



Brussels, 5.11.2019  
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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**  
**of 5.11.2019**  
**on a special measure in favour of Israel for 2019**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 5.11.2019

## on a special measure in favour of Israel for 2019

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) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of a special measure in favour of Israel for 2019, it is necessary to adopt a financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme for 2019. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The Union and the State of Israel agreed on an Action Plan in April 2005 with the purpose of building a strong partnership and gradually integrating Israel into European policies and programmes<sup>4</sup>. In the absence of a multi-annual programming document a special measure is to be adopted on the basis of Article 2(1), third paragraph, of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014.
- (4) The objective pursued by the special measure to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument<sup>5</sup> is to continue developing closer relationships between the EU and Israel, aiming at achieving a significant level of economic integration and deepening political co-operation.

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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> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu) Please 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 between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/eu-israel\\_action\\_plan\\_2005.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/eu-israel_action_plan_2005.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

- (5) The action entitled "Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan" aims to promote legislative harmonisation (including with regard to the participation of Israel to the Union programmes) and strengthen the dialogue between the Union and the State of Israel at political and administrative levels.
- (6) 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.
- (7) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The measure shall be communicated to the European Parliament and to the Member States through the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 within one month of its adoption.
- (8) The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Nr. 2013/C- 205/05 shall apply for all actions under this Special Measure, including with respect to third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries in accordance with Article 204 of the EU's Financial Regulation.
- (9) This Decision shall be implemented in conformity with the European Union's position that the territories which came under Israeli administration in June 1967 are not considered as being part of the State of Israel.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1  
*The measure*

The special measure in favour of Israel for 2019, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following action: "Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan".

Article 2  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the special measure is set at EUR 2 million, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line 22.040102 of the general budget of the Union.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

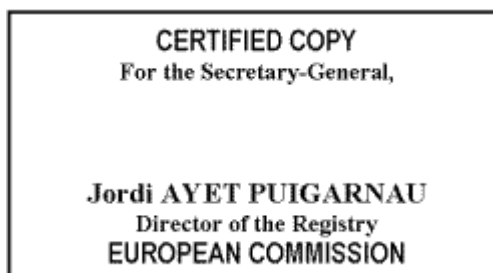
Article 3  
*Flexibility clause*

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 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, where 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, acting in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 5.11.2019

*For the Commission*  
*Johannes HAHN*  
*Member of the Commission*





**ANNEX**

of the Commission Implementing Decision on a special measure  
in favour of Israel for 2019

**Action Document for "Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan - Israel"**

**ANNUAL SPECIAL MEASURE**

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation and action programme/measure in the sense of Articles 2 and 3 of Regulation N° 236/2014.

<b>1. Title/basic act/ CRIS number</b>	Support to the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan - Israel CRIS number: 2019/041-911 financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)	
<b>2. Zone benefiting from the action/location</b>	Israel The action shall be carried out at the following location: throughout the country. <sup>1</sup>	
<b>3. Programming document</b>	N/A	
<b>4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b>	SDG Goal: SDG 17 – Partnerships for the goals	
<b>5. Sector of intervention/ thematic area</b>	All sectors	DEV. Assistance: NO <sup>2</sup>
<b>6. Amounts concerned</b>	Total estimated cost: EUR 2,000,000 Total amount of European Union (EU) contribution: EUR 2,000,000	

<sup>1</sup> The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Nr. 2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19.07.2013) shall apply to the call for proposals linked to this Action Programme. This notice, entitled "Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards", can be consulted at: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG)

<sup>2</sup> Official Development Assistance is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective.

<b>7. Aid modality(ies) and implementation modality(ies)</b>	Project Modality <b>Direct management</b> through: - Grants - Procurement			
<b>8 a) DAC code(s)</b>	43010 – Multisector Aid			
<b>b) Main Delivery Channel</b>	10000 – Public Sector Institutions			
<b>9. Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</b>	<b>General policy objective</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Participation development/good governance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and Women’s and Girl’s Empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, Maternal, New born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>RIO Convention markers</b>	<b>Not targeted</b>	<b>Significant objective</b>	<b>Principal objective</b>
	Biological diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>10. Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagship</b>	N/A			

## SUMMARY

Israel is part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), yet, being a member of the Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD)<sup>3</sup>, it receives limited funding from the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). The Institutional Twinning modality is used in the ENI co-operation with Israel.

