Of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2019 Annual Action programme for the Partnership Instrument

**Action Document for Policy Dialogue Support Facility EU-LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean)**

### 1 Key Identification Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Title of the Action</strong></th>
<th>Policy Dialogue Support Facility EU-LAC (Latin America and the Caribbean)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Country/region/global</strong></td>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sector of intervention</strong></td>
<td>Multi Sector</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Indicative budget** | Total: EUR 5 000 000  
EC contribution: EUR 5 000 000 (100 %)  
Other contributions: NA |
| **Duration and target start date of implementation** | 36 months – 2nd quarter 2020 |
| **Method of implementation** | Direct management – Procurement  
Direct management – Grant |
| **DAC code(s)** | 99810 |
| **Markers** | **General policy objective** | **Not targeted** | **Significant objective** | **Principal objective** |
| Participation development/good governance | | | | |
| Aid to environment | | | | |
| Gender equality | | | | |
| Trade Development | | | | |
| **RIO Convention markers** | Biological diversity | | | |
| Combat desertification | | | | |
| Climate change mitigation | | | | |
| Climate change adaptation | | | | |
2 RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1 Action summary

In line with the ambition to move towards a more strategic and targeted partnership with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), as called for in the recently adopted Joint Communication on EULAC relations and the Council Conclusions of 13 May, this Action aims to deepen the EU’s engagement with the region on thematic areas of strategic interest. It will seek to advance policy dialogues where there is a high potential to advance, focusing on regional groups and countries who are willing and able to go further to promote common goals. The action will support dialogues at the bi-regional, sub-regional and country levels of EU-LAC relations, as foreseen in the agreements, action-plans and declarations concluded with various sub regional groups and countries. It is intended to spearhead engagement in additional sectors of high strategic value, while also contributing to further the dialogue beyond LAC governments, with civil society and the business community.

The proposed set of activities will contribute ultimately to bring concrete returns for the EU’s foreign policy goals in LAC, further progress towards policy and regulatory convergence and alignment of positions and policy objectives in the global arena.

Through a mix of organisation of events linked to dialogues, specialised technical assistance, awareness raising, communication, and technical exchanges, the Programme will act as the EU’s horizontal project facility for LAC by translating policy commitments agreed at the political level into follow-up actions and results. The Action will complement ongoing EU interventions in LAC.

2.2 Background/Context/Rationale for PI funding

The European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean have a longstanding relationship based on commitment to fundamental freedoms, sustainable development and a strong and rules based international system.

Over the last decades, the EU and LAC have reached an unprecedented level of integration. The EU has signed association, trade or political and cooperation agreements with 27 out of the 33 LAC countries. Close to six million people from the EU and LAC live and work across the Atlantic, and more than one third of LAC student studying abroad do so in the EU. The EU-LAC partnership has an increasingly strong global dimension. The EU and LAC countries cooperate closely on the Paris Agreement and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, share the ambition for strong and effective global governance, aiming towards comprehensive WTO and UN reform, and are frequently aligned on work in the United Nations.

At the same time, the EU-LAC partnership is faced with new dynamics, such as the need to respond to the demands of the digital and integrated global economy, while safeguarding the environment and to ensuring fair social outcomes. The democratic values at the core of the bi-regional association have come under pressure in and beyond the regions, and accelerating climate change, migration and challenges to international security are reaffirming the need for regional and multilateral cooperation.

In response to changing global and regional realities, the EU has adopted the Joint Communication "The EU and Latin America and the Caribbean – joining forces for a common future", which aims to strengthening and modernising this relationship, establishing a partnership of equals that becomes a pillar for free, open and inclusive societies and a driver of a strong and fair multilateral order.

