



Brussels, 31.3.2022
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 31.3.2022

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan part II in favour of the Neighbourhood,
Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Regional South
countries for 2021 - 2023**

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on the financing of the multiannual action plan part II in favour of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Regional South countries for 2021 - 2023

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe and amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009², and in particular Article 23(2) and Article 43(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan part II in favour of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Regional South countries for 2021-2023, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing Decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2021-2023. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing Decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme⁴ for the period 2021-2027⁵ which sets the following priorities: (1) human development, governance and rule of law; (2) strengthen resilience, build prosperity and seize the digital transition; (3) peace and security; (4) green transition; and (5) support to the main drivers of regional integration.

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 Commission Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Southern Neighbourhood Region for the period 2021-2027.

⁵ C(2021)9399 of 16.12.2021.

- (4) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action programme to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Neighbourhood’ are: to provide EU Delegations and HQ services with the flexible facility to ensure a swift preparation of actions and projects; to communicate on its activities to the Southern Neighbourhood citizens’ audience; and to support Southern Neighbourhood beneficiary countries in implementing their commitments made under EU-related agreements and achieving regulatory convergence and legislative approximation towards high standards, aligning to the EU policies.
- (5) The action entitled ‘Neighbourhood South Global Allocation for 2021-2023’ aims to give the European Commission the possibility to finance small-scale measures and activities that are needed for the achievement of the objectives of the Southern dimension of the European Neighbourhood Policy and its operational and policy priorities. The Global Allocation will finance project cycle management (feasibility, evaluation, audits, etc.) and communication activities. It will contribute to enhance the quality of the programmes as well as to better understanding of the European Union reputation, policies and programmes to the audience in the Southern Neighbourhood.
- (6) The action entitled ‘Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) action programme 2021-2022 for the Southern Neighbourhood’ aims to provide short and medium-term technical assistance and peer-to-peer capacity building concerning the alignment, application and enforcement of EU legislation as well as advice about EU best practices.
- (7) In accordance with Article 43 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the action entitled ‘Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) action programme 2021-2022 for the Southern Neighbourhood’ is of a global, transregional or regional nature, fostering regional cooperation with Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.. The action’s objective and design fulfil the criteria for ODA established by the OECD/DAC, as per the requirements of Article 3(3) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 agenda by fostering participation development and good governance; aid to environment; gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment; and trade development. Due to the project’s nature and the importance to ensure complete regional coverage, the eligibility of the action extends exceptionally to Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, as their participation constitutes a substantial element to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional or trans-regional cooperation.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument 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 II in favour of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) Regional South countries for 2021-2023, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- Annex I: Neighbourhood South Global Allocation for 2021-2023;
- Annex II: Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) action programme 2021-2022 for the Southern Neighbourhood.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2021-2023 is set at EUR 48 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- budget line 14.020110: EUR 48 000 000 (of which EUR 16 000 000 for 2022 and EUR 15 000 000 for 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 general budget of the Union for 2022 and 2023 as adopted by the budgetary authority.

Article 3
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 changes⁶ 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 the Financial Regulation, provided that these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

⁶ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

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, 31.3.2022

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission