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ANNEX

of the Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the individual measure for EU-Korea Green Partnership Action for 2022

Action Document for EU-Korea Green Partnership Action

ANNUAL PLAN

This document constitutes the annual work programme in the sense of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation, and action plans in the sense of Article 23 of NDICI-Global Europe Regulation.

1 SYNOPSIS

1.1 Action Summary Table

1. Title CRIS/OPSYS business reference Basic Act	EU-Korea Green Partnership Action OPSYS number: ACT-61248; JAD.1018990 Financed under Regulation (EU) 2021/947 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (<u>NDICI-Global Europe</u>)
2. Team Europe Initiative	No
3. Zone benefiting from the action	The action shall be carried out in the Republic of Korea. Some activities may also be carried out in the European Union and in the Indo-Pacific region.
4. Programming document	Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027
5. Link with relevant MIP(s) objectives / expected results	<u>Priorities:</u> Priority Area 2 – ‘Pursuing EU Interests with Key Partners’; Point 2.2.4. – ‘Pursuing EU Interests with Asian partners in Asia and the Pacific (High Income Countries and other key partners)’; <u>Specific Objectives:</u> SO 1 – ‘Reinforced cooperation with the EU’s partners in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen multilateralism (partnerships for multilateralism) by effectively implementing the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, and enhance the EU’s role and profile as a global actor in Asia and the Pacific.’ SO 2 – ‘Promotion and projection of EU policies and standards in collaboration and alliance with Asian and Australasian High Income Countries (alliance diplomacy)’. <u>Expected Results:</u> ER 1.1: Effective policy dialogues on global and regional challenges, increased cooperation on rules-based multilateral order and governance and enhanced EU participation in Asian multilateral organisations leading to improved understanding, appreciation and alignment with EU positions, including on the European Green Deal.

	<p>ER 1.5: Stronger engagement with and greater mobilisation of networks of key target audiences and potential partners in the Asia-Pacific such as youth, academics, influencers (e.g. media, think tanks, business community), civil society and cultural actors.</p> <p>ER 2.2: Effective coordination and improved alignment with EU positions in various regional and international fora.</p>			
PRIORITY AREAS AND SECTOR INFORMATION				
6. Priority Area(s), sectors	Green Transition Connectivity			
7. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<p>Main SDG: 13 – ‘Climate Action’</p> <p>Other significant SDGs: SDG 7 – ‘Affordable and Clean Energy’ SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure SDG 11 – ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’ SDG 12 – ‘Responsible Consumption and Production’ SDG 14 – ‘Life below Water’ SDG 15 – ‘Life on land’ SDG 17 – ‘Partnerships for the Goals’</p>			
8 a) DAC code(s)	41010 - Environmental policy and administrative management; 23110 - Energy policy and administrative management 43030 – Urban development and management			
8 b) Main Delivery Channel	60000 – Private sector institution			
9. Involvement of multilateral partners	No			
10. Targets	<input type="checkbox"/> Migration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate <input type="checkbox"/> Social inclusion and Human Development <input type="checkbox"/> Gender <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights, Democracy and Governance			
11. Markers (from DAC form)	General policy objective @	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Participation development/good governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Aid to environment @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Gender equality and women’s and girl’s empowerment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Trade development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reproductive, maternal, new-born and child health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Disaster Risk Reduction @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Inclusion of persons with Disabilities @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nutrition @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	RIO Convention markers	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Biological diversity @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Combat desertification @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change mitigation @	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change adaptation @	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Internal markers and Tags:	Policy objectives	Not targeted	Significant objective	Principal objective
	Digitalisation @ digital connectivity digital governance digital entrepreneurship digital skills/literacy digital services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Connectivity @ transport people2people energy digital connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Migration @ (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities (methodology for marker and tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	BUDGET INFORMATION			
13. Amounts concerned	Budget line: 14 02 01 31 - South and East Asia Total estimated cost: EUR 4,000,000 Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 4,000,000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
14. Type of financing¹	Direct management through: Procurement			

¹ Art. 27 NDICI

1.2 Summary of the Action

The EU and the Republic of Korea (ROK) are strategic partners and both have committed to achieve climate neutrality (net-zero GHG) by 2050. The EU and the ROK are party to numerous multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) and both also took the voluntary commitment to achieve the protection of biodiversity in 30% of land and sea areas by 2030. Joint EU-Korea cooperation on environmental matters is enshrined and promoted by the Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) chapter of the EU-Korea Free Trade agreement (FTA). The leaders from both sides have reaffirmed their commitment to deepen bilateral cooperation to accelerate the green transition. Under its priority area “Green Transition”, the EU’s 2021 Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific calls for the conclusion of Green Partnerships with like-minded partners, such as the ROK, in order to fight, mitigate and adapt to climate change, the clean and just energy transition and to counter biodiversity loss, pollution and other forms of environmental degradation. By accompanying and supporting the development and implementation of a substantive EU-ROK Green Partnership, this Action will directly contribute to the implementation of the EU’s Indo-Pacific Strategy. It will be in line with the External Energy Engagement Strategy. The specific objective is to support the ROK implement its commitments under the Paris Agreement, including the pledges made at COP26 in Glasgow, as well as under key multilateral environmental agreements (including the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework).

