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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 30.10.2018**

**on the Annual Action Programme 2018 for the Pan-African Programme**

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## on the Annual Action Programme 2018 for the Pan-African Programme

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 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

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<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Annual Action Programme for 2018, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision. 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<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Pan-African Programme for the period 2018-2020<sup>4</sup>, which sets out the following priorities: Political dialogue and Pan-African governance; Investing in People – education, science, technology, skills; Continental Economic Integration.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument<sup>5</sup> are to i) contribute the African Union (AU) mission to become an efficient and value-adding institution contributing to the implementation of the AU vision; ii) improve the governance of migration and mobility within Africa and between Africa and the EU; iii) contribute to the implementation of the Africa-EU Partnership by facilitating the achievement of joint

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

<sup>4</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2018)3225 of 22.05.2018 final adopting a Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Pan-African programme for the period 2018-2020.

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020, OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 44.

- strategic priorities; (iv) enhance human capital development in Africa; and (v) boost African economic integration and EU-Africa economic integration.
- (5) The action entitled "Africa-EU Partnership Support Measures" has the objective to create contribute to the implementation of the Africa-EU Partnership by facilitating the achievement of joint strategic priorities enshrined in the 5th AU-EU Summit Declaration, producing concrete results and raising further awareness on Africa-EU Partnership and its various domains.
  - (6) The action entitled "Support to the Africa-EU Dialogue on migration" has the objective to improve the governance of migration and mobility within Africa and between Africa and the EU and maximise the development potential thereof within the context of the Africa-EU Partnership.
  - (7) The action entitled "African Union Support Programme IV (AUSP IV)" has the objective to to contribute to the AU Commission mission to become an efficient and value-adding institution contributing to the implementation of the AU vision as an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.
  - (8) The action entitled "AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme" has the objective to improve occupational prospects of young Africans through the support of innovative, job-oriented skills development programmes.
  - (9) The action entitled "Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme III and IV" has the objective to further support the Intra-Africa mobility scheme, with a view to enhance human capital development by supporting the mobility of students and staff (academic and administrative) between African Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
  - (10) The action entitled "AU-EU Higher Education Programme" has the objective to enhance human capital development in Africa through three components: "Tuning Africa 3", "Harmonisation, Quality Assurance and Accreditation 2" (HAQAA 2) and "African Students and Alumni Association (ASAA)".
  - (11) The action entitled "AfricaConnect 3" has the objective to unlock the potential of education and research in enhancing human capital development in Africa.
  - (12) The action entitled "Boost African continental integration and EU-Africa economic integration through enhanced evidence-based policy making on trade and investment" has the objective to strengthen African continental integration and EU-Africa economic integration.
  - (13) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
  - (14) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for proposals and several calls for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
  - (15) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
  - (16) 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.
  - (17) 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<sup>6</sup> 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.

- (18) 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.
- (19) 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 Financial Regulation.
- (20) The measures provided for in this Decision are 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 financing decision, constituting the annual programme for the implementation of the Annual Action Programme 2018 for the Pan-African Programme, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- (a) Annex 1: Africa-EU Partnership Support Measures;
- (b) Annex 2: Support to the Africa-EU Dialogue on migration;
- (c) Annex 3: African Union Support Programme IV (AUSP IV);
- (d) Annex 4: AU-EU Skills for Youth Employability Programme;
- (e) Annex 5: Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme III and IV;
- (f) Annex 6: AU-EU Higher Education Programme;
- (g) Annex 7: AfricaConnect 3;
- (h) Annex 8: Boost African continental integration, EU-Africa economic integration through enhanced evidence-based policy making on trade and investment.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2018 and 2019 is set at EUR 155 700 000, and shall be financed for an amount of EUR 128 020 662 from budget line 21 02 09 of the general budget of the Union for 2018 and for an amount of EUR 27 679 338 from budget line 21 02 09 of the general budget of the Union for 2019.

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 general budget of the Union for 2019 as adopted by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

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<sup>6</sup> Except for the cases of 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 Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 5.4 of the Annexes 2, 3, 4, and 8.

*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, 30.10.2018

*For the Commission*

*Neven Mimica*

*Member of the Commission*