There is no Single Support Framework for Israel. Co-operation is based on the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan<sup>4</sup>, agreed in 2005 and whose validity has been extended until end of 2021. The set of common objectives and commitments laid out in the Action Plan provides the basis for increased co-operation and exchange of views, with an aim to explore the possibility of legislative and regulatory approximation in jointly identified priority areas.

<sup>3</sup> Israel is a member of the OECD since 2010.

<sup>4</sup> [http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/enp/pdf/pdf/action\\_plans/israel\\_enp\\_ap\\_final\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/enp/pdf/pdf/action_plans/israel_enp_ap_final_en.pdf)

The actions<sup>5</sup>, financed through special measures, reflect Israel's interest and capacity to implement the jointly agreed priorities and have to follow the rules set for institutional Twinning instrument.

## **1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS**

### **1.1 Context Description**

The European Neighbourhood Policy applies to Israel although the country receives limited funding from the European Neighbourhood Instrument as it is a member of the OECD. There is no Single Support Framework for Israel. Co-operation is based on the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan, agreed in 2005 and the validity of which has been extended ever since.

No Association Committee or Association Council meetings were held since 2012, however co-operation actions and policy dialogue in several areas continued actively throughout.

The Israeli economy has showed strong resilience during the global economic downturn of last decade and despite a relative slowdown Israel has maintained high Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rates (reaching 3.3% in 2018).

The EU is Israel's largest trading partner, currently representing 38.3% of Israel's total trade.

Institutional Twinning and Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (TAIEX) are the modalities used in ENI co-operation with Israel. Israel has already made use of the TAIEX and Twinning instruments to increase legislative approximation in areas such as, among others: market regulation, statistics, agriculture policy, transport, health, welfare services and environment. All co-operation is subject to the requirements set out in the "Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU"<sup>6</sup> from 2014 onwards.

Priorities for co-operation shall take into consideration, as appropriate, the conclusions of the EU's review of the modalities on the ground in support of a two-state solution.

Israeli governmental institutions, civil society organisations as well as regional and local authorities are eligible to apply to, and participate in a wide variety of other programmes under the ENI-funded regional programmes (including Cross Border Co-operation and the EU Peace Building Initiative) as well as thematic EU programmes such as the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and civil society organisations.

### **1.2 Policy Framework (Global, EU)**

Israel is among the EU immediate neighbours included in the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), which offers the perspective of moving beyond co-operation to a significant degree of integration through a stake in the EU's Internal Market and the possibility to participate in key aspects of EU policies and

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<sup>5</sup> All activities are implemented within internationally recognised Israeli borders.

<sup>6</sup> EU policy is formulated in Commission Notice Nr.2013/C-205/05 (OJEU C-205 of 19.07.2013), which can be consulted at:[http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C\\_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2013:205:FULL](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2013.205.01.0009.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2013:205:FULL)

programmes. Israel was among the first wave of countries to agree on an ENP Action Plan with the EU, which entered into force in April 2005.

While formal decision on the identification and adoption of new EU-Israel Partnership Priorities (PPs) in line with the revised European Neighbourhood Policy is pending, the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan has been extended until end of 2021.

Building on the institutional framework set up by the EU-Israel Association Agreement, the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan set out in more detail a comprehensive set of jointly developed priorities with a programme of specific activities to which both sides are committed. The areas for greater co-operation under the ENP Action Plan include: upgrading political co-operation; promoting peace in the Middle East; approximating Israeli legislation to that of the EU as a way of facilitating bilateral trade; pursuing greater liberalisation of trade, services and agriculture; the fight against organised crime; co-operation in transport, energy, communications; promote further cooperation in science and technology and people-to-people contacts in education, culture and civil society.

