



Brussels, 26.1.2023
C(2023) 772 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 26.1.2023

**on the financing of the individual measure in favour of the Gulf Cooperation Council
(GCC) and its member states for 2023**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

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, 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(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the individual measure in favour of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and its member states for 2023, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 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 individual measure provided for in this Decision comprises actions that contribute to the fight against climate change as well as, clean and just energy transition in line with the European Green Deal⁴ and the inter-institutional agreement.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Asia Pacific region for the period 2021-2027⁵. The programme supports the regional priorities and EU interests in full complementarity, coherence and synergy with country and thematic programmes in the following broad areas: Green Deal; digital agenda; sustainable jobs and sustainable growth; migration, forced displacement and

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. 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, the OJ prevails.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52019DC0640&from=EN>

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision adopting a multiannual indicative programme for the Asia Pacific region for the period 2021-2027, C(2021)9251 final of 15.12.2021.

mobility; peace and security, governance and rule of law; and multilateralism. The programme sets out the following priority areas: regional integration and cooperation; pursuing EU interests with key partners; migration, forced displacement and mobility.

- (5) The objective pursued by the measure to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ is to contribute to a strategic partnership between the European Union and the GCC countries by enhancing political dialogue, cooperation and outreach, both regionally as well as with individual countries in the region.
- (6) The action entitled ‘EU outreach facility for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and its member states’ will aim to contribute to a stronger dialogue and to help strengthen sectoral cooperation between the EU and the GCC both at bilateral and regional level, based on mutual interests.
- (7) 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.
- (8) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the individual measure, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (9) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The European Parliament and the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The measure

The annual financing decision, constituting the measure for the implementation of the individual measure in favour of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and its member states for 2023, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following action: ‘EU outreach facility for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and its member states’.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the measure for 2023 is set at EUR 3 500 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union: budget line 14 02 01 30.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, 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.

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, 26.1.2023

For the Commission
Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
High Representative / Vice-President

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