Discussions are currently ongoing between the EU and Korea to establish a Green Partnership, which will facilitate closer cooperation on climate action, the clean and just energy transition and environmental protection, including fighting pollution and protecting biodiversity. This Action will facilitate and support the operationalisation of the EU-ROK Green Partnership, once adopted. Activities will focus on supporting policy dialogues and practical cooperation on shared policy priorities, including accelerating the clean and just energy transition, promoting circular economy approaches, protecting biodiversity and connectivity. The Action will also seek to foster engagement with cities/local authorities, civil society organisations, youth and academia, thereby complementing government-level policy dialogues. Businesses and industry associations will be key stakeholders in fostering circular economy and renewable energy cooperation. The Action will be implemented by a service contract overseen by the EU Delegation in Seoul in close coordination with Commission services, including FPI, DG CLIMA, DG ENER and DG ENV, as well as the EEAS.

2 RATIONALE

2.1 Context

The EU and the Republic of Korea (ROK) are strategic partners and both have committed to achieve climate neutrality (net-zero GHG) by 2050. The leaders from both sides have reaffirmed their commitment to deepen bilateral cooperation to accelerate the green transition. The EU and Korea already maintain regular exchange on the green transition in their established Working Group on Energy, Environment and Climate.

Joint EU-Korea cooperation on environmental matters is enshrined and promoted by the EU-Korea FTA. In particular, under article 13.5 of the FTA, both parties have committed to cooperate on trade-related environmental issues of mutual interest, as well as on the development of the international climate change framework. Under article 13.6 of the FTA, the parties have committed to promote trade and foreign direct investment in environmental goods and services, including environmental technologies, sustainable renewable energy, energy efficient products and services and eco-labelled goods, as well as to promote trade in goods that contribute to sustainable development. Annex 13 of the FTA includes an indicative list of topics for cooperation on trade-related aspects of environmental policies. Since 2011, exchanges on these matters have taken place, amongst other, at the FTA’s Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development.

Since former President Moon’s announcement of the Korean New Deal (Green & Digital), the ROK has launched key initiatives. It has legislated its climate goal by 2050 (14th country with a carbon neutrality law), increased the

renewable energy target for 2030, established a special committee for the 2050 net-zero target, developed the Korean green taxonomy, announced its intention to develop the world's largest offshore wind power project, adopted its fourth National Biodiversity Strategy, a Circular Economy Action Plan as well as proceeded with the implementation of its Framework Act on Resource Circulation. The ROK also announced its National Masterplan for Plastics Waste and a Green Restoration Masterplan. On the international front, the ROK aspires to become a bridge builder between developing and developed countries. In 2021, the ROK joined the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE) and the Leaders' Pledge for Nature. It also hosted the Partnership for Green Growth and Global Goals Summit (P4G)². Furthermore, the ROK signed up to the major pledges at COP26, including the Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement, the Global Methane Pledge, the Glasgow Breakthrough Agenda (a commitment to transition to clean technologies), the Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (pledging an end or reversal of deforestation by 2030), and the Global Forest Finance Pledge.

Fully delivering on these new targets, strategies and pledges will be challenging and will require international cooperation and partnerships. This Action will support the development and implementation of a substantive EU-ROK Green Partnership, aimed at accelerating the ROK's energy transition and the implementation of the Paris Agreement as well as the expected post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Given the ROK's significant role in financing energy projects in third countries (notably coal-fired plants in Indonesia and Vietnam), EU-ROK cooperation on the green energy transition and green finance could also have an important impact in the Indo-Pacific region and thereby contribute to the implementation of the EU Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific, and in particular its "long-term plan to work with partners to fight, mitigate and adapt to climate change and to counter biodiversity loss, pollution and other forms of environmental degradation"³.

2.2 Problem Analysis

The encouraging ambition displayed by the ROK under its Korean New Deal remains largely prospective and still has to lead to concrete implementation measures in such areas as the circular economy, pollution, biodiversity protection and restoration, or green finance. In this endeavor, it is essential that the EU can communicate to the ROK on the latest policy developments turning strategies announced under the EU Green Deal (e.g. Circular Economy Action Plan, Plastics Strategy, Forest Strategy, Farm to Fork Strategy, etc) into concrete measures, and encourage further alignment of the ROK in practice while learning from pioneering practices developed in the ROK.

Despite markedly increased ambitions in the fight against climate change, the ROK remains a major greenhouse gas emitter. Per capita emissions are 1.85 times the G20 average and total per capita emissions increased by 3% between 2013 and 2018. The ROK's economy is heavily energy-intensive with its focus on manufacturing steel, automobiles, and semiconductors. In 2020, the ROK produced 37% of its electricity from coal. The share of renewables in the energy mix has doubled in the last 5 years. However, it remains small at around 6%, which is considerably lower than the OECD average and far from its 2030 target of 30%. Very determined action will be required in order to implement the envisaged shift in the ROK's energy mix by 2030. The Korean government plans to build one of the largest offshore wind power farms. Closer cooperation with the already well developed offshore wind industry in the EU as well as EU experience with energy market reforms could facilitate the timely implementation of these goals.

