
- (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.

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 the PanAsia region for 2024, under the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Asia-Pacific region, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) 'EU-Asia Aviation Partnership Project' set out in Annex I;
- (b) 'Global Ports Safety project' set out in Annex II;
- (c) 'EU-Asia Cooperation on competition and subsidies control' set out in Annex III;
- (d) 'Supporting Asian countries' resilience to violent extremism in the digital space' set out in Annex IV.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 is set at EUR 25 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 14.020130: EUR 600 000;
- (b) budget line 14.020131: EUR 24 400 000.

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 Annexes I, II and IV and in point 4.3.2 of Annex III.

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 changes⁸ 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.

Done at Brussels, 23.7.2024

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission

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