The Communication sets out a vision for a more targeted, strategic and coherent EU engagement with LAC. It will focus on four mutually reinforcing areas: prosperity, democracy, resilience, and effective global governance, concentrating partnering efforts on those regional groups and countries willing to step up engagement on shared goals, while making full and coherent use of the EU’s political, trade and cooperation tools.
As regards prosperity, the EU seeks to work with LAC partners to facilitate inter and intra-regional trade and investment, tapping the full potential of existing and future free trade agreements. It will focus efforts on assisting the regions’ transition towards more sustainable economies, equipped to compete in the global economy, promoting the digital, green and circular economy, competitive and responsible enterprises and investing in knowledge, innovation and human capital.

The EU will continue to further its value-based approach to foreign policy in LAC, with the breakdown of democratic principles at the basis of the crisis affecting the region. The EU will continue to partner with LAC to further the respect for democracy, to empower civil society and human rights defenders, to promote credible, transparent and inclusive electoral processes, to consolidate the rule of law and fight corruption, as well as to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The EU will work with LAC to advance economic, environmental and societal resilience, including cooperation on environmental and climate issues, but also fighting inequality, organised crime, ensuring citizen security and addressing migration, and advancing cultural collaboration.

As to the fourth priority area, effective global governance, the EU will strengthen its engagement with LAC as a mover and shaper of the international order, partnering to advance the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030, and strengthening the multilateral trade system and the UN.

Support to regional cooperative orders remains a strategic objective. Through its multilevel approach, the EU will continue to advance the bi-regional partnership, underpinned by ambitious Action Plan, and on the sub-regional level advancing the longstanding relationship with CARICOM/CARIFORUM and the Central American Integration System (SICA). The Joint Declaration with the Pacific Alliance, to be signed in 2019, and the conclusion of a comprehensive trade and political agreement with Mercosur will open up new avenues for cooperation. There is an Economic Partnership Agreement in place between the EU and CARIFOUm States since 2008. Under the new EU-ACP agreement currently under negotiation, the regional partnership with the Caribbean will be modernised and the political dialogue reinforced.

This Action aims to contribute to put the above vision into practice through concrete activities.

The action would support thematic policy dialogues on the different levels of the EU-LAC partnership – bi-regional, sub-regional and bilateral. It would facilitate the organisation and follow-up of policy dialogues, where there is high potential to advance common agendas, guided by the priorities laid out in the EU-LAC Communication. On the bi-regional level, this could include dialogue with the EU-CELAC framework, such as citizen security, social cohesion, gender, or, if the political conditions make this unfeasible, advance dialogue on areas of strong EU interest with like-minded countries through more flexible set-ups. At the sub-regional level, this could include supporting the EU’s engagement with regional formations like the Pacific Alliance, SICA, Mercosur and others. At the bilateral level, the EU’s has established actions to support sectoral dialogues with strategic partners Brazil and Mexico. This action would allow the EU to further strengthening relations with key and like-minded countries in LAC.

In short, while this Action will support the ongoing policy dialogue mechanisms, it could support also new areas of cooperation with individual key partners in LAC, if and as long it is in the EU’s strategic interest. In addition to formal policy dialogues, the Action is also intended to support to the EU’s interest in enhancing civil society involvement and private sector engagement. It will target those dialogue processes and initiatives with high potential of success, considering elements such as alignment with foreign policy priorities, potential return for EU’s interests, political interest and capacity of partner, and degree of commitment of competent EU service.
The Partnership Instrument aiming at supporting strategic partnerships to make the EU more influential, is best suited to respond to the needs presented by this action. Its comprehensive way of working, bringing together all the relevant EU services and in close collaboration with Member States, will enhance the coherence and add value to the EU's external action in LAC.

In terms of linkages with the objectives and priorities laid down in the PI Regulation, this Action is directly addressing the fulfilment of all four Objectives of the PI Regulation, and most specifically to the Objective 1 (through deepening the political and economic dialogue with a region of particular relevance in world affairs; by supporting engagement on bilateral and global issues of common concern; and by reinforcing the cooperation on global challenges), and to the Objective 2 (by enhancing policy dialogue and cooperation with LAC, and by supporting regulatory convergence between both). It also contributes to the priorities identified under PI Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2018-20 and mainstreams the cross-cutting issues of multilateralism, EU principles and values, as well as resilience/innovation.