At COP26, the ROK signed the Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement and thereby committed to cease funding new coal plants and to phase-down unabated coal in the 2030s or shortly thereafter. So far, the ROK has not presented detailed plans regarding its long-term emission trajectory. According to the ROK's two 2050 long-term scenarios, the steel industry needs to cut down 95% emissions by 2050. South Korean POSCO, one of the

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^{3 3} https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/jointcommunication_2021_24_1_en.pdf

world's leading steelmakers, pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Green hydrogen is increasingly regarded as a key solution to de-carbonise such 'hard-to-decarbonise' sectors. Fostering closer EU-ROK cooperation on green hydrogen could therefore also be an important avenue for closer cooperation. The envisaged coal phase-out will have important social consequences in affected regions. The experience gained in the EU with managing just energy transitions could be useful for accelerating the ROK's de-carbonisation efforts. Finally, ROK's commitment to contribute to reducing methane emissions by 30% by 2030 should also be substantiated.

Cities are at the forefront of climate change adaptation and mitigation. Supporting cities and local authorities in the energy transition is essential considering that up to 75% of global CO₂ emissions originate in cities – with transport and buildings being among the largest contributors. Local authorities will play a key role in phasing out coal and boosting renewable energy. Due to their central role in transport and land use planning, as well as proximity to key stakeholders, local governments can greatly accelerate needed energy innovations. In May 2021, in the margins of the P4G⁴ Summit held in Seoul, all 243 local governments of the ROK pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Given their essential role, this Action will specifically target cities. In complementarity with other EU-supported initiatives (*see below*), this Action will support EU-Korean city partnerships with a focus on the twin green and digital transition.

Identification of main stakeholders and corresponding institutional and/or organisational issues (mandates, potential roles, and capacities) to be covered by the action:

- Korean Ministries: Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MoTIE); Ministry of Environment (MoE); Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MoLIT); Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Korea Forest Service;
- EU services: DG CLIMA, DG ENER, DG ENV, DG TRADE; the European External Action Service (EEAS); EU Delegation in Korea
- Member State Embassies in Korea, including Members of the Offshore Wind Energy Task Force;
- EU and Korean Industry (in particular companies active in renewable energy and circular economy sectors);
- Academic/Research Institutions: Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence in Korea (currently 4 Korean universities); Korea Environment Corporation (KECO); Korea Environment Institute (KEI); Korea Energy Economics Institute (KEEI), Korea Energy Agency (KEA), Greenhouse Gas Inventory & Research Centre of Korea (GIR);
- Korean & European Cities (principally cities/local authorities which have already initiated cooperation on smart city approaches under complementary EU-funded projects);
- European & Korean Civil Society Organisations;
- European & Korean Youth;
- Complementary EU-funded projects and initiatives, including: EU Climate Dialogues/ Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA) II; Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) for Climate & Energy – Asia; International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) Business to Business cooperation with Japan, Republic of Korea and Singapore, EU Policy and Outreach Partnership in the Republic of Korea (EUPOP RoK), EU Alumni initiative, etc.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

3.1 Objectives and Expected Outputs

The **Overall Objective (Impact)** of this action is to contribute to enhancing the implementation of the **Paris Agreement as well as key multilateral environmental agreements and pledges**.

The **Specific Objective (Outcome)** of this action is to support the development of a strong **EU-ROK Green Partnership**, contributing to the green transition outlined in the **European and Korean Green Deals**.

The **Outputs** to be delivered by this action contributing to the corresponding Specific Objective (Outcome) are:

- 1.1 Strengthened EU/MS green diplomacy and outreach in the ROK (Team Europe⁵-like approach)
- 1.2 Support Korea's just and clean energy transition
- 1.3 Enhanced EU-ROK industry cooperation on circular economy approaches
- 1.4 Support cooperation and exchanges on best practices between EU and Korean cities on green smart city innovations
- 1.5 Promote bilateral cooperation on international efforts to fight pollution, protect biodiversity and promote sustainable production, trade and consumption patterns

3.2 Indicative Activities

Activities related to Output 1.1 (Strengthened EU/MS green diplomacy and outreach in the ROK (Team Europe-like approach))

The outreach will primarily target youth, civil society organisations, academic/research institutions, political institutions and media. Indicative activities could include:

- Map and assist in coordinating activities/initiatives of the EUD and **EU Member State embassies** in the field of climate change/green transition to increase impact and visibility;
- Organise initiatives and events specifically targeting **Youth** (e.g. a summer school for youth activists on climate action/green transition; student debates on relevant topics – possibly in cooperation with the EUPOP ROK project);
- Capacity building for local green transition networks/associations/**CSOs** (e.g. Korea-EU CSO Network (KEN)) to advocate for citizen-driven climate action (including coal phase-out, renewable energy/energy efficiency; tackling urban air pollution, halting biodiversity loss; circular economy approaches);
- Work with **Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence in Korea** to develop curricula/study programmes related to the European Green Deal and the Korean Green New Deal; explain and promote the study/research opportunities provided via Erasmus+ and the Horizon Europe programme (in particular under the cluster 'Climate, Energy and Mobility') and seek synergies with the EU Alumni initiative.
- Organise **media events** and briefing sessions for **Members of Parliament**, City Councils etc.

