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C(2023) 7519 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 3.11.2023**

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2023**

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## on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2023

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046<sup>1</sup> 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, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947<sup>2</sup> 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 480/2009, and in particular Article 23(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2023, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2023.
- (2) The envisaged assistance should comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures<sup>3</sup> adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) The action plan provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with the Commission Communication ‘The European Green Deal’<sup>4</sup> and in the Interinstitutional 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 resources<sup>5</sup>.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Lebanon for the period 2021-2027<sup>6</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: 1) Enhancing good governance and supporting reforms, 2) Strengthening an inclusive and resilient economy, 3) Promoting a green and sustainable recovery.

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

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

<sup>4</sup> COM(2019)640 final of 11 December 2019.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

<sup>6</sup> C(2022)8363 final, 24.11.2022

- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2023, to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 should support reforms, good governance and promote green and sustainable recovery.
- (6) The action entitled ‘Support to the Election Process and Reforms and Support to Civil Society in Lebanon’ seeks to help people in Lebanon benefit from strengthened election processes and participative democracy and from an influential civil society.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Support to Integrated border management in Lebanon’ aims at aligning integrated border management in Lebanon with EU and international standards, including through the application of the human rights-based approach.
- (8) The action entitled ‘Support to the Economic Reforms required under the IMF Programme in Lebanon’ will enhance the capacity of public institutions to implement reforms, with enhanced governance, and strengthen accountability, transparency and inclusiveness.
- (9) The action entitled ‘System strengthening in the field of water in Lebanon’ seeks at ensuring the sustainable provision of water services by Lebanon's public sector, while mitigating the effects of climate change on water resources.
- (10) The action entitled ‘Sustainable energy transition programme in Lebanon’ will increase the competitiveness of industries through sustainable energy, efficiency measures and access to finance.
- (11) The objective and design of all actions fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (ODA) established by the OECD/DAC, as per the requirements of Article 3(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Lebanon, benefiting from the actions, is included in the list of ODA recipients.
- (12) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c) of the Financial Regulation, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action plan.
- (13) 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.
- (14) To that 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 Regulation<sup>7</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (15) 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.
- (16) 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.
- (17) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the NDICI Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

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<sup>7</sup> 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 work programme for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2023, as set out in the annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- Support to the Election Process and Reforms and Support to Civil Society in Lebanon, set out in annex I;
- Support to Integrated border management in Lebanon set out in annex II;
- Support to the Economic Reforms required under the IMF Programme in Lebanon set out in annex III;
- System strengthening in the field of water in Lebanon set out in annex IV;
- Sustainable energy transition programme in Lebanon set out in annex V.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 is set at EUR 65 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.020110 of the general budget of the Union.

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 4.3.2 of the Annex I, in point 4.3.1 of the Annexes II and V, in point 4.2.2 of Annex III and in point 4.3.1 and 4.3.2 of Annex IV.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases<sup>8</sup> or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, 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.

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<sup>8</sup>These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.

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, 3.11.2023

*For the Commission*  
*Olivér VÁRHELYI*  
*Member of the Commission*