COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION
of 13.11.2019

on the financing of the annual action programme in favour of Afghanistan for 2019 part 2
COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.11.2019

on the financing of the annual action programme in favour of Afghanistan for 2019 part 2

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 action², and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action programme in favour of Afghanistan for 2019 part 2, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for year 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 TFEU³.

(3) The Commission has adopted the Addendum to the Multiannual Indicative Programme between the European Union and Afghanistan for the period 2014-2020, points 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 of which, after its revision following a mid-term review⁴, provides for the following priorities: (i) to promote a peaceful and inclusive Afghan society through improved security, access to justice, democratic governance and domestic accountability, (ii) to Foster a more inclusive, sustainable and private sector-led economic growth, (iii) to contribute to the Government’s long-term goals of reducing poverty and deepening the relationship between citizens and the state on the basis of quality basic social services.

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 objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument are to (i) to foster a more inclusive and export-led economic growth, (ii) to contribute to poverty reduction and to sustainable and inclusive growth in rural and peri-urban areas of Afghanistan, and (iii) to promote sustainable livelihoods and inclusive growth in Afghanistan for women, men, youth, marginalised groups and other people in vulnerable situations.

The action entitled ‘Trade Related Assistance in Afghanistan: "Advancing Afghan Trade" phase 2’ aims at continuing the EU trade related assistance. The objective of the action is to create jobs through a more inclusive, sustainable and private sector led-economic growth. The action is expected to improve export quality, value addition, connectivity and compliance with market requirements by female and male business operators, in selected value chains.

The action entitled ‘Fostering Agribusiness Development in Afghanistan’ aims to improve the livelihoods in rural and peri-urban areas of Afghanistan. The objectives of the action are i) Increased agricultural productivity, and competitiveness of the agri-food sector in local and international markets; and ii) Improved enabling environment for sustainable agribusiness development and private sector investment.

The action entitled ‘Support to Peace and Shared Prosperity through the Citizens’ Charter Programme is the continuation of the EU’s longstanding support for basic service provision in Afghanistan. It aims to i) improve confidence of the population in the performance of government, in particular as regards good governance and anti-corruption, and service provision; ii) increase use of services, goods and infrastructure equitably provided by the public sector across the national territory to people living in vulnerable situations including in high risk areas and/or recently pacified areas; and iii) increase embracing of a culture of peace.

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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

---


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.
The actions 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 programme for the implementation of the annual action programme in favour of Afghanistan for 2019 part 2, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

(a) Trade Related Assistance in Afghanistan: "Advancing Afghan Trade" phase 2 set out in Annex I;

(b) Fostering Agribusiness Development in Afghanistan set out in Annex II;

(c) Support to Peace and Shared Prosperity through the Citizens’ Charter Programme set out in Annex III.

**Article 2**

*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2019 part 2 is set at EUR 59 000 000, and shall be financed for an amount of EUR 59 000 000 from budget line 21.0205 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.

**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 5.3.1 of the Annexes.

**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\(^7\) to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution. The use of contingencies shall be taken into account in the ceiling set by this Article.

---

\(^7\) These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.
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, 13.11.2019

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission