



Brussels, 3.11.2023
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 3.11.2023

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan part I in favour of Regional South
Neighbourhood for 2023-2024**

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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), and Article 43 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of multiannual action plan part I in favour of the Regional South Neighbourhood for 2023-2024, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing Decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2023-2024.
- (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 action plan provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and biodiversity 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.

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 December 2019.

⁵ OJ L 433I , 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood⁶ for the period 2021-2027, which sets out the following priorities: Priority Area 1: Human development, good governance, and rule of law; Priority Area 2: Strengthen resilience, build prosperity and seize the digital transition; Priority Area 3: Peace and Security; Priority Area 4: Green Transition; Priority Area 5: Support to the main drivers of regional integration, that include support to investment and make reference to the Neighbourhood Investment Platform.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 should: through the Neighbourhood Investment Platform and through budgetary guarantees provisioned under this decision, contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), creating sustainable jobs and infrastructures, and addressing root causes of migration; through the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX), support Southern Neighbourhood beneficiary countries in implementing their commitments made under EU-related agreements and achieving regulatory convergence and legislative approximations towards high standards, aligning to EU policies.
- (6) The action I entitled ‘Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) for 2023-2024’ supports the Southern Neighbourhood beneficiaries by providing peer-to-peer capacity building with regard to the alignment, application and enforcement of EU legislation and sustainable policy reform as well as advice on EU best practices in EU policy related fields. As a result, the instrument contributes to strengthening inclusive societies and good governance in beneficiary countries and supports the uptake and implementation of the EU *acquis*.
- (7) The action II entitled ‘Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) for the Southern Neighbourhood’ will, within the framework of the NDICI – Global Europe Regulation, the EuroMed partnership and the Eastern Partnership, contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) is a blending facility, combining European Union grant contributions or financial instruments, with other public and private sector resources such as loans and equity in order to leverage additional non-grant financing. It forms part of the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) as foreseen in Article 32 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.
- (8) In order to ensure the implementation of budgetary guarantees of the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), eligible under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, it is appropriate to provision the EFSD+ compartments of the Common Provisioning Fund with contributions in 2023 from the general budget of the Union.
- (9) In order to ensure the implementation of the External Lending Mandate, established by Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under financing operations supporting investment projects outside the Union⁷, prolonged until the end of 2023 in line with Article 49 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, it is appropriate to provision the Guarantee Fund for External Action compartment of the

⁶ Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)9399 of 16.12.2021 on a Multi-Annual Indicative Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood.

⁷ OJ L 135, 8.5.2014, p. 1.

Common Provisioning Fund with a contribution in 2023 from the general budget of the Union.

- (10) In accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the action set out in Annex I is of a trans-regional nature, fostering regional cooperation. Due to the action's nature and the importance to ensure complete regional coverage, the eligibility of the action extends exceptionally to the countries identified in the action document, as their participation constitutes a substantial element to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing and to foster regional or trans-regional cooperation.
- (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(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 agenda by creating sustainable jobs and infrastructures, and addressing root causes of migration, and by supporting partnerships for the goals through peer-to-peer capacity building. 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 entitled 'Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) for the Southern Neighbourhood'.
- (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. 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 Regulation⁸ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (14) 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.
- (15) 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.
- (16) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the NDICI 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 part I in favour of Regional South Neighbourhood for 2023-2024", is adopted.

⁸ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide not to require an ex-ante assessment.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) for 2023-2024, set out in Annex I;
- Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) for 2023 in favour of the Southern Neighbourhood, set out in Annex II;

Article 2 *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023-2024 is set at EUR 240 013 110.78, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.02.01.10 of the general budget of the Union (of which EUR 239 013 110.78 for 2023 and EUR 1 000 000 for 2024).

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, as provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2024, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths;

Article 3 *Provisioning for budgetary guarantees*

The maximum Union contribution for the provisioning of the Common Provisioning Fund for 2023 is set at 127,067,586.51 Euro and shall be financed from the appropriations entered under the following extensions of the budget line 14 02 01 70 NDICI – Global Europe – Provisioning of the Common Provisioning Fund budget line:

- EUR 14,182,729.60 under the budget line 14 02 01 70.01 for EFSD+ compartment;
- EUR 112,884,856.91 under the budget line 14 02 01 70.05 for ELM legacy in Guarantee Fund for External Action (GFEA) compartment.⁹

Article 4 *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 Annex II, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.1, 4.6 and Appendix I of the Annex II.

Article 5 *Flexibility clause*

Increases¹⁰ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated

⁹ The Provisioning for budgetary guarantees is separated from the union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023-2024 set out in Article 2 which shall finance the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) for 2023-2024 and the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP) for 2023 in favour of the Southern Neighbourhood.

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

¹⁰These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.