



Brussels, 8.12.2021
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 8.12.2021

**on the financing of the annual work programme 2022 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) 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 Articles 58 and 110 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of information outreach on EU external relations, carried out by the Commission, in accordance with Article 58(2)(d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046, by virtue of tasks resulting from its prerogatives at institutional level pursuant to the TFEU, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme for 2022. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 TFEU².
- (3) The Commission has underlined³ 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) Enhancing communications and public diplomacy capacity is a priority of the Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy⁴ and form an integral part of the EU external communication notably as regards combating the increase of disinformation about the EU by third states and non-state actors.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

² 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.

³ [Political Guidelines for the European Commission 2019-2024](#), A stronger Europe in the world

⁴ [Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe. A Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign And Security Policy](#)

- (6) 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.
- (7) 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.
- (8) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, 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,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the annual work programme 2022 for information outreach on EU external relations, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2022 is set at EUR 25 634 312, 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 2022 following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision, 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 where those 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.

Done at Brussels, 8.12.2021

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