Building on shared history and values, the EU proposes to strengthen the EU-LAC alliance to make the partnership a pillar for prosperous, free, open and inclusive societies and a driver of a strong and fair multilateral order, based on the new strategic approach outlined in the new Joint Communication on EU-LAC. This implies continuing the path of moving away from the old model of development assistance to a partnership of equals around the four areas of prosperity, democracy, resilience, and effective global governance. LAC countries are also interested in these areas and benefitting from multilateralism. They are keen on cooperating with the EU.

2.3 Lesson learnt

Policy Dialogue Support Facility projects (or similar) are being implemented in a number of other strategic partner countries of the EU. Despite similar objectives, stemming from the EU's intention to consolidate and enhance the existent strategic partnerships, the key lesson learned is that there is no "one size fits all" model. Each partnership is unique in its structure, scope, policy priorities and level of advancement. However, key elements to all are flexibility, to adjust the working methods and tools (means and activities) to the actual needs during the implementation period and, multi-sector/horizontal nature of the action.

A key element for the success of a horizontal facility, like the one proposed is active involvement and close technical steer from the different EU services at Head Quarters and Delegations. The setup of a comprehensive and workable Steering Committee and the appropriate planning and monitoring mechanisms will be essential to this purpose.

Another important element is to set up adequate criteria to prioritise the activities to be supported. For this action criteria will be set at the beginning of the action based on: alignment with foreign policy priorities, potential return for EU's interests, political interest and capacity of partner, and degree of commitment of competent EU service to accompany the implementation of the activity and to ensure its follow up.

Finally, the role of the project team leader will be especially important so special attention should be paid to the definition of his/her profile and eventual selection.

2.4 Coherence and complementarity

Throughout the implementation of the Action, synergies will be sought with all ongoing PI-supported stand-alone, PSF, and TAIEX actions in LAC and its sub-regions and individual countries, both bilateral and multilateral (global) ones. In this context, special attention will be given to the existing policy dialogue support facilities with Mexico and Brazil. Complementarities will be furthermore sought with the relevant programmes implemented in LAC by other Directorate Generals, in particular DEVCO, such as EUROCLIMA+, EuroSocial, Al-Invest, Elan, LAIF, COPOLAD, el PAccTo etc.
Outreach and coordination with the EU Member States and their projects implemented in LAC will be ensured from the onset, including through regular reporting on ongoing and planned activities under this Action to COLAC and the EU Delegations who will report to EU Heads of Missions in LAC countries. This will improve the impact of planned interventions, and ensure coherence in delivering the messages.

In terms of synergies with ongoing and future PI actions, the followings ones will be of particular relevance, even if they cover only some LAC countries: Sector Dialogue Support Facilities to Brazil and Mexico; International Urban Cooperation: Sustainable and Innovative Cities and Regions; Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA); Promoting biodiversity and sustainability in the agriculture and food sector through economic valuation; Market Access/Trade agreements implementation projects; IP Key Latin America, Responsible Business Conduct; Civil Aviation; Win-Win – Gender equality means good business; Low Carbon Business Support; Raw materials; EUPOP public diplomacy project; and other upcoming sectoral initiatives.

This Action aims to support and promote sectoral EU-run dialogues with LAC and regional subgroups, as well as individual countries, and is hence to be managed at the EU Headquarters level. This will allow for identification of synergies with the ongoing EU-supported projects in relevant fields in order to ensure that added value is produced through additional coordination with services of the Commission. In light of the multi-sectoral nature of this action, regular outreach and engagement with the EU Member States is planned for this action, as well as with their agencies and projects funded by them.

