



Brussels, 8.11.2024
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 8.11.2024

**on the financing of the annual work programme 2025 for information outreach on EU
external relations**

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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) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹ ('the Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 110(1) thereof,

Having regard to the implementation of Information outreach policy and strategic communication for EU external action ('the programme'), carried out by the Commission, and in particular Article 58(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the programme, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which is to constitute the annual work programme, for 2025 in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('the Financial Regulation').
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures² adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
- (3) 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.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to determine the changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (5) The Commission has underlined the importance of informing the public in EU Member States and third countries of activities carried out in the area of external relations in order to increase the visibility and understanding of the European Union external action, including the EU's cooperation with international organisations.
- (6) Under the institutional framework of the Lisbon Treaty, the EU delegations play a crucial role in communicating the EU's values, policies and results towards third countries and international organisations.
- (7) Enhancing communications and public diplomacy capacity is a priority of the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy³ and forms an integral

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.09.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>).

² See 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 the case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

part of the EU external communication notably as regards combatting the increase of disinformation about the EU by third states and non-state actors.

- (8) The objectives pursued by the work programme are to enhance communications and public diplomacy in order to ensure that third country audiences, mainly through the EU Delegations' outreach, are informed about major EU policies.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the information outreach on EU external relations for 2025, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

The annual work programme 2025 for information outreach on EU external relations shall include the following actions:

- Action 1. Activities Implemented by EEAS in EU Delegations by region as set out in the Annex;
- Action 2. Activities Implemented by EEAS HQ as set out in the Annex;
- Action 3. Activities related to Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) Implemented by EEAS in EU Delegations and at HQ as set out in the Annex;
- Action 4. Activities Implemented by FPI as set out in the Annex;
- Action 5. Contribution to corporate IT as set out in the Annex.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2025 is set at EUR 27 821 307, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- budget line 14 20 04 03.

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2025 following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme.

³ [Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe. A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign And Security Policy](#)

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.

Done at Brussels, 8.11.2024

For the Commission
Josep BORRELL FONTELLES
High Representative / Vice-President