Since the entry into force of the ENP Action Plan, several new agreements have been signed. The agreement on Conformity Assessment and Acceptance of industrial products (ACAA) entered into force on 19 January 2013. The Agreement contains an annex on good manufacturing practices for pharmaceutical products, which will allow for EU-certified pharmaceuticals to be placed on Israel's market and vice-versa, without additional certification.

In June 2013, the EU and Israel signed a comprehensive air transport agreement which is gradually opening up and integrating their respective markets, develop an aviation area with common rules, offer economic benefits for consumers and new opportunities for the industry. Also, in 2014, Israel and the European Union signed the agreement associating Israel to the Horizon 2020 – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020). The agreement provides Israeli researchers, universities and companies with full access to the Horizon 2020 Programme, preliminary talks on the association of Israel to Horizon Europe, the next framework programme for research and innovation, have already started.

### **1.3 Public Policy Analysis of the partner country/region**

Israel is a small country, with a population of 8.9 million inhabitants and with a high GDP per capita at EUR 34,300. The country has few natural resources (although some years ago important natural gas reserves were found in the Israeli waters) and is dependent on international trade. Given the geopolitical situation in the region, trade can practically only take place with overseas partners, notably the EU. The country's recent macroeconomic context represents a mix of good economic indicators, including some increase in exports of goods and services, and continued economic growth on the one hand, and the growing economic and social disparities, the increasing budget deficit and the weakening competitiveness in some sectors on the other. The new Government after the outcome of the parliamentary elections (17 September 2019) will have to address the challenges coming from this dual economic context.



Israel's debt/GDP ratio is lower than in most OECD countries thanks to its solid macroeconomic situation characterised by fairly low expenditure and high tax collection. The low 4% unemployment rate implies practically full employment.

The EU continues to be Israel's largest trading partner. Israel's high-tech/start up economy offers opportunities for enhanced EU investors and co-operation in the area of research and innovation. Energy co-operation has significant potential in Israel too. Important measures were approved by the government in the areas of environmental protection, money laundering and education. The EU has been actively engaged in supporting ongoing market and policy reforms including through sharing of best practices. As Israel is relatively behind in environmental policies, waste management, and circular economy, new opportunities can open up in Israel for Europe to take a leading role.

The Israeli economy continues to face a number of challenges, including a relatively weak competitive position in certain traditional sectors, such as food and manufacturing; the increasing shortages in high-skilled labour and the related problems in the education system; the persistent high consumer prices, particularly for food; and increasing poverty and income inequality rates.

Specific objectives to be identified under this action are likely to contribute to one or more of the following SDGs:

- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

#### **1.4 Stakeholder analysis**

The direct beneficiary of the programme is the Israeli public administration, while the indirect beneficiary is the population of Israel.

All activities under this programme will integrate the mainstreaming of the right-based approach and the SDGs' framework.

A variety of relevant stakeholders are involved in relation to each sector of co-operation, from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society, Associations of Industries, Academics or Trade Unions.

#### **1.5 Problem analysis/priority areas for support**

As the identification and adoption of new EU-Israel Partnership Priorities (PPs) in line with the revised European Neighbourhood Policy is pending, the areas of joint EU-Israel interests to be pursued under the 2019 Special Measure will fall under the existing 15 specific sectors identified in the EU-Israel Action Plan.

Co-operation in the energy sector remains among the priorities. Other priorities include co-operation in the transport sector and in the health sector (including on food safety and consumer protections). In addition, discussions remains ongoing in areas

such as customs, trade, regulatory co-operation as well as migration-related issues, including trafficking in human beings, and judicial co-operation.

Requests for co-operation have to be submitted by Israeli ministries, either following initial identification of needs in the framework of policy dialogues or by the EU's follow up on past co-operation (notably through TAIEX).

Finally, the EU Delegation will continue using the TAIEX tool to widen the scope of the current EU-Israel co-operation in emerging sectors of mutual interests, as well as continue exploring potentials for new twinning projects.

