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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 6.5.2024

on the financing of the action plan in favour of EU foreign policy needs on Enhancing security cooperation in and with Asia and the Indo-Pacific (ESIWA+) 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 in favour of EU foreign policy needs on Enhancing security cooperation in and with Asia and the Indo-Pacific (ESIWA+) 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 and initiatives and by deepening EU relations and dialogues, forging alliances and partnerships with key Asian and Indo-Pacific partners of strategic interest for the EU.
- (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.
- (5) The action entitled 'Enhancing security cooperation in and with Asia and the Indo-Pacific (ESIWA+)' aims to in particular support the operationalisation of the security and defence dialogues and cooperation with partner countries; promote synergies and

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.

cooperation between the EU and partner countries in the field of security and defence; and contribute to raising the EU profile as a security smart enabler for security and defence.

- (6) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (7) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation.
- (8) To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation⁴ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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 in favour of EU foreign policy needs on Enhancing security cooperation in and with Asia and the Indo-Pacific (ESIWA+) for 2024, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following action: ‘Enhancing security cooperation in and with Asia and the Indo-Pacific (ESIWA+)’ 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 6 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union: budget line 14 02 03 30 – Foreign Policy Needs.

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

⁴ Except for the cases referred to in Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

Article 3

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 4.1.1 of the Annex.

Article 4

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 changes⁵ 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.

Done at Brussels, 6.5.2024

For the Commission

Josep BORRELL FONTELLES

High Representative / Vice-President

⁵ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.