COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 13.11.2019

on the financing of the multiannual action programme 2019-2020 for the Food and Nutrition Security Action Area under the Thematic Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges to be financed from the general budget of the Union for 2019-2020
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on the financing of the multiannual action programme 2019-2020 for the Food and Nutrition Security Action Area under the Thematic Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges to be financed from the general budget of the Union for 2019-2020

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 of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action\(^1\), and in particular Article 6(3) thereof,


Whereas:

(1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action programme 2019-2020 for the Food and Nutrition Security Action Area under the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Thematic Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 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 TFEU\(^3\).

(3) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) for the Thematic Programme “Global Public Goods and Challenges” for the period 2018-2020 on behalf of the European Union\(^4\). The MIP sets out the following three priorities for food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture: i) strengthening and promoting governance and capacity of actors at the global, continental, regional and national levels, for all relevant stakeholders; ii) generating and exchanging knowledge and fostering innovation; iii) supporting the poor and food and nutrition insecure to effectively respond to crises and strengthen resilience.

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\(^1\) 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.
\(^4\) C(2018) 4919 final
The overall objective pursued by the multiannual action programme 2019-2020 for the Food and Nutrition Security Action to be financed through the Development Cooperation Instrument⁵ is to improve food security for the poorest and most vulnerable, to help eradicate poverty and hunger for current and future generations, and to better address under-nutrition thereby reducing child mortality. This objective will be pursued in line with the EU policy commitments taken in 2010 on addressing food security challenges, in 2011 on sustainable agriculture and food security, in 2012 on resilience and in 2013 on nutrition, in line with which it will focus on enhancing the incomes of smallholder farmers, the resilience of vulnerable communities and on helping partner countries reducing the number of stunted children by 7 million by 2025.

The action entitled “Generating and exchanging knowledge and fostering innovation-support to climate relevant Development-Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA)” (Annex 1) aims at contributing to the climate-relevant, productive, and sustainable transformation of agriculture and food systems in low and middle-income countries. This intervention is relevant for the 2030 Agenda. It contributes primarily to the progressive achievement of SDG(s) 2 and 13, but also promotes progress towards Goal(s) 1, 8, 11 and 12 and 15. This does not imply a commitment by the countries benefiting from this programme. The action, thereby, will be contributing to the achievement of the following targets: (i) agricultural productivity, (ii) sustainable food systems and resilient agricultural practices, (iii) investments in research and extension, (iv) integrate climate change into policies, strategies, and planning and (v) by protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of ecosystems, sustainable agro-forest management and halting land degradation and biodiversity loss.

The action entitled “Enhancing fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa: a programme for accelerated reform in the sectors” (Annex 2) aims to enhance the contribution of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to the achievement of the African Union’s Agenda 2063’s objectives, notably in terms of food security, livelihoods and wealth creation⁶. Taking into account lessons learnt from the previous action and contextual changes, this action will address 3 strategic issues where collaboration with African Union institutions will provide additional value and will complement EU action at regional and national levels. First, the action will support evidenced-based decision-making on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture through improved knowledge, effective consultation, solid reporting and the promotion of cross-sectoral approaches. Second, coherent implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) will be facilitated at continental, regional and national level. Third, the action will strengthen the African voice in international fora and domestication of global instruments.

The action entitled “Investing in data and indicators to end Hunger and Malnutrition (SDG2)” (Annex 3) aims to support evidence-based monitoring and policy making to improve food security and to promote an inclusive sustainable agriculture transformation. The action includes two programmes: (i) support to the multi donor "50x2030 Data Gap initiative" which ultimately will support 50 of the least developed countries to build and maintain agricultural integrated survey programs for improving

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national data systems, making survey datasets publicly available, and applying/using the data in key decision-making processes; 2) the Food Security Monitoring initiative, which will improve statistics for food security and nutrition policymaking in at least 20 countries worldwide and enhance country governments’ capacity to monitor Target 2.1 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

(8) The action entitled "Farmers Organisations for Asia and Latin America (FO4A-LA)" (Annex 4) is a capacity building programme aiming to increase income and to improve livelihood, food and nutrition security and safety of family farming in the target areas of the project, through greater integration of family farms in key agricultural value chains. The proposed programme builds on lessons learnt from the implementation of the ASEAN Farmers’ Organizations Support Programme (AFOSP 2015-2019), as well as from the experience of Farmers’ Organisations acquired over the last decade.