## 2 RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Risks	Risk level (H/M/L)	Mitigating measures
The formal necessity of including a clause defining “territoriality” may delay signing the Financial Agreement.	M	This risk is likely to be mitigated like in previous years by offering if necessary an exchange of letters accompanying the Financing Agreement.
Preparation of the twinning fiches could possibly be delayed due to limited experience on the Israeli side in dealing with EU programmes and the lack of resources attributed to the subject.	M	This risk will be mitigated by the Delegation's timely assessment of possible need for support of EU external experts to draft the Twinning project fiches to meet the contracting deadline.
Unsuccessful call for proposals.	M	This risk will be mitigated by jointly identifying areas of intervention highly relevant to both Israel and EU Member States as well as by increasing the awareness of EU Member States Embassies in Israel.
<b>Assumptions</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The degree of Israeli interest in and commitment to the Twinning instrument at the political level will remain high despite the possible rise of disagreements in some EU-Israel relations or in result from the consultation process on identifying Partnership Priorities under new ENP.</li> <li>- Israel and the EU can identify areas of joint interests for the implementation of Twinning projects.</li> </ul>		

## 3 LESSONS LEARNT AND COMPLEMENTARITY

### 3.1 Lessons learnt

Since 2008 and the first bilateral allocation in support to the ENP Action Plan, 12 Twinning projects have been successfully implemented and two are ongoing; one with the Ministry of Education, to set up the basis for the establishment of an Israeli National Qualification Framework (NQF); and one with the Israeli Ministry of Communications, to strengthen the regulatory capacity of Israel in the field of telecommunications, with a focus on service provision over networks owned and operated by others. Furthermore, an additional Twinning contract is expected to be signed by the summer 2019 to assist the Ministry of Environmental Protection in the sector of solid waste management.

Lessons have been drawn from the implementation of the past and ongoing Twinning projects on issues such as drafting of Twinning fiches, negotiations with both Israeli

ministries and EU Member States implementing institutions on contract preparations, as well as on communication and visibility on Twinning activities.

Moreover, valuable input was gained from end of projects and ongoing Results-Oriented monitoring exercise, which clearly illustrated the need to ensure the adoption of a strong theory of intervention and project-management methodology in twinning projects.

Finally, the final report of the Evaluation of the Twinning Instrument in the period 2010-2017 carried out in 2018, contributed to improve the understanding of weaknesses and strengths of the instrument.

In parallel, lessons have also been learned from the use of the TAIEX instrument. More and more, a clear link of TAIEX activities is made with policy processes, in the mutual interest of both parties. Further sectoral exchanges and exploring areas that could benefit from Twinning initiatives will help strengthen the link to policy processes.

Also, the EU, in particular the EU Delegation has engaged in a process to increase the effectiveness of the TAIEX instrument in Israel.

### **3.2 Complementarity, synergy and donor co-ordination**

Given Israel's high income level, the majority of donors do not provide any funding. This is a unique action.

Complementarity and synergies are nonetheless insured with other instruments such as the Partnership Instrument and relevant EU regional programmes such as EuroMed Transport, EuroMed Police, EuroMed Justice, MEDSTAT, SWIM and others.

## **4 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION**

### **4.1 Overall objective, specific objective(s), expected outputs and indicative activities**

The general objective is to develop an increasingly close relationship between the EU and the State of Israel aiming at achieving a significant level of economic integration and deepening of political co-operation.

Specific objectives:

- 1) to strengthen the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political and administrative levels;
- 2) to promote legislative and regulatory approximation (including with regard to participation in European Union programmes).

The expected results are:

- 1) the implementation of the priorities agreed in the ENP Action Plan;
- 2) the reinforcement of the administrative capacity of Israel through partnership co-operation between Israel public administrations and those of EU Member States.

This programme is relevant for the Agenda 2030. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Goals "Decent Work and Economic Growth" and 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions", but also promotes progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 9 "Industry, Innovation,

Infrastructure", 12 "Responsible Consumption and Production" and 13 "Climate Action". This does not imply a commitment by the country benefiting from this programme.