### 2.5 EU added value

In the fluid and rapidly evolving context of EU-LAC relations, this horizontal support facility is needed to equip the EU with the capacity to act on emerging political opportunities and immediate needs that stem from the political agreements and high level meetings that take place at the different level of the partnership (e.g. implementation of conclusions, proposals and recommendations from ministerial, high-level political dialogues and meetings). If in the interest of the EU, the facility could also be used to implement political decisions at the bilateral level, or to support policy dialogues in those like-minded countries not covered by other cooperation actions. This approach will ensure further regulatory convergence, cooperation in the international fora, joint follow-up to decisions taken at the multilateral level and supported by parties, and ultimately reinforce the EU’ credibility as an agile and committed partner.

### 2.6 Cross-cutting issues

The action will consistently mainstream cross-cutting issues, such as gender, democracy, rule of law, SDGs, human rights and fundamental freedoms, climate change and those inherent to the Partnership Instrument, such as multilateralism, global order, EU principles and values, resilience, innovation. The selected implementing partners will be required to demonstrate in the design of the project on how the relevant cross-cutting will be incorporated in this Action when preparing and implementing individual activities.

### 3 ACTION DESCRIPTION

#### 3.1 Objectives

The Overall Objective of the Action is to contribute to the strengthening and expanding of the EU-LAC relationship in line with the overall approach and priorities set out in the EU Global Strategy and the Joint Communication on EU-LAC relations, and other relevant agreements and documents as they pertain to sub-regional and bilateral relations.
In this context, it will respond to political priorities and needs on a dialogue-driven basis, as relating to priorities and decisions taken in the framework of political and policy dialogues, joint working groups, summits, country team meetings, joint committees, etc. While the Action will primarily pursue and advocate the EU interests, under the overall political steering of EEAS and sectoral guidance by the Commission services, the set of agreed activities will take into account the interest and value added from the LAC side, primarily in areas in which the mutual interest has been identified and there is high potential to advance.

The **Specific Objectives** of this action are to contribute to policy convergence and aligned policy approaches in the global arena, to promote regulatory convergence, common standards and level playing fields through the support to ongoing and new dialogues and specific cooperation activities at regional, sub-regional and bilateral level (SO1) to support the engagement of civil society and private sector (SO2) and to improve the perception and knowledge of the EU’s external action in LAC (SO3).

The main **expected results** for the proposed Action are:

**R1:** Strengthened and extended EU-LAC cooperation in key priority areas is demonstrated through regular holding of existing sectoral policy dialogues, expanding to new ones, and consistently followed up with side activities planned in the context of this Action.

**R2:** Mutual understanding, trust and understanding of policy objectives and strategic interests are further strengthened between the EU and LAC, as demonstrated through legislative harmonization, increased high-level exchanges, and enhanced people-to-people contacts.

**R3:** Improved participation of civil society and private sector in the activities supporting the dialogues.

**R4:** EU’s information and communication on its external action in the LAC region is enhanced by complementing the already existing Public Diplomacy Actions and improving its coherence.

As per the EU-LAC Communication, and in line with the four priority areas (prosperity, democracy, resilience, and effective global governance), this Action will prioritise dialogue/activities on areas of strategic EU interests where there are favourable political conditions to make progress.

Possibilities include activities to promote decent work, labour standards, and social cohesion, productivity and circular economy, maritime transport; competition, including subsidies and a subsidy control mechanism; EGNSS and Earth Observation; public procurement; quality infrastructure; secure and sustainable energy and energy efficiency, environment; financial regulation; culture, migration, organized crime, citizen security, with provision for participation of civil society and business actors.

The action will also focus on furthering cooperation on the digital economy, as one important priority in the EU-LAC partnership. This could include activities such as support the follow-up of the EU-LAC digital cooperation workshops conducted in July 2018 and March 2019 and enhancing the outreach of EU Digital Single Market the LAC region in support of existing digital economy dialogues covering topics including standardisation, 5G, AI and blockchain.

Innovation is an important cross-cutting area for cooperation. Connecting innovation ecosystems in LAC and Europe would provide real opportunities for European companies looking to scale up in LAC and vice versa, making it easier to undertake joint business ideas and opening up new markets for European players.