(9) The action entitled "Strengthening governance of Invasive Pests, Transboundary Diseases, and Food Safety affecting hunger and malnutrition" (Annex 5) aims to tackle agricultural risk management and enhance the effective control of global pests and diseases and the related quality of agricultural and livestock products, as well as to enhance the global capacity to deal with these and other risks to farming in developing countries. The action has a specific focus on global and continental coordination of actions against the fall armyworm, the fruit fly and the "peste des petits ruminants" (sheep and goat plague). More in general, it will enhance governance capacities on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and improve food safety.

(10) The action entitled “Pro-Resilience Action – PRO ACT 2019” (Annex 6) aims to increase resilience to food shocks and stresses of chronic and acute food insecure populations. Based on the evidence provided by the 2019 “Global Report on Food Crises”, the following countries were identified to receive support from this action: Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Malawi, Pakistan, Timor Leste, Uganda, Venezuela and Zimbabwe. In addition, this action includes interventions at regional (Sahel), continental (Africa) and global level. The country activities vary from country to country and broadly cover themes such as adaptation to biodiversity loss, climate change, combatting desertification, nutrition, sustainable and resilient small scale agricultural practices whilst taking into account the gender dimensions of resilience. At global and regional level support will be provided to the Global Network against food crises.

(11) The action entitled “Provision of Scientific and Technical Support relevant to EU policies in the areas of cooperation, Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture with third countries” (Annex 7) aims to enhance the use of scientific evidences and knowledge in decision-making, policy dialogue and programmes implementation in food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture. In particular, the action will improve the use of JRC scientific and technical expertise to support the EU cooperation policies and programmes in food & nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

(12) The action entitled “Support Measures 2019” (Annex 8) will cover the expenditures of activities related to the preparation, follow up, monitoring, evaluation and audit activities concerning the implementation of the Food Security & Sustainable Agriculture (FSSA) strategic area of the Thematic Programme on Global Goods and Challenges and to the achievement of its objectives.

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A/RES/70/1.
The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.

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

The Commission should authorise the eligibility of costs as of a date preceding that of submission of a grant application, which is prior to the date of adoption of this Decision, for reasons of extreme urgency in crisis management aid or in other exceptional and duly substantiated emergencies, whereby an early engagement by the Union would be of major importance.

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.

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 multiannual action programme 2019-2020 for the Food and Nutrition Security Action under Thematic Programme on Global Public Goods and Challenges, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- a) Generating and exchanging knowledge and fostering innovation- support to climate relevant Development-Smart Innovation through Research in Agriculture (DeSIRA) set out in Annex 1;
- b) Enhancing fisheries management and aquaculture development in Africa: a programme for accelerated reform in the sectors set out in Annex 2;
- c) Investing in data and indicators to end Hunger and Malnutrition (SDG2) set out in Annex 3;
- d) Farmers Organisations for Asia and Latin America (FO4A-LA) set out in Annex 4;
- e) Strengthening governance of Invasive Pests, Transboundary Diseases, and Food Safety affecting hunger and malnutrition set out in Annex 5;
- f) Pro-Resilience Action – PRO ACT 2019 set out in Annex 6;
- g) Provision of Scientific and Technical Support relevant to EU policies in the areas of cooperation, Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture with third countries set out in Annex 7;

**Article 2**

**Union contribution**

The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme for 2019 and 2020 is set at EUR 227 896 143.40 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

budget line 21 02 07 04: EUR 177 396 143.40 (for 2019);

budget line 21 02 07 04: EUR 50 500 000 (for 2020).

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**

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 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.
Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes\(^8\) 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, acting in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5
Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes 2 and 3. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annexes 2 and 3 selected in accordance with point 5.4.1.2 of Annex 2 and point 5.3.1 of Annex 3.

The eligibility of costs prior to the submission of grant applications and which is prior to the date of adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in Annex 1.

Done at Brussels, 13.11.2019

For the Commission
Neven MIMICA
Member of the Commission

\(^8\) These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.