



Brussels, 29.6.2018
C(2018) 4001 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 29.6.2018

**on the adoption of the multiannual indicative programme under the Partnership
Instrument for cooperation with third countries**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 29.6.2018

on the adoption of the multiannual indicative programme under the Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 234/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 March 2014 establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries, and in particular Article 4 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Union must seek to develop relations and build partnerships with third countries. Although based on the experience gained with industrialised countries and high-income countries and territories under Council Regulation (EC) No 1934/2006¹, the instrument set up under Regulation (EU) No 234/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 March 2014 establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries is a new instrument. It provides direct support for the Union's external policies and expands cooperation partnerships and policy dialogues to areas and subjects beyond development cooperation in order to promote core Union interests.
- (2) The multiannual indicative programmes set out the Union's interests and priorities, specific objectives and expected results. They lay down the priority areas selected for Union financing and should indicate in general terms, for the relevant period, the indicative allocation of funds for each priority area and for each partner or group of partner countries.
- (3) In accordance with Article 9(3) and (4) of the Council Decision of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EEAS contributes to the management and programming cycle of external-aid instruments. It has responsibility for preparing the decisions of the Commission regarding the strategic multiannual steps within the programming cycle. Throughout the cycle of programming, planning and implementing the instrument, the High Representative and the EEAS work with the relevant members and departments of the Commission. All proposals for decisions are prepared by following the Commission's procedures and submitted to the Commission for adoption.
- (4) This Council Decision 2010/427/EU of 26 July 2010 applies to the above-mentioned Regulation No 234/2014.
- (5) The financial allocation for implementing the Partnership Instrument for the period 2014-2020 is EUR 954 765 000.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1934/2006 of 21 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for cooperation with industrialised and other high-income countries and territories (OJ L 405, 30.12.2006, p. 41).

- (6) The aid provided by the Union will support the objectives and thematic priorities set out in the Annex to Regulation No 234/2014 and be implemented for this purpose in accordance with the multiannual indicative programme for the Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries for the period 2018-2020 annexed hereto.
- (7) In accordance with Article 18(4) of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council, in order to promote the international dimension of higher education, an indicative amount of EUR 88 000 000 will be allocated for actions to promote the mobility of young people to and from partner countries during their studies (within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013) and for cooperation and policy dialogue with the authorities, institutions and organisations of those countries. Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013 will apply to the use of those funds.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee set up under Article 7 of the Partnership Regulation.
- (9) The multiannual indicative programme under the Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries for the period 2018-2020 should be adopted by the Commission on behalf of the European Union,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The multiannual indicative programme under the Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries for the period 2018-2020, annexed hereto, is hereby adopted.

Done at Brussels, 29.6.2018

*For the Commission
Federica Mogherini
Vice-President of the Commission*