



Brussels, 3.11.2023
C(2023) 7600 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 3.11.2023

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Egypt for 2023

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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) 2018/1046¹ 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) 2021/947² 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 Egypt 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 measures³ adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) The action plan provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication ‘The European Green Deal’⁴ 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 resources⁵.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Egypt for the period 2021-2027⁶, which sets out the following priorities: Green and sustainable development; Human development, economic resilience and prosperity building

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

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 COM(2019)640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁵ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

⁶ C(2022)4049 of 17/06/2022 Commission implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for Egypt for the period 2021-2027

through green and digital transition; and Social Cohesion, Modern and Democratic State.

- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 should support digital transformation; youth employability and skills; energy and water sectors; green transition and climate action, children protection from all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect, in alignment to international standards; as well as sustainable demographic growth.
- (6) The action entitled “EU Support to Digital Transformation in Egypt – MASR EL RAKAMIA” aims at supporting a human-centric, equitable, inclusive and citizen-oriented digital transformation in Egypt through a whole-of-society approach.
- (7) The action entitled “EU Support to Youth Employability and Skills (EU4YES)” aims at supporting youth and adults to have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.
- (8) The action entitled “EU Green Facility” aims at supporting climate and environment action, with a focus on the role of the Energy, and water sectors in achieving climate neutrality.
- (9) The action entitled “EU support to Resilience of future generations” aims at improving children’s access to and utilisation of inclusive, rights-based and gender-sensitive prevention and protection services.
- (10) The action entitled “EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy (Phase II)” aims at further improving the delivery and use of voluntary, inclusive, rights based and quality reproductive health and family planning services to reduce population growth rates in Egypt.
- (11) The objective and design of all actions fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance 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 by supporting mainly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well Being); SDG 4 (Quality Education); SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation); SDG 7 (Affordable and clean energy); SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 10 (Reduce Inequalities). The countries benefiting from the action which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action document.
- (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 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-GE Neighbourhood Committee.

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 Egypt for 2023 as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- EU Support to Digital Transformation in Egypt – MASR EL RAKAMIA set out in Annex I;
- EU Support to Youth Employability and Skills (EU4YES) set out in Annex II;
- EU Green Facility set out in Annex III;
- EU support to Resilience of future generations set out in Annex IV;
- EU Support to Egypt's National Population Strategy (Phase II) 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 62 000 000.00, 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 4.3.1 of Annexes I and V, 4.3.2 of Annexes II and III, and 4.3.3. of Annex IV.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases 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.

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