Activities related to Output 1.2 (Support Korea's just and clean energy transition)

- Facilitate a deeper engagement with ROK government authorities on the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, complementing the project 'Support to the EU's bilateral relations with strategic partners

⁵ Council conclusions on Climate and Energy Diplomacy - Delivering on the external dimension of the European Green Deal (ref. Council Conclusions 25 January 2021 - (OR. en) 5263/21 refer to Team Europe approach as follows: i) reinforce further the external dimension of the European Green Deal, to make appropriate capacity available, and to strengthen – together with the Member States – coordination and information exchange through, among others, the EU Green Diplomacy Network and the Energy Diplomacy Expert Group; and ii) EU Delegations and Member States' Embassies shall increase their outreach and cooperation in a TEAM Europe approach, further projecting the EU's commitment and leadership in this field.

on climate-related policies and investments’ (i.e. EU Climate Dialogues / SPIPA successor programme) where relevant; exchange on the EU’s experience with **just transition** policies and mechanisms;

- Promote cooperation on **energy market reform** to foster open, transparent and competitive markets; conduct studies and organise events with leading think tanks and research institutes on increasing the renewable energy uptake;
- Promote closer EU-ROK industrial cooperation on **energy efficiency and renewable energy**, with a focus on offshore wind power, solar energy and green hydrogen; Support green trade and investment (e.g. by supporting the EU Member State Task Force on offshore wind energy, which was recently set up by the EU Delegation in Seoul); seek complementarities with other relevant projects in this domain (including, notably, the ‘B2B cooperation with Japan, the ROK and Singapore’ – a project supporting EU SMEs access the Korean market⁶);
- Exchange on private sector driven renewable energy initiatives;
- Strengthen cooperation on the **Global Methane Pledge**.

Activities related to Output 1.3 (Enhanced EU-ROK industry cooperation on circular economy approaches)

- Support industry/business exchanges on relevant Korean and EU policies and regulations (including the EU Circular Economy Action Plan and the EU Strategy for Plastics in the Circular Economy, etc.);
- Promote **convergence of circular economy policies, regulations and standards**, including in the following areas: eco-labelling of plastics in packaging and electronics; support the formation of stable supply chains for recycled contents (e.g. for electric batteries); monitoring of circular economy performance indicators; food waste recycling;
- Support the implementation of **Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) commitments** under the EU-ROK Free Trade Agreement (notably multilateral environmental/climate commitments made by the ROK); support the work of the TSD Committee, as relevant and agreed by the parties (e.g. assist with the organisation of a conference on the trade and environment/climate nexus);
- Support **industry-led cooperation initiatives** and alliances in key sectors of the circular economy;
- Facilitate exchanges on successful circular business models and activities (e.g. experience implementing the Circular Economy Action Plan in the EU);
- Promote cooperation on sustainable supply chains and EU-ROK research cooperation on green technology innovations, with a view to also strengthening Team Europe-like approach on science diplomacy.

Activities related to Output 1.4 (Support cooperation and exchanges on best practices between EU and Korean cities on green smart city innovations) Indicative topics could include, green urban mobility; urban air pollution, energy efficient buildings; smart/sustainable districts (local circular economy business models), nature based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, smart waste management etc.;

- Provide complementary support (e.g. study visits/events/technical assistance) for city partnerships/pilot projects conceived under other EU-funded city-focused cooperation projects (e.g. IURC, ICP-AGIR project, GCoM Asia, etc.) where this can reinitiate or further develop cooperation.
- Promote EU-ROK city cooperation in the framework of the Horizon Europe (e.g. EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities).

Activities related to Output 1.5 (Promote bilateral cooperation on international efforts to fight pollution, protect biodiversity and promote sustainable production, trade and consumption patterns)

- Support cooperation on adopting and implementing an ambitious **post-2020 global biodiversity framework**;

⁶ Project proposed for funding under the NDICI-Global Europe “Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Asia and the Pacific 2021-2027” and possibly adopted by COM Decision in the Q4 2022.

- Support cooperation on developing a legally binding global agreement to combat **plastic pollution** (and on its implementation, once in force);
- Support EU-ROK cooperation on sustainable land use / **preventing deforestation** (following up on the Glasgow Leader’s Declaration on Forests and Land Use).
- Support closer EU-ROK cooperation on pollution and biodiversity protection at regional level (North East Asia, ASEAN, Indo-Pacific region) and through international frameworks (GACERE, the G7 Resource Efficiency Alliance and the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue).

Other activities may be considered in line with the objectives and expected outputs indicated under 3.1 above, in particular if agreed between EU and ROK in the framework of bilateral bodies such as the FTA’s TSD Committee.

