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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 16.12.2021

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan part I in favour of the Neighbourhood,
Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Regional South
Neighbourhood for 2021-2023**

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on the financing of the multiannual action plan part I in favour of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Regional South Neighbourhood for 2021-2023

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 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 regards 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 and 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 multiannual action plan part I in favour of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Regional South countries for 2021-2023, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing Decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme for 2021-2023. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing Decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme⁴ for the period 2021-2027⁵ which sets the following priorities: (1) human development, governance and rule of law; (2) strengthen resilience, build prosperity and seize the digital transition; (3) peace and security; (4) green transition; and (5) support to the main drivers of regional integration.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p. 1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1–78.

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 Commission Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Southern Neighbourhood Region for the period 2021- 2027.

⁵ C(2021)9399 of 16.12.2021.

- (4) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Neighbourhood’ are: to contribute to institution building and support to civil society organisations; to contribute to economic recovery in the Southern Mediterranean countries through a regional approach; to provide a framework for EU cooperation with the Southern Neighbourhood on security, while underscoring both external and internal aspects of security, as well as its gender component; to enhance energy security and support a green energy transition at regional level; and to support the establishment of an adequate regulatory framework for maritime transport for the benefit of the Southern Mediterranean partner countries.
- (5) The first action entitled ‘Support for institution-building and international cooperation in the Southern Neighbourhood’, aims for institution building and international cooperation with four regional organisations for more integration, democracy and diversity in the Southern Mediterranean, and more dialogue and cooperation with the Arab countries.
- (6) The second action entitled ‘Civil Society Facility Southern Neighbourhood 2021’, aims to foster and promote a functioning pluralistic and participatory democracy in the Southern Neighbourhood countries. It aims at increasing the participation of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the policy-making process and policy dialogue; the promotion of public accountability; an increase in the advocacy role of the civil society; and the participation of CSOs in a structured dialogue with the European Union.
- (7) The third action entitled ‘Support to the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) for the period 2022-2024’, aims to contribute to the democratisation and to the social and economic development of partner countries by supporting pro-democracy activists. The result of the action is to enable the functioning and activities of the European Endowment for Democracy as an actor to foster and encourage democratisation and deep and sustainable democracy in countries in political transition and in societies struggling for democratisation.
- (8) The fourth action entitled ‘Support to post-COVID economic recovery’, covers two components, which aim at supporting the post-COVID economic recovery in the Southern Neighbourhood, through support to economic reforms and macroeconomic management in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund – Middle East Technical Centre (IMF-METAC); the strengthening of the capacity of CSOs on budgetary analysis, monitoring and advocacy; and the support to social economy and social entrepreneurship.
- (9) The fifth action entitled ‘Neighbourhood South security package 2021’, covers three components. The first one covers gender mainstreaming in law enforcement – as a gender responsive approach and practice to law enforcement, launched in cooperation with Interpol. This component will capitalize on Interpol’s experience in building related gender capacities in other regions and on its unique position as a global law enforcement organisation. The second component is a targeted action in threat analysis and intelligence-led approaches to detect terrorists and criminals through the deployment of passenger information units, passenger name records and advanced passenger information. The third component – Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-Made disasters in Middle East and North Africa Partnership Countries (PPRD South IV) – will continue enhancing disaster risk management and

civil protection in the Southern Neighbourhood. DG ECHO will manage this component.

- (10) The sixth action entitled ‘Accelerating the clean energy transition for a greener and fairer economic recovery in the Southern Neighbourhood’. This action aims at contributing to a greener and fairer post-COVID socioeconomic recovery, and enhance energy security in the partner countries through an accelerated clean energy transition at regional level. It will propose a collaborative partnership between countries’ governments and national agencies, by sharing best practices in designing and implementing evidence-based energy policies and measures. The private sector and international financing institutions will be closely associated to its implementation.
- (11) The seventh action entitled ‘EuroMed Transport Programme on Maritime Safety – SAFEMED’, aims at supporting the establishment of an adequate regulatory framework for maritime transport for the benefit of the Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries. The objective of the SAFEMED project is to ensure that beneficiary countries continue to implement the concerned measures of the Regional Transport Action Plan (RTAP) that are a joint commitment of Mediterranean countries and to discharge the responsibilities as Flag, Coastal and Port state arising from the international maritime conventions to get an improved performance as Flag, Port and Coastal States.
- (12) In accordance with Article 43 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the action is of a regional nature, fostering regional cooperation with Algeria, Egypt, Israel Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine⁶, Syria and Tunisia. The programme’s objective and design fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance established by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC), as per the requirements of Article 3(3) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries, and the implementation of the 2030 agenda by supporting the external dimension of the EU policies through the promotion of coherent sectoral approaches, and an enhanced regulatory convergence across the regional and beyond to adjacent regions as appropriate, as their participation constitutes a substantial element to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional or trans-regional cooperation.
- (13) It is appropriate to authorize the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (14) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (15) 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 system and procedures in accordance with article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation⁷

⁶ This designation shall not be construed as a recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

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.

and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (16) Is it necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(2) of the Financial Regulation.
- (17) In order to allow for a flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purpose of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (18) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual action plan for the implementation of the multiannual action plan part I in favour of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Regional South countries for 2021, as set in the annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- Annex I: Support for institution-building and international cooperation in the Southern Neighbourhood;
- Annex II: Civil Society Facility Southern Neighbourhood 2021;
- Annex III: Support to the European Endowment for Democracy (EED) for the period 2022-2024;
- Annex IV: Support to post-COVID 19 economic recovery;
- Annex V: Neighbourhood South security package 2021;
- Annex VI: Accelerating the clean energy transition for a greener and fairer economic recovery in the Southern Neighbourhood;
- Annex VII: EuroMed Transport Programme on Maritime Safety - SAFEMED.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the multiannual action plan for 2021-2023 is set at EUR 97 400 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- Budget line 14.02.01.10: EUR 88 400 000 (of which EUR 74 800 000 for 2021, EUR 6 800 000 for 2022 and EUR 6 800 000 for 2023);
- Budget line 14.02.01.11: EUR 9 000 000 (of which EUR 3 000 000 for 2021, EUR 3 000 000 for 2022 and EUR 3 000 000 for 2023).

The appropriations 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 in the draft general budget of the Union for 2022 and 2023, 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 and entrusted authorities 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 4.3.3 of Annex I; 4.3.2 of Annexes IV and V; and point 4.4 of Annex VII.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, 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, 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.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the annexes. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in point 4.3.1 of the Annexes I, III, IV and VI.

Done at Brussels, 16.12.2021

For the Commission

Olivér VÁRHELYI

Member of the Commission

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