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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 19.10.2018**

**on the Multi-Annual Action Programme 2018-2020 for the  
European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)  
to be financed from the general budget of the Union**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the Multi-Annual Action Programme 2018-2020 for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) to be financed from the general budget of the Union

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 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, 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 action<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 2(1) and Article 3(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission has adopted the thematic programme for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Strategy Paper for the period 2018-2020<sup>3</sup> setting out five specific objectives: (1) Support to human rights and human rights defenders in situations where they are most at risk; (2) Support to other EU human rights priorities; (3) Support to democracy; (4) EU election observation; and (5) Support to targeted key actors and processes, including international and regional human rights instruments and mechanisms.
- (2) The objectives pursued by the Multi-Annual Action Programme to be financed under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights<sup>4</sup> are four of the specific objectives (number 1, 2, 3 and 5) of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Strategy Paper for the period 2018-2020. The objective number four is addressed by a Special Measure exclusively dedicated to EU Election Observation Missions.
- (3) The support measures contained in this decision constitute the necessary support for the sound management of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the achievement of its expected results and objectives and the measurement, analysis and reporting on its impact.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

<sup>3</sup> Multiannual Indicative Programme (2018-2020) for the Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Worldwide - Commission Implementing Decision C(2018)6409.

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 235/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for democracy and human rights worldwide (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 85).

- (4) The action number 1 entitled 'Support to Human Rights Defenders in situations where they are most at risk' will support and enable human rights defenders as well as organisations to perform their work and functions in contexts where they are the most vulnerable and threatened. It will be implemented by two grants.
- (5) The action number 2 entitled 'EIDHR Human Rights Crises Facility' will support civil society organisations in the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in some of the world's most difficult, dangerous and unpredictable political situations and/or where they are the most vulnerable and threatened. The action will be implemented by grants.
- (6) The action number 3 entitled 'Supporting Human Rights Priorities - Global Calls' will support civil society organisations in protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide in targeting the following priority themes (i) human rights and human rights defenders most at risk and shrinking democratic, civic and civil society space, (ii) human dignity, business and human rights, child rights, and (iii) support to democracy. The action will be implemented by grants through global calls for proposals.
- (7) The action number 4 entitled 'Support to local civil society action through Country-Based Support Scheme' will support and strengthen civil society organisations, democracy activists and human rights defenders working on human rights and democracy issues in third countries. The action will be implemented by grants and limited procurement of service contracts (maximum 10%).
- (8) The action number 5 entitled 'The 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress against the death penalty - Supporting the international momentum in favour of abolishing the death penalty' will support the organisation of the seventh World Congress Against the Death Penalty which is to take place in Belgium (Brussels) in February 2019. It will be implemented by a grant.
- (9) The action number 6 entitled 'A global programme to improve Indigenous Peoples' participation to UN Human Rights system, access to justice and development' aims at ensuring effective recognition of indigenous peoples rights as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It will be implemented by two grants.
- (10) The action number 7 entitled 'Supporting key actors – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR)' will enhance the global leadership of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reinforce his/her policy influence through an extra-budgetary voluntary contribution to the Office's 2018, 2019 and 2020 budget. It will be implemented by grants.
- (11) The action number 8 entitled 'Supporting key actors - Building legal expertise and fostering cooperation – International Criminal Court ' will increase support for and cooperation with the International Criminal Court. It will be implemented by grants.
- (12) The action number 9 entitled 'Support to targeted key actors and processes – regional human rights instruments and mechanisms' will improve the effectiveness of regional human rights mechanisms and structures. It will be implemented by grants.
- (13) The action number 10 entitled 'Supporting a global network of universities for human rights and democracy postgraduate education (Global Campus)' will consolidate the Global Campus of human rights and democracy, a unique network of one hundred participating universities around the world, seeking to advance human rights and

democracy through regional and global cooperation in education and research. It will be implemented by grants.

- (14) The action number 11 entitled 'Capacity development of National Human Rights Institutions' will promote improved capacities and outreach of targeted National Human Rights Institutions, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and the four Regional Networks, resulting in increased impact in the promotion and protection of human rights. It will be implemented by a grant.
- (15) The action number 12 entitled 'Supporting Human Rights Dialogues and their follow-up' will provide the necessary support to ensure the meaningful participation and valuable contribution of civil society organisations to the human right dialogues expected to take place in 2018, 2019 and 2020, between the EU and third countries or regional organisations. It will be implemented by procurement of services.
- (16) The action number 13 entitled 'EIDHR Support Measures' will support the sound implementation of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, including preparation, monitoring, evaluation and audit necessary for the implementation of the instrument. It will be implemented by procurement of services.
- (17) It is necessary to adopt a financing decision the detailed rules of which are set out in 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (18) It is necessary to adopt a work programme for grants in accordance with 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. The work programme is set out in the Annexes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,8, 9, 10, and 11.
- (19) The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.
- (20) The authorising officer responsible should be able to award grants without a call for proposals only in the exceptional cases set out in Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (21) The Commission should authorise the eligibility of costs as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 for Annexes 5 (7<sup>th</sup> World Congress against the Death Penalty) and 8 (Support to the International Criminal Court), where an early engagement of the European Union may ensure the timely preparation of a number of politically important events.
- (22) 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.
- (23) Pursuant to Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, any substantial change to a financing decision that has already been adopted should follow the same procedure as the initial decision. It is therefore appropriate that the Commission defines the changes to this Decision that are considered non-substantial in order to ensure that any such changes can be adopted by the authorising officer responsible.
- (24) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Democracy and Human Rights Committee established under Article 8 of Regulation (EU) No 235/2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

**Adoption of the programme**

The Multi-Annual Action Programme 2018-2020 for the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

Annex 1: Support to Human Rights Defenders in situations where they are most at risk

Annex 2: EIDHR Human Rights Crises Facility

Annex 3: Supporting Human Rights Priorities - Global Calls

Annex 4: Support to local civil society action through Country-Based Support Scheme

Annex 5: The 7<sup>th</sup> World Congress against the death penalty - Supporting the international momentum in favour of abolishing the death penalty

Annex 6: A global programme to improve Indigenous Peoples' participation to UN Human Rights system, access to justice and development

Annex 7: Supporting key actors – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Annex 8: Supporting key actors - Building legal expertise and fostering cooperation – International Criminal Court

Annex 9: Support to targeted key actors and processes – regional human rights instruments and mechanisms

Annex 10: Supporting a global network of universities for human rights and democracy postgraduate education (Global Campus)

Annex 11: Capacity development of National Human Rights Institutions

Annex 12: Supporting Human Rights Dialogues and their follow-up

Annex 13: EIDHR Support Measures

*Article 2*

**Financial contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at **EUR 404,738,000** and shall be financed for an amount of EUR 125,400,000 from budget line 21 04 01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2018 and for an amount of EUR 138,124,000 from budget line 21 04 01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2019 and for an amount of EUR 141,214,000 from budget line 21 04 01 of the general budget of the European Union for 2020.

The financial contribution 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 draft budget for financial years 2019 and 2020 following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

### *Article 3*

#### **Methods of implementation**

The elements required by Article 110(2) and (3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 are set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals by the authorising officer responsible in accordance with Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

The eligibility of costs shall be authorised as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 as set out in the Annexes 5 and 8.

### *Article 4*

#### **Non-substantial changes**

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 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 within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 19.10.2018

*For the Commission*

*Neven Mimica*

*Member of the Commission*