3.3 Mainstreaming

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Climate change mitigation and environmental protection (‘aid to environment’ DAC marker), as well as protection of biological diversity, are the principal objectives of the Action. The strong interlinkages between these policy priorities require an integrated approach, which will be mutually reinforcing. Activities focused on promoting Korea’s coal phase out or the adoption of more circular economy business models will have important co-benefits in terms of reduced pollution and improved biodiversity.

Gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

As per OECD Gender DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as G1. This implies that gender equality will be at the centre of mainstreaming efforts. Despite many achievements over the past decades in terms of gender equality, Korea still lags behind most other OECD members in many aspects. Korea’s gender wage gap is particularly striking (the highest among OECD members). Korean women are still paid a third less on average than their male counterparts. During the 2022 presidential election, gender equality emerged as a particularly polarising political issue. The Action will promote gender-responsive climate action. Sex-disaggregated data will be analysed in order to ensure that women and girls are equally represented in all activities, including pilot projects, awareness raising, etc.

Human Rights

The Action’s focus on supporting the green transition, including more sustainable consumption and production, will have a positive impact not only on environmental and economic sustainability, but also on social sustainability, human rights, including labour rights, peace and resilience. Due to Korea’s rapidly aging population, it will be important to specifically consider the needs of older generations (increasing disabilities, possible “digital gap”, i.e. potential exclusion due to a lack of IT literacy, etc.).

Disability

As per OECD Disability DAC codes identified in section 1.1, this action is labelled as D0. This implies that disability is not specifically targeted. However, as noted above, Korea’s rapidly aging population and the associated rise in disabilities will be considered (e.g. smart city innovations aligned with demographic and social change).

Democracy

Not targeted

Conflict sensitivity, peace and resilience

The energy transition process is likely to cause conflicts on many levels (e.g. unemployment in regions particularly affected by the coal phase-out; fishing communities affected by the development of offshore wind power plants,

etc.). Supporting a just energy transition process, and sharing experience gained in the EU, will contribute to peace and resilience.

Disaster Risk Reduction

While the action primarily targets climate change mitigation, it will also provide some support for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, which are closely linked (e.g. supporting cooperation on sustainable land use and preventing deforestation will contribute to disaster risk reduction).

3.4 Risks and Lessons Learnt

Category	Risks	Likelihood (High/ Medium/ Low)	Impact (High/ Medium/ Low)	Mitigating measures
Political environment deteriorates / Waning political commitment for cooperation on climate action	Risk 1	M	H	Flexible demand-driven Action design. A multi-stakeholder approach and a broad thematic scope will enable a swift adaptation to evolving priorities and constraints. Should government-level commitment subside, the Action could redouble its focus on other stakeholders, including CSOs, local authorities and the private sector. The foreseen implementation modality (service contract) will provide the necessary flexibility.
Weak performance of Contractor	Risk 2	M	H	Ensure a local presence, minimise staff-turnover by clearly outlining job profiles and working conditions in the ToR; close monitoring of implementation progress.
Lack of coordination with other EU-funded actions / Lack of Team Europe-like approach	Risk 3	M	M	Organise regular coordination meetings with complementary EU-funded projects and Member State Embassies to identify potential synergies.
COVID-19 Pandemic continues to impinge on travel and outreach activities	Risk 4	L	M	Develop contingency plans for online/hybrid events; ensure local presence of technical assistants team.
Lessons Learnt:				

Low Carbon Action project (PI/2017/390-554):

This Action builds upon the Low Carbon Action (LCA) project which, funded under the Partnership Instrument, was implemented between January 2018 and October 2021. The LCA project promoted climate action in Korea via a bottom-up approach, targeting local authorities, civil society organisations, youth and the private sector. After a slow start, the LCA project made an important contribution by enhancing the EU Delegation's climate diplomacy outreach and by connecting climate action stakeholders in Korea and the EU.

The main lessons learnt stemming from the implementation of the LCA project are the following:

- 1) the involvement of a governmental/institutional Korean counter-part would have ensured more continuity and sustainability of the launched initiatives.
- 2) To enhance results and impact, it is very important to seek and ensure more synergies with other EU-funded projects (e.g. IUC, SPIPA, GCoM, etc.) and initiatives implemented by Member States (Team Europe-like approach) by organising regular coordination meetings.
- 3) It is key to align and integrate a project communication strategy with the EU Delegation's communication channels (avoiding, for instance, to create a standalone project website).

Establishing new partnerships can be a lengthy process, going beyond the lifespan of individual projects. Therefore, the present Green Partnership Action will build on already established cooperation links, including city-partnerships initiated under the Low Carbon Action and other EU-funded projects (IURC, ICP-AGIR, SPIPA II & GCoM Asia). By coordinating closer with the national government (in particular MOTIE and MOE) and local universities (in particular Jean Monnet Centres of Excellence), the Green Partnership Action will help establish more durable cooperation frameworks. EU Member States' bilateral actions/initiatives will also be closely coordinated to create mutually reinforcing outcomes and maximising impact.

