



Brussels, 27.11.2024
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 27.11.2024

on the financing of the annual action plan for EU foreign policy needs on support to EU engagement on tackling deforestation, space diplomacy, countering disinformation and Kimberley Process 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) 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, 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(1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan for EU foreign policy needs on support to EU engagement on tackling deforestation, space diplomacy, countering disinformation and Kimberley Process, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which is to constitute the annual work programme, for 2024 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 measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union³.
- (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 action plan, 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 action provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁴ and in the Inter-institutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on

¹ OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>.

³ 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 case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

⁴ COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources⁵.

- (6) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 are to address short and medium-term foreign policy needs and opportunities by supporting innovative policies and initiatives, and by deepening EU relations and dialogues with target communities, forging alliances and partnerships. This action will strengthen the EU's engagement with Indonesia on the external impacts of EU Green Deal policies and regulatory frameworks, with a special focus on deforestation and forest degradation; advance the European perspectives and initiatives in the field of space security; support selected African media actors in addressing information manipulation in Africa; provide the necessary support for the effective implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme.
- (7) The action plan aims to implement a rapid response action, pursuant to Article 23(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, in line with the EU's key political priorities.
- (8) The action entitled 'Support to EU engagement on tackling deforestation, space diplomacy, countering disinformation and Kimberley Process' aims to: 1) increase the capacity of public and private stakeholders in the sector of palm oil and timber to adapt to the European Union Deforestation Regulation traceability standards and increase their understanding of deforestation-free production based on Food and Agriculture Organization's definitions; 2) increase convergence between the EU and countries benefitting from EU space assets on the application of international law, norms, and confidence-building measures; enhance participation of target groups in regional and global debates on responsible behaviour; 3) enhance the Kimberley Process' administrative support function by reinforcing its governance and strengthening its logistics and administration; 4) support selected African media actors to strengthen their capacities, practices, structures, networks to act as genuine provider of fact-based and reliable information and the main barrier to information manipulation in Africa.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c), of the Financial Regulation and Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action set out in the Annex.
- (10) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regard to persons and entities entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 157(3) of the Financial Regulation.
- (11) To that end, and before a contribution agreement can be signed, such persons and entities are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation⁶ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation.

⁵ Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2020/1222/oj).

⁶ Except for the cases referred to in Article 157(7) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

- (12) It is necessary to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants in accordance with Article 198 (f) of the Financial Regulation.
- (13) 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 established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 is required. The European Parliament and the aforementioned Committee should be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for EU foreign policy needs on support to EU engagement on tackling deforestation and forest degradation, space diplomacy, countering disinformation and Kimberley Process for 2024, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following action: ‘Support to EU engagement on tackling deforestation, space diplomacy, countering disinformation and Kimberley Process’ 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 8 580 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14 02 03 30 (Foreign Policy Needs) 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
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes⁷ 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, 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.

⁷ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

Article 4

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 Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.2 of the Annex.

Article 5

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 referred to in the Annex and/or selected in accordance with points 4.3.1 and 4.3.3 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 27.11.2024

For the Commission

Josep BORRELL FONTELLES

High Representative / Vice-President