This Action Programme supports the approximation of Israeli legislation to EU norms and standards with a view to facilitating and improving co-operation and paves the way to the participation in the EU Programmes.

Final identification of specific areas of intervention will be in line with the priorities agreed within the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan.

#### **4.2 Intervention Logic**

The Intervention Logic is based on the two main assumptions: the first being that Israeli ministries will maintain a level of interest in the EU regulatory framework that will be translated into concrete request of co-operation through the Twinning instrument; and the second being that Israeli requests are addressing sectors that are of mutual interests for Israel and the EU.

In that context, support to a given ministry will achieve outcomes contributing to an increased approximation of Israel legal framework with the EU *acquis* while also contributing to strengthened sectorial dialogues, in turn feeding into the general objective of deepening the political co-operation.

Outcomes will be achieved thanks to a variety of outputs that will be identified directly at the Twinning project level.

#### **4.3 Mainstreaming**

During all phases of this programme, particular attention will be devoted to the principle of equality of treatment and opportunity in both gender issues and minority rights. Other relevant cross-cutting issues, including environment and conflict sensitivity will be part of both the identification and formulation phases.

#### **4.4 Contribution to SDGs**

This intervention is relevant to the 2030 Agenda. Projects will duly incorporate a rights-based approach and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. All actions under this intervention will contribute primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG 17– Partnerships for the goals. In addition, this intervention will also contribute to other significant SDGs (see 4.1 above), which will be identified in line with the sectors of intervention.

Israel is in the process of establishing country specific SDGs targets, which will be taken into consideration whenever relevant.

### **5 IMPLEMENTATION**

#### **5.1 Financing agreement**

In order to implement this action, it is foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the State of Israel.

#### **5.2 Indicative implementation period**

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 4 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and

agreements implemented, is 48 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible Authorising Officer by amending this Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

### **5.3 Implementation modalities**

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<sup>7</sup>.

#### **5.3.1 Grants: (direct management)**

##### **(a) Purpose of the grant(s)**

Specific objectives:

- 1) to strengthen the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political and administrative levels;
- 2) to promote legislative and regulatory approximation (including with regard to participation in European Union programmes).

The expected results are:

- 1) the implementation of the priorities agreed in the ENP Action Plan;
- 2) the reinforcement of the administrative capacity of Israel through partnership co-operation between Israel public administrations and those of EU Member States.

The size of the grants will be decided based on the type of EU *acquis* sector identified, needs of the beneficiary administration and duration of the project in the specific field of the project.

Discussions with the Israeli authorities show that the main indicative priority areas for new Twinning projects are energy, transport, health, justice, public services, social and legal affairs. Final identification of specific areas and actions will be in line with the priorities agreed within the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan.

The expected results are to implement the priorities agreed in the EU-Israel ENP Action Plan as well as to reinforce the administrative capacity of Israel through partnership co-operation between Israel public administrations and those of EU Member States.

##### **(b) Type of applicants targeted**

In line with Article 4(10) (b) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, participation in Twinning calls for proposals is limited to EU Member States administrations or their mandated bodies.

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<sup>7</sup>

[www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu). Please 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 between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

The eligibility criteria formulated in Commission Notice Number 2013/C- 205/05 shall apply for all actions under this special measure 2018, including with respect to third parties receiving financial support in the cases where the respective action involves financial support to third parties by grant beneficiaries.

### 5.3.2 Procurement (direct management)

Procurement will contribute to achieve the specific objectives set in section (4) by assisting the Israeli institutions in developing the Twinning fishes.

## 5.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the provisions of Commission Notice Number 2013/C 205/05.

In accordance with EU policy, this agreement shall not apply to the geographic areas that came under the administration of the State of Israel after 5 June 1967.

