



Brussels, 13.10.2023
C(2023) 6940 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.10.2023

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2023
Part 3**

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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) 2018/1046 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(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2023 Part 3, 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 Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Asia Pacific region for the period 2021-2027⁴. 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 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; and migration, forced displacement and mobility.

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 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.

- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ are to address global challenges, in particular climate change; hybrid threats; future of work as well as support multilateralism, promote EU values and interests, and support EU trade and investments with key partners in the region. The objectives of this plan will be pursued in a direction consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals, and the EU’s geopolitical priorities, in line with the EU Strategy for the Indo-Pacific and related areas of the Global Gateway.
- (5) The action entitled ‘**Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Australia, Hong Kong/Macao, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan**’ will seek to enable the EU to address the short and medium-term foreign policy needs and opportunities in and with Australia, Hong Kong (and Macao), New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan. This will be achieved by deepening bilateral relations and dialogues, and by forging alliances and partnerships through public-, economic-, and cultural diplomacy tools, primarily in the fields of multilateralism and international rules-based order, trade and business relations, green policies, digital policies, cultural affairs, civil society, human rights, and other relevant sectors in which policy dialogues with targeted countries/territories are ongoing, planned, or have the potential to be further explored.
- (6) The action entitled ‘**Addressing Hybrid Threats in the Indo-Pacific – Pilot Action (HIPPA)**’ aims to work with Australia to strengthen the understanding, awareness of, and inter-regional cooperation on addressing hybrid threats between the EU and key Indo-Pacific partners (government, non-government, and industry), and promote relevant EU policies and approaches to this topic.
- (7) The action entitled ‘**EU – Republic of Korea Intellectual Property Action**’ will seek to enhance trade in Intellectual Property intensive products between the EU and the Republic of Korea and to cooperate on new technologies and challenges where new policies and rules that involve intellectual property rights may be developed.
- (8) The action entitled ‘**EU Public and Cultural Diplomacy in the Republic of Korea**’ will contribute to enhance the profile and visibility of the European Union in the Republic of Korea, by building trust and mutual understanding through meaningful engagement with key audiences and groups.
- (9) The action entitled ‘**Managing a decent future of work together (Asia)**’ will contribute to cooperation with Asia-Pacific countries to seize opportunities and manage risks related to labour rights and protection in the context of the megatrends (i.e. new technologies, demographic shifts, climate change, shifts in social attitudes and trade patterns, etc.) affecting the future of work.
- (10) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (12) 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.

- (13) To this 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 Regulation⁵ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof 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 allow 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 Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of the Asia Pacific region for 2023 Part 3, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Policy Dialogue and Public Diplomacy Facility for Australia, Hong Kong/Macao, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan’ set out in Annex 1;
- (b) ‘Addressing Hybrid Threats in the Indo-Pacific – Pilot Action (HIPPA)’ set out in Annex 2;
- (c) ‘EU – Republic of Korea Intellectual Property Action’ set out in Annex 3;
- (d) ‘EU Public and Cultural Diplomacy in the Republic of Korea’ set out in Annex 4;
- (e) ‘Managing a decent future of work together (Asia)’ set out in Annex 5.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2023 Part 3 is set at EUR 15 500 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line BGUE-B2023-14.020131-C1-INTPA>FPI: EUR 11 000 000;
- (b) budget line BGUE-B2023-14.020132-C1-INTPA>FPI: EUR 4 500 000.

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

⁵ 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.

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 3 and 5, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.1 of these Annexes.

Article 4

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.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex 2. Grants may be awarded to the bodies selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annex 2.

Done at Brussels, 13.10.2023

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.