



Brussels, 7.11.2022
C(2022) 8055 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 7.11.2022

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
for 2022**

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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) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for 2022, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2022. 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: (i) Green Inclusive Growth; (ii) Human Capital; and (iii) Governance, including the Rule of Law and Human Rights.

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)8992 final of 14.12.2021.

⁵ Commission Decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan C(2021)8992 final of 14.12.2021.

- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the geographic programme “Asia and the Pacific” are to support the development of inclusive, sustainable agriculture and forestry value chains, and of renewable energy generation and afforestation, and of the needed skills.
- (6) The action entitled ‘KP Rural Economic Transformation (KP-RET)’ will foster sustainable, profitable agricultural value chains to improve rural income and employment, and include the development of needed skills, with special attention to women and youth inclusion.
- (7) The action entitled ‘ENERGY Plus: Energy for Climate Resilience in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Chitral district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)’ will promote clean energy security and nature based solutions in the province of Gilgit Baltistan and the Chitral district in KP.
- (8) The action entitled ‘EU support for sustainable economic development through demand-driven Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET IV)’ will support the Government in the implementation of its National Skills for All Strategy, while ensuring that the curriculum needed for green economic recovery is developed and people are trained, supporting thus the other two actions of this annual action plan.
- (9) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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 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 are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

⁶ 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.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan in favour of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for 2022, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) KP Rural Economic Transformation (KP-RET) set out in Annex I;
- (b) ENERGY Plus: Energy for Climate Resilience in Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) and Chitral district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) set out in Annex II;
- (c) EU support for sustainable economic development through demand-driven Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET IV) set out in Annex III.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for the year 2022 is set at EUR 87 million, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

– BGUE-B2022-14.020131-C1-INTPA – South and East Asia;

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 the Annexes I and III.

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, 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

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex II. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in Annex II.

Done at Brussels, 7.11.2022

For the Commission

Jutta URPILAINEN

Member of the Commission