COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.1.2020

on the financing of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and the adoption of the work programme for 2020
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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,


Having regard to Regulation (EU) 375/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (‘EU Aid Volunteers initiative’), and in particular Article 21(3) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In order to ensure the implementation of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which establishes the annual work programme for 2020. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 (‘the Financial Regulation’) establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.

(2) The EU Aid Volunteers initiative established by Regulation (EU) No 375/2014 aims to contribute to strengthening the Union's capacity to provide needs-based humanitarian aid aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity and to strengthening the capacity and resilience of vulnerable or disaster-affected communities in third countries, particularly by means of disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction and by enhancing the link between relief, rehabilitation and development. Considering the links between climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness and reduction is encouraged.

(3) Actions under the 'EU Aid Volunteers initiative' in 2020 should focus on deployment of EU Aid Volunteers, certification of sending and hosting organisations, implementation of the training programme for candidate volunteers, support measures, including the continuous maintenance of the EU Aid Volunteers Platform and ex-post evaluation for the seven-year financial period of implementation of the initiative.

(4) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.

3 www.sanctionsmap.eu Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stem from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy the OJ prevails.
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.

In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to define changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.

The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 375/2014,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**
*The work programme*

The annual work programme for the implementation of the EU Aid Volunteers initiative for the year 2020, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

**Article 2**
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2020 is set at EUR 19 355 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

(a) budget line 23 04 01 – EU Aid Volunteers.

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 2020, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

**Article 3**
*Flexibility clause*

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union 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 Union 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, 13.1.2020

*For the Commission*

*Janez LENARCič*

*Member of the Commission*