3.5 The Intervention Logic

The underlying intervention logic for this action is that the EU and the ROK are strategic partners with a shared commitment to implement the Paris Agreement and several multilateral environmental agreements. Both the EU and the ROK have adopted Green Deals, which shall facilitate achieving climate neutrality (net-zero GHG) by 2050 as well as other significant indicators relating to planetary boundaries, notably on biodiversity, resource use and pollution.

Fully delivering on the climate targets, environmental agreements and pledges (COP26, others) will be challenging and will require international cooperation and partnerships. Discussions are currently ongoing between the EU and Korea to establish a Green Partnership, which will facilitate closer cooperation on climate action and environmental protection, including fighting pollution and protecting biodiversity. While discussions on the precise scope of this Green Partnership are still ongoing, an agreement could be reached by late 2022. This Action which, if adopted, could start in the second half of 2023, will facilitate and support the operationalisation of the EU-ROK Green Partnership.

Given the far-reaching societal changes required to move away from the triple planetary crisis (climate, biodiversity, pollution), this Action will seek to support and engage multiple stakeholders, including the government, businesses, youth, civil society organisations, academic / research institutions and the media. A key underlying assumption is that the incoming administration of new President Yoon remains committed to implementing the Paris Agreement and open to working closely with the EU in pursuing the adoption and implementation of additional key multilateral environmental agreements and pledges (e.g. Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Global Methane Pledge etc.).

The multi-stakeholder approach and the broad thematic scope of the Action will enable a swift adaptation to evolving policy priorities and constraints. Gender equality will be the Action's priority in terms of mainstreaming. In order to maximise visibility and impact, a Team Europe-like approach will be sought wherever feasible (cf. output 1).

The 5 project outputs will contribute to developing a strong EU-Korea Green Partnership (outcome), which in turn should contribute to the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and other key multilateral environmental agreements (subject to the ongoing bilateral discussion on the EU-ROK Green Partnership). The problem analysis under point 2.2 outlines the rationale for the selection of the project outputs.

3.6 Logical Framework Matrix

This indicative logframe constitutes the basis for the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of the intervention.

On the basis of this logframe matrix, a more detailed logframe (or several) may be developed at contracting stage. In case baselines and targets are not available for the action, they should be informed for each indicator at signature of the contract(s) linked to this AD, or in the first progress report at the latest. New columns may be added to set intermediary targets (milestones) for the Output and Outcome indicators whenever it is relevant.

- At inception, the first progress report should include the complete logframe (e.g. including baselines/targets).
- Progress reports should provide an updated logframe with current values for each indicator.
- The final report should enclose the logframe with baseline and final values for each indicator.

The indicative logical framework matrix may evolve during the lifetime of the action depending on the different implementation modalities of this action.

The activities, the expected Outputs and related indicators, targets and baselines included in the logframe matrix may be updated during the implementation of the action, no amendment being required to the Financing Decision.

Results	Results chain (@): Main expected results (maximum 10)	Indicators (@): (at least one indicator per expected result)	Baselines (values and years)	Targets (values and years)	Sources of data	Assumptions
Impact	To contribute to enhancing the implementation of the Paris Agreement as well as key multilateral environmental agreements and pledges	1. IMP 4 – Number of EU regional, interregional, bilateral and multilateral cooperation partnership strategies (incl. strategies to address challenges of global concern) which have been developed, adopted or implemented	(1) 2022: 0 Narrative: NDC implementation not on track	(1) 2027:1 Narrative: NDC implementation on track for delivery by 2030	(1) Outcome statements of summits/joint committee meetings, minutes of EU-ROK policy dialogues, relevant reports; country assessment on climateactiontracker.org	<i>Not applicable</i>
Outcome (1)	To support the development of a strong EU-ROK Green Partnership, contributing to the green transition outlined in the European and Korean Green Deals	1.1 OC 1 – Number of processes related to state-level and sub-state level (bilateral, regional, multilateral) partnership strategies and policy dialogues which have been influenced 1.2 OC 2 –Number of processes related to non-state level partnerships/ agreements which have been influenced 1.3 OC 15 – Number of processes related to bilateral, regional or multilateral practices / approaches that include gender equality objectives which have been influenced	(1.1) 2022: 0 Narrative: No EU-ROK Green Partnership (1.2) 2022: 0 Narrative: Lack of strong EU-ROK CSO cooperation (1.3) 2022: 0 Narrative: Gender wage gap among highest in OECD	(1.1) 2027: 1 Narrative: Green Partnership concluded and under implementation (1.2) 2027: 4 Narrative: At least 4 EU-ROK CSO partnership initiatives supported (1.3) 2007: 1 Narrative: Gender equality considerations strengthened in	(1.1) Reports/minutes of bilateral policy dialogues, project implementation reports (final & interim), project results reports/monitoring reports; (1.2) Agreements / reports on partnerships / cooperation initiatives;/ Project implementation reports (final & interim), project results reports/ monitoring reports (1.3) Project implementation reports (final & interim), project results reports/ monitoring reports	Continued Korean top-level political commitment to develop and implement a meaningful EU-Korea Green Partnership; Continued interest of CSOs to engage in project activities with EU stakeholders despite logistical challenges (language barriers, time difference etc.)

