



Brussels, 7.9.2018
C(2018) 5871 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 7.9.2018

**on the financing of the annual action programme in favour of the Asia region for 2018
part 2**

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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) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action², and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of annual action programme in favour of the Asia region for 2018 part 2, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2018. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 Commission has adopted the Multiannual Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) for Asia for the period 2014-2020⁴, which, after its revision following the mid-term review⁵, sets out among other the following priorities: enhance the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereunder ASEAN) regional integration process; enhance ASEAN connectivity through sustainable and inclusive economic integration and trade; contribute to trade, poverty reduction and sustainable economic growth.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

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(2014)6112.

⁵ C(2018)4741 of 20.7.2018, "Addendum to the Multiannual Regional Indicative Programme for Asia for the period 2014-2020".

- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme in favour of the Asia region for 2018 part 2 to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁶ are to enhance ASEAN regional integration through promoting sustainable economic and trade integration and assist developing countries of ASEAN through trade related assistance.
- (5) The action entitled “ASEAN Regional Integration Support – Myanmar Trade-Related Assistance (ARISE Plus – Myanmar)” aims to support greater connectivity and economic integration between Myanmar and the rest of the world, focusing on ASEAN in line with the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025. It is to contribute to inclusive and sustainable trade growth in Myanmar and increase trade diversification and integration, regionally (ASEAN) and internationally (EU and global markets). The action will be implemented in indirect management with the International Trade Centre (ITC).
- (6) The action entitled “ASEAN Regional Integration Support – Lao PDR Trade-Related Assistance (ARISE Plus – Lao PDR)” is to promote inclusive economic growth, increased climate change resilience, mitigation of vulnerability (due to dependence on a limited number of sectors and markets) and job creation in Lao PDR. It aims to improve business environment in targeted sectors with a focus on regional economic integration (ASEAN) and to increase trade and participation in global value-chains in targeted sectors. The action will be implemented in indirect management with the ITC.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (8) 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) 2018/1046.

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) 2018/1046⁷ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee established under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 233/2014,

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020 (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 44).

⁷ 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 programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual programme for the implementation of the annual action programme in favour of the Asia region for 2018 part 2, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- "ASEAN Regional Integration Support – Myanmar Trade-Related Assistance (ARISE Plus – Myanmar)" set out in Annex 1;
- "ASEAN Regional Integration Support – Lao PDR Trade-Related Assistance (ARISE Plus – Lao PDR)" set out in Annex 2.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2018 is set at EUR 13 000 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union: 21.020200.

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 5.3.1 of the Annexes.

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, 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.

Done at Brussels, 7.9.2018

For the Commission
Neven Mimica
Member of the Commission

