



Brussels, 2.5.2024
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 2.5.2024

on the financing of the action plan for EU foreign policy needs on support to pluralistic media in Latin America and regional security in the Arab region 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 (5) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the action plan on support to pluralistic media in Latin America and regional security in the Arab region for 2024, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision, which constitutes the 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 objectives pursued by the action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 are to enable the EU to address short and medium-term foreign policy needs and opportunities by supporting innovative policies/initiatives and by deepening EU relations and dialogues, forging alliances and partnerships, by fostering independent and pluralistic media, access to information and the fight against disinformation in Latin America and by contributing to regional mechanisms for security cooperation and dialogue in the wider Gulf and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.
- (4) The action plan aims to implement a rapid response action, pursuant to Article 23(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, and is justified by the imperative foreign policy interest for the EU to respond quickly to emerging foreign policy needs.

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.

- (5) The action entitled ‘Support to pluralistic media in Latin America and regional security in the Arab region for 2024’ aims to a) improve legal protection frameworks and mechanisms for journalists and independent media and strengthen the capacities of governmental bodies and civil society organisations to detect and respond to disinformation campaigns on social media; b) pursue efforts to establish a Regional Mechanism for Security and Cooperation in the Gulf and the wider Middle East and North Africa region to enhance maritime, military and climate security; c) contribute to de-escalation and confidence building among the members participating in the Gulf Regional Dialogue Process on themes of mutual concern addressing both softer and harder issues. The rapid response action is justified by the imperative foreign policy interest for the Union to respond quickly to emerging foreign policy needs.
- (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) 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.
- (8) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (9) The action plan provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of action plans for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The European Parliament and Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The financing decision, constituting the action plan for the implementation of the support to pluralistic media in Latin America and regional security in the Arab region for 2024, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following action: ‘Support to pluralistic media in Latin America and regional security in the Arab region’, as set out in the Annex.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 is set at EUR 5 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union: 14 02 03 30 – Foreign Policy Needs.

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

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes⁴ 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 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 4
Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 2.5.2024

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

⁴ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.