				ROK's just energy transition process		
Output 1	Strengthened Team Europe climate diplomacy and outreach in Korea	1.1.1	OP 1 – Number of events organised or supported	(1.1.1) 2022: 0	(1.1.1) 2027: 20	(1.1.1) Reports on events organised, disaggregated by type
		1.1.2	OP 2 – Number of participants in the events organised / supported	(1.1.2) 2022: 0	(1.1.2) 2027: 1,500	(1.1.2) Event participant registration, event report disaggregated by gender, sector and type of event
		1.1.3	OP 3 – Percentage of participants in the events who report having benefited from the events organised/supported	(1.1.3) 2022: 0	(1.1.3) 2027: 80%	(1.1.3) Event feedback surveys, disaggregated by gender of respondents
		1.1.4	OP 10 – Number of communication products developed	(1.1.4) 2022: 0	(1.1.4) 2027: 20	(1.1.4) Project progress reports; communication products and reports (newsletters, social media etc.), During inception phase a media plan will be developed in close consultation with the EUD's Press & Information section (it will specify the communication productions to be developed)
Output 2	Promoted Korea's just and clean energy transition	1.2.1	OP 8 – Number of knowledge-based products developed	(1.2.1) 2022: 0	(1.2.1) 2027: 15	(1.2.1) Project interim progress reports; knowledge-based products
		1.2.2	OP 1 – Number of events organised or	(1.2.2) 2022: 0	(1.2.2) 2027: 10	(1.2.2) Event reports, project reports; disaggregated by type
				(1.2.3)	(1.2.3)	
						Continued willingness and availability of Member State embassies / representations to participate in joint climate diplomacy/outreach activities
						Continued interest and availability of key Korean stakeholders to engage in project activities related to the coal phase-out and the promotion of renewable energy sources (particularly offshore wind power).

		1.2.3	OP 2 – Number of participants in the events organised / supported	2022: 0	2027: 500	(1.2.3) Event participant registration, event report disaggregated by gender, sector and type of event	
Output 3	Enhanced EU-ROK industry cooperation on circular economy approaches	1.3.1	OP 1 – Number of events organised or supported	(1.3.1) 2022: 0	(1.3.1) 2027: 10	(1.3.1) Event reports, project reports; disaggregated by type	Continued EUD access to relevant government institutions (MOTIE, MOE, etc.); Willingness and availability of EU companies/business support organisations to engage in project activities, share information and coordinate activities
		1.3.2	OP 4 - Number of EU companies that participated in the events organised/supported	(1.3.2) 2022: 0	(1.3.2) 2027: 100	(1.3.2) Event participant registration records/reports	
		1.3.3	OP 5 - Percentage of EU companies which report having benefited from the events organised / supported	(1.3.3) 2022: 0	(1.3.3) 2027: 80%	(1.3.3) Event feedback surveys	
		1.3.4	OP 6 – Number of non-EU companies that participated in the events organised / supported	(1.3.4): 2022: 0	(1.3.4) 2027: 100	(1.3.4) Event participant registration records / reports	
		1.3.5	OP 7 – Percentage of non-EU companies which report having benefitted from the events organised / supported	(1.3.5) 2022: 0	(1.3.5) 2027: 80%	(1.3.5) Event feedback surveys	
Output 4	Support cooperation and exchanges on best practices between EU and Korean cities on green smart city innovations	1.4.1	OP 1 – Number of events organised or supported	(1.4.1) 2022: 0	(1.4.1) 2027: 20	(1.4.1) Reports on events organised, disaggregated by type	COVID-19 restrictions remain moderate and do not prevent study trips/city exchanges
		1.4.2	OP 2 – Number of participants in the events organised / supported	(1.4.2) 2022: 0	(1.4.2) 2027: 1,000	(1.4.2) Event participant registration, event report disaggregated by gender, sector and type of event	
		1.4.3	OP 3 – Percentage of participants in the events who report having benefited from the events organised/supported	(1.4.3) 2022: 0	(1.4.3) 2027: 80%	(1.4.3) Event feedback surveys, disaggregated by gender of respondents	
		(1.4.4)		(1.4.4)	(1.4.4)	(1.4.4) Project interim progress reports; knowledge-based products (type of	

		1.4.4	OP 8 – Number of knowledge-based products developed	2022: 0	2027: 10	products TBC during inception phase)	
Output 5	Promoted bilateral cooperation on international efforts to fight pollution, protect biodiversity and promote sustainable production, trade and consumption patterns	1.5.1	OP 8 – Number of knowledge-based products developed	(1.5.1) 2022: 0	(1.5.1) 2027: 5	(1.5.1) Project interim progress reports; knowledge-based products	Continued shared interest and engagement of lead Korean ministries (MOTIE/MOE) in adopting and implementing an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework and in cooperating on circular economy policies
		1.5.2	OP 10 – Number of communication products developed	(1.5.2): 2022: 0	(1.5.2) 2027: 4	(1.5.2) Project progress reports; communication products and reports (newsletters, social media, etc.); During inception phase a media plan will be developed in close consultation with the EUD's Press & Information section (it will specify the communication productions to be developed)	
ACTIVITIES							
.....	Activities related to Output 1		Cf. point 3.2				

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country/Republic of Korea.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 84 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The project will be implemented through procurement.

