COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 19.11.2018

on the financing of the annual action programme in favour of Sri Lanka for 2018
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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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


Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In order to ensure the implementation of the programme, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2018. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 TFEU.

(3) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2014-2020, which prioritises Democratic Governance and Reconciliation.

(4) The objective pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument is: The process of decentralisation in the targeted province and the dialogue between people and the state is strengthened contributing to the resolution of critical underlying causes of conflict and prevention of escalation of local disputes.

1 OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1
2 OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.
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.
The action entitled ‘Strengthening Transformation, Reconciliation and Inclusive Democratic Engagement (STRIDE)’ will leverage the opportunity provided by the Government's policy to strengthen democratic and accountable governance at local level, and promote mechanisms for direct dialogue between people and the government, as part of its commitment to mitigate the risk of a return to conflict. It will be implemented in indirect management with the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme and the British Council.

Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.

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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before a contribution agreement can be signed.

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.

In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Development Cooperation Instrument Committee established under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 233/2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**

*The programme*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual programme for the implementation of the annual action programme in favour of Sri Lanka for 2018, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following action:


**Article 2**

*Union contribution*

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6 Except for cases of Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.
The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2018 is set at EUR 40 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union: 21.020200.

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

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 5 of the Annex.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20 % of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, 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, 19.11.2018

For the Commission
Neven Mimica
Member of the Commission