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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 9.4.2024

on the financing of the annual action programme for the Conflict Prevention, Peace-building and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention for 2024

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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) and Article 24(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action programme 2024 for the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2024. 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 on 14 December 2021 the thematic programme for Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention 2021-2027⁴. The priorities set out under the area of intervention "Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness" aim to enhance capabilities relating to analytical tools, methodologies, and mechanisms to better detect early signs of conflict; promote conflict prevention and conflict resolution measures, including by facilitating and building capacity in confidence-building, mediation, dialogue and reconciliation processes; and to support peace processes and transitions of conflict-affected societies / communities, including stabilisation and peacebuilding efforts.

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.

- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme 2024 to be financed under the ‘Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness’ part of the thematic programme ‘Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention’, are to support measures building and strengthening the capacity of the Union and its partners to prevent conflict, build peace and address pre- and post-crisis needs in close co-ordination with international, regional and sub-regional organisations, state and civil society actors.
- (5) The Action entitled “Support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness” aims at supporting in-country civil society actors in their effort to prevent conflicts, respond to crises, and build peace. Through actions implemented by civil society (local civil society organisations, international non-governmental organisations) in conflict-affected contexts, their institutional, operational and networking capacity will be strengthened in thematic priority areas relating to conflict prevention and peace-building, with a specific emphasis on increasing resilient information ecosystems. Other thematic priority areas that will be considered includes areas such as, but not limited to: inclusivity, disinformation, climate change, land disputes and security, and the role of religious actors in peacebuilding.
- (6) The Action entitled “Support to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund” aims to sustain and build peace and contribute to more concerted and coherent international efforts through continued support to the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). The action will also indirectly underpin the UN Peacebuilding Commission and enhance the overall capacity of the UN to fulfil its mandate on peace and security. The action contributes towards the implementation of the strategic EU-UN partnership on stabilisation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The action underpins the EU position on the upcoming UN Peace Agenda and will allow the EU to further contribute to the ability of the United Nations system to effectively perform its mandate in sustaining peace before, during and after an escalation of violent conflict. The EU’s contribution would place it among the main donors of the Fund.
- (7) The Action entitled “European Resources for Mediation Support” aims at providing targeted EU support to peace mediation and dialogue processes of priority to the EU at the international, regional, national or local level. This is in line with the EU’s Global Strategy and the Council conclusions on EU Peace Mediation of 7 December 2020. The action will include providing, if required on short-notice, expertise, training, technical and organisational assistance to meetings and conferences as well as analysis, studies and knowledge management.
- (8) The Action entitled “Mine Action Governance Facility” aims at providing expertise to mine-affected countries globally on the formulation of governance structures and strategies for the management of their mine action sector. This is in view of the issue of contamination of many countries’ territories with mine or other explosive remnants of war from recent or past conflicts, that endanger the lives of civilians and impact on the return of economic activity to affected areas. Effective mine action strategies and governance structures are crucial to put the available mine action resources, to the most efficient and effective use as well as to strengthen compliance with international mine action standards.
- (9) The Action entitled “Provision of expertise for justice in conflict and transition” aims at a continued support to peacebuilding processes in third countries through the provision of short-term policy and technical support in transitional justice, including constitution building as well as fostering understanding on transitional justice and constitution building. Dealing with a traumatic past, notably through transitional justice processes,

including constitution building, is an integral part of building cohesive and stable societies and working towards non-recurrence of violent events.

- (10) The Action entitled “Strengthening capacities for participation and deployment in civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions” aims at creating and sharing knowledge and good practice to national and international staff prior to and during their deployment to Civilian Crisis Management missions and other peace-support missions, by providing relevant and needs-based training courses, scenario-based (live) exercises as well as activities supporting efficient and effective knowledge acquisition and skills development. The action will enable the mission staff to engage more effectively in their tasks, respond to actual needs and occurring challenges in the field, and thus make a considerable contribution to a successful implementation of missions’ mandates and objectives by positively impacting the European Union’s capacity to improve the security of the population in affected countries targeted by CSDP missions.
- (11) The Action entitled “Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness Support Measures” aims at contributing to the research, identification, formulation, evaluation, and implementation of interventions, inter alia providing technical assistance and training, and organising meetings and seminars, bringing relevant stakeholders together, for EU actions focusing on conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness. More specifically, the action will strengthen sustainable and systematic mechanisms and processes to foster, capture and disseminate knowledge to increase the efficiency and coherence of the European Union’s actions in the areas of crisis response, and conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness.
- (12) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (13) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (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. 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.
- (15) 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.
- (16) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (17) The action programme provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument Committee established by Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

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.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The Annual Action Plan

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action programme 2024 for the implementation of the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness part of the thematic programme Peace, Stability and Conflict Prevention, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action programme shall include the following actions:

- Support to in-country civil society actors in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and crisis preparedness, set out in Annex I;
- Support to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, set out in Annex II;
- European Resources for Mediation Support, set out in Annex III;
- Mine Action Governance Facility, set out in Annex IV;
- Provision of expertise for justice in conflict and transition, set out in Annex V;
- Strengthening capacities for participation and deployment in civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions, set out in Annex VI;
- Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness Support Measures, set out in Annex VII.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action programme for 2024 is set at EUR 35 344 609 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 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 Annex II.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million 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

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

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 Annexes. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to or selected in accordance with point 4.3 of Annexes I, IV, and VI.

Done at Brussels, 9.4.2024

For the Commission

Josep BORRELL FONTELLES

High Representative / Vice-President