4.4 Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of this action impossible or exceedingly difficult (Article 28(10) NDICI-Global Europe Regulation).

4.5 Indicative Budget

Indicative Budget components	EU contribution (amount in EUR)
Implementation modalities – cf. section 4.3	
Procurement – total envelope under section 4.3.1.1	4,000,000
Evaluation – cf. section 0 Audit – cf. section 0	may be covered by another Decision
Totals	4,000,000

4.6 Organisational Set-up and Responsibilities

A Steering Committee shall be set up to oversee and validate the overall strategic direction of the action. The Steering Committee will indicatively be composed of representatives of the EU Delegation in Korea, DG CLIMA, DG ENER, DG ENV, DG TRADE, FPI, EEAS and other EU services, as deemed relevant. Representatives of EU Member States and implementing partners of relevant complementary EU-funded actions, as well as other stakeholders, may be invited as observers. The Steering Committee will indicatively meet once every six months.

The EU-ROK Working Group on Climate Change, Energy and Environment (or any similar working group/policy dialogue forum) will provide guidance on shared EU-ROK policy priorities and assist in identifying practical cooperation opportunities.

European business chambers and industry associations (e.g. European Chamber of Commerce in Korea) will be associated in relevant activities.

5 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

5.1 Monitoring and Reporting

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process, and part of the implementing partner's responsibilities. To this aim, the implementing partner shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports. Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results (Outputs and direct Outcomes) as measured by corresponding indicators, using as reference the logframe matrix (for project modality) and the partner's strategy, policy or reform action plan list (for budget support).

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Roles and responsibilities for data collection, analysis and monitoring:

The implementing partner will bear primary responsibility for the data collection, analysis and monitoring. The Commission may undertake monitoring activities, as needed.

5.2 Evaluation

Having regard to the importance of the action, a mid-term and/or final evaluation(s) may be carried out for this action or its components via independent consultants contracted by the Commission.

A mid-term evaluation may be carried out for problem solving and learning purposes, in particular with respect to identifying opportunities for improving the project relevance and implementation performance.

A final evaluation may be carried out for accountability and learning purposes at various levels (including for policy revision), taking into account in particular the evolving EU-ROK cooperation priorities.

The Commission shall inform the implementing partner at least 30 days in advance of the dates envisaged for the evaluation missions. The implementing partner shall collaborate efficiently and effectively with the evaluation experts, and inter alia provide them with all necessary information and documentation, as well as access to the project premises and activities.

The evaluation reports may be shared with the partners and other key stakeholders following the best practice of evaluation dissemination⁷. The implementing partner and the Commission shall analyse the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluations and, where appropriate, apply the necessary adjustments.

The financing of the evaluation may be covered by another measure constituting a Financing Decision.

5.3 Audit and Verifications

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audit or verification assignments for one or several contracts or agreements.

6 STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The 2021-2027 programming cycle will adopt a new approach to pooling, programming and deploying strategic communication and public diplomacy resources.

It will remain a contractual obligation for all entities implementing EU-funded external actions to inform the relevant audiences of the Union's support for their work by displaying the EU emblem and a short funding statement as appropriate on all communication materials related to the actions concerned. This obligation will continue to apply equally, regardless of whether the actions concerned are implemented by the Commission, partner countries, service providers, grant beneficiaries or entrusted or delegated entities such as UN agencies, international financial institutions and agencies of EU member states.

However, action documents for specific sector programmes are in principle no longer required to include a provision for communication and visibility actions promoting the programmes concerned. These resources will instead be consolidated in Cooperation Facilities established by support measure action documents, allowing Delegations to plan and execute multiannual strategic communication and public diplomacy actions with sufficient critical mass to be effective on a national scale.

⁷ See best [practice of evaluation dissemination](#)

Appendix 1 REPORTING IN OPSYS

An Intervention (also generally called project/programme) is the operational entity associated to a coherent set of activities and results structured in a logical framework aiming at delivering development change or progress. Interventions are the most effective (hence optimal) entities for the operational follow-up by the Commission of its external development operations. As such, Interventions constitute the base unit for managing operational implementations, assessing performance, monitoring, evaluation, internal and external communication, reporting and aggregation.

Primary Interventions are those contracts or groups of contracts bearing reportable results and respecting the following business rule: 'a given contract can only contribute to one primary intervention and not more than one'. An individual contract that does not produce direct reportable results and cannot be logically grouped with other result reportable contracts is considered a 'support entities'. The addition of all primary interventions and support entities is equivalent to the full development portfolio of the Institution.

The present Action identifies as:

Contract level		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Single Contract	Single contract in this present Action.