



Brussels, 9.11.2022  
C(2022) 7910 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 9.11.2022**

**on the financing of the special measure in favour of Lebanon for 2022**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the special measure in favour of Lebanon for 2022

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(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the special measure for Lebanon for 2022, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2022. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance should comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal<sup>4</sup> and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the special measure to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 is to support the country's efforts in hosting refugees from Syria for the benefit of both refugees and vulnerable host communities.
- (5) The special measure is justified by the EU response to the Syrian crisis and its effects on Lebanon, in particular the presence of a high number of refugees from Syria. It will be funded in line with commitments and financial pledges of the Brussels VI

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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) 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> COM(2019)640 final of 11.12.2019

Conference on Syria<sup>5</sup>. The response to the Syrian crisis in Lebanon answers to rapidly evolving and severe needs on the ground due to the largest peace-time socio-economic and financial crisis, intensified by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on key sectors of the economy and the consequences of the explosion of the Port of Beirut in 2020. As such, it cannot be programmed.

- (6) The action entitled ‘Food & Resilience Facility and EU Response to the Syrian Crisis: Improving living conditions and resilience of host communities and refugees in Lebanon’ will contribute to improve the living conditions and resilience of poor and vulnerable social groups living in Lebanon. Partially funded by the Food and Resilience Facility<sup>6</sup> and to mitigate the impact of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, it will also address the consequences of rising prices of food and commodities in Lebanon.
- (7) The action entitled ‘EU Response to the Syrian Crisis: Ensuring learning continuity in Lebanon’ will contribute to improve literacy and numeracy skills and qualifications through learning continuity for vulnerable children.
- (8) The action entitled ‘EU Response to the Syrian Crisis: Securing access to quality primary health services in Lebanon’ will contribute to ensuring healthy lives and promote the physical and mental well-being of extreme poor and socially-vulnerable groups in Lebanon.
- (9) The action entitled ‘EU Response to the Syrian Crisis: Support to continuity of Wastewater and Water Public Services to Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon’ will contribute to an improved conservation of national water resources in Lebanon.
- (10) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the measure.
- (12) 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 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) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (13) 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.
- (14) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the measure, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/56061/20220511\\_chair\\_statement\\_v5.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/56061/20220511_chair_statement_v5.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/varhelyi/announcements/commission-acts-support-food-security-and-resilience-southern-neighbourhood\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/varhelyi/announcements/commission-acts-support-food-security-and-resilience-southern-neighbourhood_en)

<sup>7</sup> 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.

(15) The measure provided for in this decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The measure*

The annual financing Decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the Special measure in favour of Lebanon for 2022 as set out in the annexes, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following actions:

- ‘Food & Resilience Facility and EU Response to the Syrian Crisis: Improving living conditions and resilience of host communities and refugees in Lebanon’ set out in Annex I;
- ‘EU Response to the Syrian Crisis: Ensuring learning continuity in Lebanon’ set out in Annex II;
- ‘EU Response to the Syrian Crisis: Securing access to quality primary health services in Lebanon’ set out in Annex III;
- ‘EU Response to the Syrian Crisis: Support to continuity of Wastewater and Water Public Services to Syrian refugees and host communities in Lebanon’ set out in Annex IV.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the measure for 2022 is set at EUR 179 000 000, 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 4.3.1 of the Annexes II and IV and point 4.3.2 of the Annexes I and III.

*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 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

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

period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning 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 acting 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 the Annex selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annex III.

Done at Brussels, 9.11.2022

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