Commission Implementing Decision

of 24.10.2019

on the Annual Action Programme 2019 (part III) for Environment and Climate Change under the Global Public Goods and Challenges Thematic Programme, to be financed from the general budget of the Union
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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 Annual Action Programme 2019 (part III) for Environment and Climate Change under the Global Public Goods and Challenges Thematic Programme, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme for 2019. 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).

(3) The Commission has adopted the multiannual indicative programme (MIP) for the thematic programme ‘Global Public Goods and Challenges’ for the period 2014-2020 on behalf of the European Union. This sets out the following four priorities for environment and climate change: i) climate change adaptation and mitigation and support to the transition to climate resilient, low-carbon societies; ii) valuation, protection, enhancement and sustainable management of ecosystems; iii) transformation towards an inclusive green economy and mainstreaming of environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster risk reduction; and iv)
international environmental and climate governance in respect of the above priority areas.

(4) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2019 part III, to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument, address priorities i), ii) and iii) of the Multiannual Indicative Programme and provide the incentive for ten actions, listed below, supporting these priorities.

(5) The action entitled ‘EU contribution to the Adaptation Fund’ (Annex I) aims to provide the first support from the European Union budget to the Adaptation Fund – a major international instrument under the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The EU will contribute to the general budget of the Fund, in close cooperation with the EU Member States and other donors. The Adaptation Fund offers ten years of experience in the targeted funding of small to medium-sized adaptation projects, in developing countries that are most vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change. The projects and programmes financed by the Fund address adaptation needs in the following sectors: agriculture, coastal zone management, disaster risk reduction, food security, forests, rural development, urban development and water management. The overall objective of this Action is to assist the most vulnerable developing country Parties to the Paris Agreement in meeting the costs of concrete climate-resilient measures, and help them increase their adaptive capacity to climate variability and change at community, national, and regional levels.

(6) The action entitled ‘Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) multi-country programme on sustainable cooling solutions and their contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)’ (Annex II) aims at reducing the climate impact of the cooling sector in Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali and Cameroon. The action lays the groundwork for an uptake of green, low carbon technologies to replace the use of old and inefficient appliances, and strengthens the capacities to introduce sustainable cold chains. The specific objectives are: 1) ensured use of comprehensive cooling sector information in policy development. 2) enhanced use of climate-friendly and energy-efficient cooling technologies with natural refrigerants powered by renewable energy sources.

(7) The action entitled ‘GCCA+ support for climate change adaptation in Suriname – Phase 2’ (Annex III) is in continuation with the activities initiated under the previous GCCA support (2016-2019). The previous phase mainly focused on institutional strengthening for research related to adaptation (mangrove ecosystems, hydrology, climate smart agriculture), on mangrove conservation and rehabilitation, and on laying the ground for integrated water resources management in the country. The current action will directly build on the results and achievements of the first phase and will aim at: 1) increasing the resilience of coastal communities in Nickerie and Coronie Districts against the threat of sea level rise; 2) improving national governance in the areas of integrated water resource and integrated coastal zone management.

(8) The action entitled ‘Programme d’Appui de l’Alliance Mondiale contre le Changement Climatique Plus (AMCC+) pour l’adaptation et le développement des énergies vertes en Haïti’ (Annex IV) seeks to address Haiti’s extreme vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, such as recurrent floods, more intensive and frequent cyclones or longer periods of drought. More specifically the project aims at: 1) strengthening the governance of the fight against climate change in Haiti; 2)

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strengthening the resilience of terrestrial ecosystems, the agricultural sector and coastal communities to the impacts of climate change; 3) improving the energy security of rural households, thanks to the use of green energy reducing the environmental impact.

(9) The action entitled ‘EU GCCA+ support to the implementation of Sri Lanka’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the industry sector’ (Annex V) aims at supporting climate change mitigation through the development and implementation of Sri Lanka’s NDCs for the industrial sector, thereby reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. More particularly, the project’s objective is to scale-up the climate change response of Sri Lanka’s industrial sector, through the adoption of climate-oriented tools and the design of technical, policy, regulatory and financial mechanisms aimed at reducing energy use and costs in favour of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions.

(10) The action entitled ‘GCCA+ support on coordination and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions for Namibia’ (Annex VI) aims at supporting Namibia’s efforts to implement its NDCs made under the Paris Agreement, and at enabling the country to contribute to global climate action, in line with a 1.5 degree pathway. More specifically, the project’s objectives are: 1) enable conducive policy and institutional environments for strengthened national, regional and municipal climate action; 2) facilitate evidence based, gender sensitive NDC projects and business models, to support scaled-up implementation and finance for climate action (adaptation and mitigation); 3) facilitate expanded access to affordable solar technologies by poor off-grid households.