## 5.5 Indicative budget

	<b>EU contribution (amount in EUR)</b>	<b>Indicative third party contribution, in currency identified</b>
<b>Objectives 1 and 2 composed of:</b>	<b>1,850,000</b>	N.A.
- Grants (direct management) – cf section 5.4.1	N.A.	
- Procurement (direct management) – cf. section 5.4.3	N.A.	
<b>Grants – total envelope</b> under section 5.4.1	<b>1,700,000</b>	N.A.
<b>Procurement – total envelope</b> under section 5.3.3	<b>150,000</b>	N.A.
<b>Evaluation</b> (cf. section 5.9)	75,000	N.A.
<b>Audit/ Expenditure verification</b> (cf. section 5.10)		
<b>Communication and visibility</b> (cf. section 5.11)	75,000	N.A.
<b>Contingencies</b>	N.A.	N.A.
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>	N.A.

## 5.6 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

Organisational set-up and responsibilities are defined in accordance with the applicable Twinning Manual, Section 4: Main actors. They include in particular the Member State National Contact Points, the Member State Project Leader, the Resident Twinning Adviser and Short-term experts.

## **5.7 Performance and Results monitoring and reporting**

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (outputs and direct outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the Logframe matrix (for project modality) or the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

SDGs indicators and, if applicable, any jointly agreed indicators as for instance per Joint Programming document should be taken into account.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

## **5.8 Evaluation**

Having regard to the nature of the action, a Twinning Review Mission will be carried out for this action or its components via the Commission's Twinning Co-ordination Team.

In case an evaluation is not foreseen, the Commission may, during implementation, decide to undertake such an evaluation for duly justified reasons either on its own decision or on the initiative of the partner.

The evaluation reports shall be shared with the partner country and other key stakeholders. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, in agreement with the partner country, jointly decide on the follow-up actions to be taken and any adjustments necessary, including, if indicated, the reorientation of the project.

## **5.9 Audit**

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

It is foreseen that audit services may be contracted under a framework contract.

## **5.10 Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation.

In terms of legal obligations on communication and visibility, the measures shall be implemented by the Commission, the partner country (for instance, concerning the reforms supported through budget support), contractors, grant beneficiaries and/or entrusted entities. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the financing agreement, procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Requirements for European Union External Action (or any succeeding document) shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

It is foreseen that a contract for communication and visibility may be contracted using procurement procedures.



**APPENDIX - INDICATIVE LOGFRAME MATRIX (FOR PROJECT MODALITY)**

	<b>Results chain: Main expected results (maximum 10)</b>	<b>Indicators (at least one indicator per expected result)</b>	<b>Sources of data</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
<b>Impact (Overall Objective)</b>	Contribute to the development of an increasingly close relationship between the EU and Israel	Nature and content of political statements Nature and content of policy dialogues Status of approximation of legislation	Minutes of Association council Conclusions of the PPs with Israel Minutes of sectoral sub-committees under the EU-IL ENP Action Plan	<i>Not applicable</i>
<b>Outcome(s) (Specific Objective(s))</b>	To strengthen the dialogue between the EU and Israel at political and administrative levels To promote legislative approximation (including with participation in European Union programmes)	Number of national legislation amended in line with the EU <i>acquis</i> Nature and content of Israel's participation to EU programmes (including regional) Number of bilateral negotiations started/concluded Number of SDGs targeted and progress towards their national objectives	Israeli Law Data from EU programmes and TWINNING and TAIEX requests in 2019 Israel annual report toward Agenda 2030.	Reasonable stability of the regional framework. At least stable Israeli political and administrative interest in the EU <i>acquis</i> .
<b>Outputs</b>	Progress under priorities identified in the EU-IL ENP Action Plan has been initiated The Israel legal framework is approximated to the EU regulatory framework The administrative capacity of Israel public administrations has been reinforced in line with the EU <i>acquis</i>	Indicators aligned to the EU Results Framework and to the SDGs indicators will be identified in relevance to the sectors targeted Results of Twinning projects	Reports from Israel Central Bureau of Statistics Reports from Twinning projects and Twinning Review Mission	EU MS interests in applying to Twinning projects in Israel does not decline