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1 Such as enhancing cooperation between EU and LAC telecoms and audio visual regulators; alignment in international discussions on e-commerce and online platforms and discussions on the Network and Information Systems (NIS) Directive
Initiatives of public diplomacy will increase the impact of these dialogues and activities.

Indicative Activities under the proposed action are:

(a) Organisation of dialogue meetings, events and exchanges of experiences and best practices (conferences, seminars, workshops, mutual technical visits, officials' exchanges, etc.);

(b) Provision of specialised technical assistance in the key priority sectors, e.g. technical studies, comparative analyses, legal analyses, translations of relevant documents, etc.

(c) Preparation of baseline studies and sectoral studies of relevance for developing and maintaining thematic policy dialogues and operational partnerships;

(d) Awareness raising activities in thematic fields of strategic relevance to the partnership through outreach to potential multipliers throughout LAC.

(e) Production of promotional/outreach material; running of media/social media/public awareness raising campaigns; outreach to the civil society, people-to-people contacts, etc.

The selected implementing partner(s) will be responsible for the implementation of the project and, in this context, be flexible and ready for new activities based on regular and in-depth following of the EU-LAC sectoral relations; stemming from the related discussions with the EEAS and Commission DGs; and in consultation with the relevant external stakeholders. While the EU will steer the project and prior clearing of individual activities by LAC partners is not foreseen, the cooperation with relevant counterparts in LAC will be sought on identification of resource persons and sectors in which interest exists.

3.2 Stakeholders

The main stakeholders for the action include the EEAS; European Commission services; EU Agencies; EU Member States and their relevant agencies; regional organisations in LAC, LAC countries' Ministries, Agencies and State-level governmental bodies; LAC and EU think tanks, social partners, civil society, academia, private sector, local governments, and media in both regions. The above mentioned key stakeholders will be included in formulation and implementation of activities of their interest under the project in sectors of relevance to them.

Due attention will be paid to gender balanced participation amongst key stakeholders.

3.3 Risk assessment and management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk description</th>
<th>Risk level (High, Medium, Low)</th>
<th>Mitigating measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk of overlapping activities; duplication.</td>
<td><strong>H</strong></td>
<td>Given that this is an Action potentially encompassing all of Latin America and the Caribbean, and many countries are covered by other EU programmes, specific care will have to be devoted to keeping all stakeholders abreast of planned activities. Twice-annual coordination meetings should...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of interest on the side of LAC countries or regional groupings in expanding or maintaining partnership with the EU, due to higher presence and pressure of other international actors.</td>
<td><strong>L</strong></td>
<td>Continuous assessment of the political situation and policy priorities in LAC; consistent engagement with key LAC partners in areas of mutual interest/with potential for enhanced cooperation. Well-planned selection of key areas for project interventions. Consultation on project activities with LAC partners throughout the implementation period. EU Delegations involvement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU level of commitment decreases on furthering strategic engagement with LAC once momentum of new EU-LAC Joint Communication has passed.</td>
<td><strong>L</strong></td>
<td>Continuous dialogue, sharing of information on the project with EEAS and Commission services, and coordination with EU Member States to secure the support for enhancing policy dialogues with concrete operational tools. Ensuring high-level involvement in relevant project activities. Commission services actively taking responsibilities in the project implementation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rise to power of uncooperative leadership and governments not interested in multilateralism.</td>
<td><strong>M</strong></td>
<td>Intensify relations necessary for project implementation at the lower technical level in sectors of mutual interest.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpected crisis or ad-hoc irritants undermine the EU-LAC biregional or sub-regional relations</td>
<td><strong>L</strong></td>
<td>Continuous analysis of the relations, mapping of possible irritants in the relations to address causes, and identification of tools to rectify the situation with concrete means. This action should help to reduce this risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient human and financial resources at disposal to advance on the sectoral partnerships in line with guidelines received at the political level.</td>
<td><strong>M</strong></td>
<td>Clear division on tasks between what this vs. other projects can do and achieve, and the related expectation management. Clear messaging to LAC partners on the EU vs. EUMS mandate in different areas of intervention. Priority on those areas with highest interest from both sides. Continuous coordination with EU Delegations so as to ensure they can plan and are not overloaded by a sudden request for support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor quality of project experts, the</td>
<td><strong>M</strong></td>
<td>Strategic selection of the areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
provided expertise, and sub-optimal steering of the Action.

of intervention, in line with EU's interests/policy priorities. Extensive internal coordination within the EU Delegations, experts, EEAS and Commission services, and regular holding of the project steering committee meetings. EEAS and FPI daily steering and management to prevent those risks and to provide rapid solutions.