(11) The action entitled ‘GCCA+ - Reducing Climate Impact of cooking in Rwanda through improved cooking systems’ (Annex VII) aims at reducing the climate impact of cooking systems, and at supporting a nation-wide shift towards more efficient cooking energy systems. This is done through a two-pronged approach, targeting both efficient cooking devices (cook more with the same resources) and fuel supply side (cook with less primary energy from sustainable sources). More specifically the project’s specific objectives: 1) increase the use of improved/clean cooking by Rwanda’s population, and 2) reduce biomass consumption for cooking purposes.

(12) The action entitled ‘GCCA+ Support to Timor-Leste Environment Action’ (Annex VIII) aims to improve the climate resilience of subsistence farmers in Timor-Leste. This will be achieved through carbon capture and trading systems, which both provide reward for growing forests and have the potential to improve women’s economic status via the programme’s implementation, while addressing interrelated challenges such as poverty, gender, inequity, climate change impact and deforestation. More specifically, the project’s specific objectives are: 1) enhance the application of rural climate smart practices, including reforestation by rural groups and especially women; 2) increase reforestation by social enterprises in targeted rural areas; 3) establish an internationally credible, transparent, sustainable and participative carbon capture/sequestration rewarding system in Timor-Leste.

(13) The action entitled ‘GCCA+ Cuba, Municipality of Martí: Towards a low-carbon sustainable development model’ (Annex IX) will contribute to boosting the integrated development of Martí. More specifically, it will support the municipality of Martí in adopting a climate-resilient, economic, social and environmentally sustainable, circular economic model for food and energy production. To achieve so, three outputs have been identified: 1) enhanced capacity and infrastructure for the production of
economically and environmentally (low carbon) efficient biogas and its use in public transport; 2) climate-resilient and low carbon agro ecological systems are scaled-up; 3) enhanced municipality capacity for project management and promotion of diversified, inclusive, environmental and climate-smart campaigns and actions.

(14) The action entitled ‘AMCC+ - Renforcement de la gouvernance et de la résilience climatiques au Tchad’ (Annex X) aims at increasing resilience to the challenges posed by climate change in Chad. It is based on two specific objectives: 1) the public institutions in charge of combating climate change and the implementation of the NDCs, ensure more efficiently the coordination, implementation and monitoring of climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, strategies and plans; 2) climate smart systems of management, financing and agricultural practices are put in place and experienced at local/provincial level.

(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. 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.

(17) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.

(18) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for proposals by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.

(19) 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.

(20) 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.

(21) 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 annual financing decision, constituting the Annual Action Programme 2019 (part III) for the implementation of the Environment and Climate Change under the Global Public Goods and Challenges Thematic Programme, to be financed from the general budget of the Union, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

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6 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.
(a) EU contribution to the Adaptation Fund, set out in Annex I
(b) GCCA+ multi-country programme on sustainable cooling solutions & their contribution to the SDGs, set out in Annex II
(c) GCCA+ support for climate change adaptation in Suriname – Phase 2, set out in Annex III
(d) Programme d’Appui de l’Alliance Mondiale contre le Changement Climatique Plus (AMCC+) pour l’adaptation et le développement des énergies vertes en Haïti, set out in Annex IV
(e) EU GCCA+ support to the implementation of Sri Lanka’s NDCs in the industry sector, set out in Annex V
(f) GCCA+ support on coordination and implementation of the NDC for Namibia, set out in Annex VI
(g) GCCA+ Reducing Climate Impact of cooking in Rwanda through improved cooking systems, set out in Annex VII
(h) GCCA+ Support to Timor-Leste Environment Action, set out in Annex VIII
(i) GCCA+ Cuba, Municipality of Martí: Towards a low-carbon sustainable development model, set out in Annex IX
(j) AMCC+ - Renforcement de la gouvernance et de la résilience climatiques au Tchad, set out in Annex X

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2019 is set at EUR 58 510 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union.
– budget line 21.020701

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 to be 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 Annexes I to X.

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 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, acting in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5
Direct Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes VIII and X. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annexes VIII and X.

Launching a call for proposals under a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in point 5.3.1. Annex VIII.

Done at Brussels, 24.10.2019

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission