COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 4.9.2019

on the financing of the multiannual action programme in favour of the Asia region for
2019 part II and 2020 part I
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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\(^2\), and in particular Article 2(1)] thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action programme in favour of the Asia region for 2019 part II and 2020 part I, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual\(^3\) financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for years 2019 and 2020. 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 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)\(^4\).

(3) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Regional Indicative Programme for Asia for the period 2014-2020\(^5\), revised through the Mid-term Review of programming documents under the DCI Regulation (EU) 233/2014 as foreseen by its Article 11\(^6\), which sets out the following priorities: Prosperity - Jobs and Growth; People - Migration and Forced Displacement; Planet - Climate Change and Environment; and Investment and Partnerships.

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\(^2\) OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.
\(^3\) Multiannual financing decision shall always constitute a multiannual action programme.
\(^4\) 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.
\(^6\) C(2018) 4741 of 20/07/2018
The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument\(^7\) are to support ASEAN regional integration, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through trade facilitation, improvement of an enabling business and investment environment, as well as promoting investments in the areas of environment, energy, sustainable urban development, transport and social infrastructure and private sector development.

The action entitled “ASEAN Regional Integration Support – Malaysia Trade-Related Assistance (ARISE Plus – Malaysia)” aims to support inclusive and sustainable trade growth and poverty reduction in Malaysia, while contributing to broader economic and trade integration in the ASEAN region. The specific objectives are to align trade policy formulation and implementation with regional and international commitments, align the quality infrastructure systems with regional and EU standards and to enhance the compliance of sustainable agriculture and fisheries production with regional and EU standards.

The action entitled “ASEAN Regional Integration Support – Thailand Trade-Related Assistance (ARISE Plus – Thailand)” aims to support inclusive and sustainable trade growth and poverty reduction in Thailand, while contributing to broader economic and trade integration in the ASEAN region. The specific objectives are to promote a more transparent, predictable and competitive business environment, improve the efficiency of public expenditure and service delivery and enhance sustainable agriculture export standards in Thailand and in selected ASEAN countries.

The action entitled “Asia Investment Facility (AIF)” has as its main objective the promotion of SDG related investments through the leverage of additional investments in key infrastructure, with a priority focus on climate change relevant and "green" investments in areas of environment, energy, sustainable urban development, transport and social infrastructure as well as SMEs development.

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\(^8\) 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.


\(^8\) 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.
HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The programme

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual programme for the implementation of the multiannual action programme in favour of the Asia region for 2019 part II and 2020 part I, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:
(a) ASEAN Regional Integration Support – Malaysia Trade-Related Assistance (ARISE Plus – Malaysia) set out in Annex I;
(b) ASEAN Regional Integration Support – Thailand Trade-Related Assistance (ARISE Plus – Thailand) set out in Annex II;
(c) Asia Investment Facility (AIF) set out in Annex III.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for the years 2019 and 2020 of budget implementation is set at EUR 106 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:
– budget line 21.020200: EUR 106 000 000

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 2020 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

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 of the Annexes I, II and III.

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\(^9\) 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

\(^9\) These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.
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, 4.9.2019

For the Commission
Neven Mimica
Member of the Commission