3.4 Communication and EU visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external Actions funded by the EU, moreover they are considered key components of this Action.

This Action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation.

Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action\(^2\), which came into force on 1 January 2018, shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Method of implementation

4.1.1 Procurement (direct management)

(a) The programme will be implemented via service contract(s).

(b) Indicative timing: call(s) for tender will be launched in third Quarter 2019 under suspensive clause prior to the adoption of this decision. This is justified in order not to lose the momentum and given that some activities are ready to be financed, leading to an interest to fast forward the implementation of this Action.

4.1.2. Grants (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

If deemed necessary and provided that sufficient conditions are met in terms of financial sustainability, a portion of the action will be implemented through a grant.

The grant will aim at strengthening and expanding of the EU-LAC relationship in line with the overall approach and priorities set out in the EU Global Strategy and the Joint Communication on EU-LAC relations.

(b) Type of applicants targeted

The applicant targeted is the EU-LAC International Foundation, that, as per its constitutive charter, has a monopoly over the implementation at institutional level of the recommendations emanating from the EU-LAC political summits.

(c) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to EU-LAC Foundation, in accordance with the provisions of article 195 (c) of the FR.

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because EU-LAC International Foundation is the only institution that has been established by a political decision of all the Heads of State or Government of the EU and LAC countries to strengthen the bi-regional partnership. The need for close contacts with the authorities of the partner countries require technical competence, high degree of specialization and institutional access that can only be provided altogether by the EU-LAC Foundation by virtue of the unique role and mandate it has been conferred upon. In compliance with its mandate set out in its Statutes and constitutive agreement, the Foundation will continue contributing to the strengthening of the CELAC-EU bi-regional partnership process involving participation and inputs of civil society and other social actors; encourage further mutual knowledge and understanding between both regions; and enhance the mutual visibility between both regions, as well as of the bi-regional strategic partnership itself.

4.2 Indicative budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of Implementation</th>
<th>Amount in EUR million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Procurement (direct management)</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant (direct management)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

A project steering committee (PSC) will be set up and composed of representatives of relevant EU services in Headquarters and Delegation. It will give overall political steer to the facility and will validate the pipeline of activities identified and proposed by the different services (with the support of the project implementation team). The PSC will meet at least every six months.

A methodology that combines the need for planning and flexibility to respond to emerging political needs as well as criteria to define the activities will be set up by the management of the programme and shared with the PSC.

EU Member States will be regularly informed of the activities at HQ (COLAC) and at country level (Heads of Mission/ Commercial or sectoral Counsellors as relevant), to maximise synergies with their own activities.

Active involvement and participation of relevant LAC counterparts will be sought in the different activities implemented under the project.

4.4 Performance monitoring

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this Action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing entity’s responsibilities. To this end, the
implementing entity shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the Action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports.

Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the Action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results. The progress and final reports shall provide quantified and qualitative data in relation to the logical framework indicators which will include relevant indicators from the list of core and corporate indicators.

The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the Action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the Action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional Action monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

4.5 Evaluation and audit

For this Action, the Commission may carry out interim and/or final/ex-post evaluation(s) via independent consultants contracted by the Commission based on specific terms of reference.

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this Action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments.

As the “N+1” rule applies for contracting under this decision, external evaluations and audits, as well as additional external monitoring referred to under section 4.4. above, will be funded from sources other than those allocated to this specific Action.