COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.12.2022

on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Republic of Armenia for 2022-2023
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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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


Whereas:

(1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Republic of Armenia for 2022-2023, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing Decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2022-2023. 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\(^3\).

(3) The actions provided for in this Decision contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal\(^4\) and the inter-institutional agreement.

(4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme in favour of the Republic of Armenia\(^5\) for the period 2021-2027, which sets out the following priorities: resilient, sustainable, knowledge-based and integrated economy; accountable institutions, rule of law and security; environmental and climate resilience; resilient digital transformation; and resilient, gender equal, fair and inclusive society.

\(^3\) 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.
\(^5\) Commission implementing decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for Armenia for the period 2021-2027 C(2021)9435 on 16.12.2021
The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 should support the Government of Armenia’s reform efforts towards inclusive, accountable and effective service delivery in the field of rule of law, security and migration as well as Armenia’s inclusive, resilient and sustainable socio-economic recovery and growth in the COVID-19 pandemic and post-hostilities period.

The action entitled ‘EU Support to Education in Armenia’ aims to increase the competitiveness of the Armenian education system.

The action entitled ‘Support to Justice Sector Reforms in Armenia: Phase II’ aims to support Armenia’s judicial and legal reform and anti-corruption process in line with the country’s commitments under the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement.

The action entitled ‘Sustainable energy, energy security and climate resilience in rural Armenia’ aims to alleviate energy poverty, increase energy security and independence, as well as contribute to climate change mitigation and the preservation of natural resources and ecosystem services in Armenia.

Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 and Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action plan.

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

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.

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

The action plan 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 action plan*

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Republic of Armenia for 2022 and 2023, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- EU support to education in Armenia set out in Annex I;
- Support to Justice Sector Reforms in Armenia: Phase II set out in Annex II;
- Sustainable energy, energy security and climate resilience in rural Armenia set out in Annex III.

**Article 2**
**Union contribution**
The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the multiannual action plan for 2022-2023 is set at EUR 49,500,000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.020111 of the general budget of the Union.

- EUR 37,500,000 for the year 2022
- EUR 12,000,000 for the year 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 for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2023 as adopted by the budgetary authority.

**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 4.4.2 of Annex I and point 4.3.1 of Annex III.

**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 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 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.

Done at Brussels, 13.12.2022

*For the Commission*

*Olivér VÁRHELYI*

*Member of the Commission*

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These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.