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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 25.4.2023

**on the 2023 annual action plan for the global threats part of the thematic programme on
peace, stability and conflict prevention**

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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) No 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 2023 annual action plan for the global threats part of the thematic programme on peace, stability and conflict prevention, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual action plan. 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) On 14 December 2021 the Commission has adopted the Global Europe – Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention Thematic Plan 2021-2027⁴. The priorities set out under the area of intervention "Global Threats" pertaining to this Annual Action Plan aim to address global, trans-regional and emerging threats to people, states and to critical infrastructure.
- (4) The specific objectives pursued by the 2023 annual action plan are the disruption of transnational terrorist networks and the fight against violent extremism, the mitigation of and preparedness against risks related to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials, the fight against organised crime, including drug trafficking, addressing threats to peace and security linked to climate change and inter-

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 C(2021) 8985

related environmental crisis, and the protection of critical infrastructure against security related threats. To support the programmed objectives, it is necessary to establish an expert support facility.

- (5) The 2023 annual action plan comprises the following actions.
- The action entitled “**Counterterrorism**” set out in Annex I aims at disrupting terrorist networks and the activities of recruiters to terrorism and bringing terrorists to justice, while continuing to respect human rights and international law, and enhancing the resilience of vulnerable people and communities to violent extremism and terrorist recruitment in support of the Counterterrorism Agenda of the European Union and the Council Conclusions on EU External Action on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism of June 2022.
 - The action entitled “**Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation**” set out in Annex II aims to address specific global and trans-regional threats to peace, international security and stability globally by enhancing CBRN risk mitigation and security governance in partner countries, mainly through the European Union’s CBRN Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative and the European Union Partner-to-Partner Export Control Programme. This action will further strengthen national and regional CBRN governance and promote a culture of CBRN safety and security internationally.
 - The action entitled “**Fighting Organised Crime**” set out in Annex III aims to contribute to strengthening the capacities of partner countries to disrupt organised crime groups trafficking drugs and other illicit commodities along trafficking routes, including by enhancing transnational cooperation.
 - The action entitled “**Critical Infrastructure Protection**” set out in Annex IV aims to decrease the evasion of UN Security Council sanctions at sea and related transnational organized crime at sea, at the global level.
 - The action entitled “**Expert Support Facility (ESF)**” set out in Annex V aims to contribute to strengthening the effectiveness and impact of actions under the thematic programme through the provision of reliable and effective technical assistance to support the identification, formulation, evaluation and implementation of other actions.
- (6) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (8) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regard to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046⁵ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory

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.

measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (9) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (10) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the 2023 annual action plan, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (11) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the NDICI-Global Europe Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The annual action plan

The annual financing decision, constituting the 2023 annual action plan for the global threats part of the thematic programme on peace, stability and conflict prevention, as set out in Annexes I to V, is adopted.

The 2023 annual action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) Counterterrorism, set out in Annex I;
- (b) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation, set out in Annex II;
- (c) Fighting Organised Crime, set out in Annex III;
- (d) Critical Infrastructure Protection, set out in Annex IV;
- (e) Expert Support Facility (ESF), set out in Annex V.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the 2023 annual action plan is set at EUR 92 002 726 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14 02 02 30 of the general budget of the Union.

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 Annexes I to V, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in those Annexes.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 provided that those changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the action.

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 and procurement

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in Annexes I to V. Grants may be awarded to the body referred to or selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of Annex V, point 4.3.2 of Annex I, and point 4.3.3 of Annex III.

Done at Brussels, 25.4.2023

For the Commission

Josep BORRELL FONTELLES

High Representative / Vice-President