COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 8.12.2023

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Türkiye for 2023
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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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


Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III), and in particular Article 9(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In order to ensure the implementation of the action plan, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2023.

(2) The envisaged assistance should comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.

(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’ 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 resources.

(4) The Commission has adopted a Pre-Accession Assistance (‘IPA III’) Programming Framework for the period 2021 – 2027, which identifies five thematic windows for...
the delivery of the specific objectives and thematic priorities of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529.

(5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan are to assist the IPA III beneficiary in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required to comply with Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership.

(6) The objective of the action entitled “Strengthening Rights and Conditions of Women in Prisons in Türkiye in line with International and EU Standards” is to establish a “Gender sensitive” prison management in Türkiye by addressing gender specific needs of women and integrating them within existing strategies, plans and proceedings governing women’s treatment and rehabilitation in prisons.

(7) The objective of the action entitled “EU Support for Participation in EU Programmes and Agencies for 2023 and 2024” is to ensure Türkiye’s participation in EU programmes and agencies by co-financing the costs of the entry tickets to be paid by the Turkish authorities according to the relevant association agreements.

(8) The objective of the action entitled “Environment and Climate change” is to promote the EU Green Deal from different fronts such as increasing environmental protection, increasing resilience and adaptation to climate change, accelerating the shift towards a low-carbon and circular economy, protecting biodiversity and ecosystems, and having advanced alignment with the EU's environment and climate related acquis.

(9) The objective of the action entitled “Improving road safety in the context of the European Union acquis and the EU Road Safety Strategy” is to improve road safety in Türkiye by strengthening the national driver training system and enhancing the national data collecting capacity related to road traffic accidents.

(10) The objective of the action entitled “Boosting Green and low-carbon Hydrogen in Türkiye” is to promote the shift towards a resource-efficient, safe, and sustainable low-carbon economy and the development of a green and low-carbon hydrogen economy in Türkiye.

(11) The objective of the action entitled “Employment, Education and Social policies” is to emphasise and foster quality employment and education, improving access to labour market, promoting social protection and inclusion, and developing early childhood education.

(12) The objective of the action entitled “Supporting climate resilient sustainable agriculture and fisheries in Türkiye in line with European Green Deal objectives and its related policies” is to promote sustainable agriculture and fisheries and target the integrity of organic agriculture in Türkiye, aligning Turkish organic legislation with EU legislation and establishing competitive value chains.

(13) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c) of the Financial Regulation, indirect management may be used for the implementation of the action plan.

(14) 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.

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

(16) To that end, the Commission, should be able to entrust the implementation to the IPA III beneficiary or the bodies designated by it subject to the conclusion of a financing agreement in accordance with Article 158 of the Financial Regulation.

(17) 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.

(18) 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.

(19) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA III Committee.

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 Türkiye for 2023, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan measure shall include the following actions:

- Action Strengthening Rights and Conditions of Women in Prisons in Türkiye in line with International and EU Standards set out in Annex I;

- Action EU Support for Participation in EU Programmes and Agencies for 2023 and 2024 set out in Annex II;

- Action Environment and Climate change set out in Annex III;

- Action Improving road safety in the context of the European Union acquis and the EU Road Safety Strategy set out in Annex IV;

- Action Boosting Green and low-carbon Hydrogen in Türkiye set out in Annex V;

- Action Employment, Education and Social policies set out in Annex VI;

\* 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.
- Action Supporting climate resilient sustainable agriculture and fisheries in Türkiye in line with European Green Deal objectives and its related policies set out in Annex VII.

**Article 2**  
**Union contribution**

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 is set at EUR 109 350 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

(a) - budget line 15.020101: EUR 69 850 000;

(b) - budget line 15.020201: EUR 39 500 000.

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 of the Annexes I, II, III, IV, VI, VII.

**Article 4**  
**Flexibility clause**

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation and execution period shall not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, provided that these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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8 These changes can come from external 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, 8.12.2023

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission