COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 7.8.2019

on the financing of the annual action programme in favour of the Republic of Tajikistan
for 'Rural Development Programme II' for 2019
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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,
and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012
1, 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 action2, and in particular Article 2(1)
thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action programme in favour of the
Republic of Tajikistan for 'Rural Development Programme II' for 2019, it is necessary
to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme,
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 of the Treaty on the
Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)3.

(3) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period
2014-20204, amended following the mid-term review5, which sets out the following
priorities: Rural Development, Education and Health. Specifically, the objective is to
contribute to the reduction of poverty in rural communities by improving people's
livelihoods and food security (through improved food availability and accessibility,
including access to nutritionally adequate diet), respecting the natural resource base.

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.
4 Commission Decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and the Republic of Tajikistan C(2014)5667 final of 12.08.2014
5 C(2018) 4741 of 20.7.2018
The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument⁶ are to improve livelihood in rural areas whereby at farm level, intensification of production along with promoting proper production technologies and compliance to standards shall ensure better income. Climate change puts at risk the livelihoods of rural people who are already impacted by high levels of poverty. The management of natural resources including water will be improved to support their resilience. The action will be implemented through procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The action entitled ‘Rural Development Programme II’ is envisaged to improve the climate-resilient development and livelihood of rural communities by promoting sustainable management of natural resources, promoting sustainable and efficient use of water, and boosting the added value of agricultural production.

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) 2018/1046⁷ 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

The action 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 I
The programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual programme for the implementation of the annual action programme in favour of the Republic of Tajikistan for ‘Rural Development Programme II’ for 2019, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following action: ‘Rural Development Programme II’.

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⁷ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.
Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2019 is set at EUR 59 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union: budget line 21.020300.

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 5.3.2. and 5.3.3. 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, considering each financial year separately, 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 use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

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, 7.8.2019

For the Commission
Cecilia MALMSTRÖM
Member of the Commission

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