



Brussels, 29.1.2021
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 29.1.2021

**on the financing of the annual work programme for 2021 for information outreach and
the promotion of the coordination between the Union and Member States on the
humanitarian aid budget**

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on the financing of the annual work programme for 2021 for information outreach and the promotion of the coordination between the Union and Member States on the humanitarian aid budget

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 58(2)(d) and Article 110 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of information outreach and awareness activities on the provision of humanitarian aid and the promotion of the coordination between the Union and Member States on humanitarian aid actions, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the work programme for 2021. 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 measures² adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) The Commission has underlined the importance of informing the public in Member States and non-member countries of activities carried out in the area of humanitarian aid in order to increase the visibility and understanding of the Union external action, including the Union's cooperation with international organisations.
- (4) The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) field offices play a crucial role in communicating the Union'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 Union's Foreign and Security Policy³ and form an integral part of the Union external communication notably as regards combatting the increase of disinformation about the Union.

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 <https://www.iss.europa.eu/content/global-strategy-european-union%E2%80%99s-foreign-and-security-policy>

- (6) The overall objective is to support proactive information, communication and public outreach activities and to increase the visibility and understanding of the Union's external action in non-member countries, with international organisations and within the Union when communicating themes having a significant international dimension.
- (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 information outreach and promotion of the coordination between the Union and Member States on the humanitarian aid budget for 2021, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2021 is set at EUR 1 945 810, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 14 20 04 03: EUR 1 386 829;
- (b) budget line 14 20 04 05: EUR 558 981.

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

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20 % of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 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. The increase of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20 %.

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, 29.1.2021

For the Commission
Janez LENARČIČ
Member of the Commission