



Brussels, 7.12.2022
C(2022) 9309 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 7.12.2022

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2022

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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 Lebanon for 2022, it is necessary to adopt a 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal⁴ and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Lebanon for the period 2021-2027⁵, which sets out the following priorities: 1) Enhancing good governance and supporting reforms, 2) Strengthening an inclusive and resilient economy, 3) Promoting a green and sustainable recovery.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2022, to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 are to provide people-centred support to address the urgent needs of

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

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.

⁴ COM(2019)640 final of 11.12.2019

⁵ C(2022)8363 final of 24/11/2022

vulnerable individuals and groups and facilitate progress in the reforms needed identified in the IMF staff level Agreement and the Lebanon Reform Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF⁶).

- (6) The action entitled ‘EU support to Lebanon’s Green Agenda’ aims at improving energy security and transition to energy and resource efficiency.
- (7) The action entitled ‘Supporting progress in key areas of public administration reform in Lebanon’ seeks to enhance the integrity, transparency and accountability of the Lebanese public administration aligned with the opportunities of reform identified by the IMF Staff-Level Agreement and the principles of a modern public administration.
- (8) The action entitled “Women Empowerment in Lebanon (WE-Hub)” seeks to promote the advancement and empowerment of women for effective realisation of gender equality.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action plan.
- (10) 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 Regulation⁷ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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.
- (13) The action plan provided for in this Decision are 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 annual financing Decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2022, as set out in the annex, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- EU support to Lebanon’s Green Agenda set out in Annex I;
- Supporting progress in key areas of public administration reform in Lebanon set out in Annex II;
- Women Empowerment Hub in Lebanon (WE-Hub) set out in Annex III.

⁶ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/lebanon/lebanon-reform-recovery-reconstruction-framework-3rf_en

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.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2022 is set at EUR 50 000 000, 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 and 4.3.2 of the Annex I, and in point 4.3.1 of the Annexes II and III.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases⁸ 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 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, 7.12.2022

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission

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