EN

ANNEX 10

Of the Commission Implementing Decision on the 2019 Annual Action Programme for cooperation with third countries to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

**Action Document for EU – Republic of Korea Policy Dialogue Support Facility**

1 **KEY IDENTIFICATION DATA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the Action</th>
<th>EU-Republic of Korea Policy Dialogue Support Facility (PDSF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country/region/global</td>
<td>Republic of Korea (ROK)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sector of intervention</td>
<td>Multi-sector</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Indicative budget | Total: EUR 2 500 000  
EC contribution: EUR 2 500 000 (100 %)  
Other contributions: NA |
| Duration and target start date of implementation | 36 months - October 2019 |
| Method of implementation | Direct management - Procurement |
| DAC code(s) | NA |

**Markers (from CRIS DAC form)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General policy objective</th>
<th>Not targeted</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Main objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation development/good governance</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid to environment</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender equality (including Women In Development)</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Development</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☑</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RIO Convention markers**

| Biological diversity | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Combat desertification | ☑ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Climate change mitigation | ☐ | ☑ | ☐ |

**Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) thematic flagships**

| NA |
2  RATIONALE AND CONTEXT

2.1  Action summary

The proposed action aims at strengthening EU-RoK relations by supporting the bilateral and multilateral\(^1\) dialogues and partnerships in key priority areas of EU and mutual interest. It will contribute to advancing the existing dialogues, committees, sectoral working groups and consultations and possibly open avenues to expand bilateral relations to new areas and domains under the EU-RoK strategic agreements.

Through the provision of experts, the exchange of knowledge, and logistical support, the proposed action will serve as an instrument to translate political commitments into concrete actions. The action will quantitatively and qualitatively upgrade bilateral relations by enhancing the wide range of ongoing policy dialogues with RoK as well as rapidly responding to emerging issues of concern.

2.2  Background/Context/Rationale for PI funding

The 11th largest economy in the world, the Republic of Korea (RoK) is one of the EU's four Strategic Partners in Asia and a like-minded partner. The latest RoK administration sworn in May 2017 is currently shaping its policies - which are overall in line with those of the EU- and the relationships have been developing smoothly since then.

The RoK is also the EU’s first partner to have signed bilateral agreements in three key areas, namely Framework Agreement (FA), the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Framework Participation Agreement (FPA) on crisis management operations. These all-encompassing agreements already provide the basis for over thirty (30) dialogues and consultations (including the working groups established in the framework of the FTA) in different formats. This three-year PDSF action would allow the EU Delegation to support existing dialogues and address new priorities in a timely and coherent fashion, as they arise.

In recent bilateral contacts, both the EU and RoK have reiterated their commitment to close cooperation in order to address global challenges bilaterally and in international fora, such as the UN, the G20, and the WTO. Nevertheless, the political agenda remains very much dominated by the DPRK issue and the RoK's dependency on the US for security and its relations with neighbouring countries (China, Japan and Russia). As the RoK tries to diversify its allies, the EU is increasingly seen as a trusted and stable partner, with a potential role in the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula, and a model for cooperation in the region.

RoK is the EU's 8th largest trading partner and the EU is the RoK's 3rd largest trading partner. While the FTA is in general a success story that has led to an increase in EU's trade volumes and FDI to the RoK, there is still room for further improvements to ensure its effective implementation, for instance, in relation to the challenging regulatory and administrative environment and non-tariff barriers for European businesses.

Discussions at the EU-RoK summits and Joint Declarations (such as of the 8th Summit) as well as the minutes of the 14th EU-RoK Joint Committee remain the foundation for further engagement with the Korean government. More specifically in the following sectors:

\(^1\) Regarding the RoK's signing of multilateral agreements, the PDSF would usefully contribute to supporting the RoK in meeting its multilateral commitment, particularly when ratifying core ILO conventions and effectively implementing the Paris Agreement and international human rights instruments, such as the ICCPR, CEDAW, the CRPD and the CRC.
Security

The DPRK has been and will remain the policy priority for the RoK. The EU supports the RoK ownership of the process and stands ready to play an active role in the denuclearisation process. Recent developments after a series of Summit talks between two Koreas, followed by various state-level meetings between the DPRK and other key stakeholders (USA, China) have led to cautious optimism.

There is also plenty of room for expanded cooperation between the EU and RoK on security, matters, including non-traditional threats to security (including cybercrime, violent extremism, mass migration) and women, peace and security (esp. the implementation of UNSC resolution 1325) that can be addressed, in part only, in the context of the Cyber and Counter Terrorism dialogues. Cooperation in artic research implementing the 2016 Communication "An Integrated EU Policy for the Artic" offers a new additional perspective.

Human Rights and social issues

While RoK applies a de facto moratorium on the death penalty, the government remains hesitant to move to the next step, a legal moratorium or abolition. Measures to address the situation of conscientious objectors are in the pipeline. Minorities are often socially discriminated. As some of the social and societal issues faced by the RoK are very similar to those addressed by the EU and EUMS, for example demographic problems, the segmentation of labour markets or the modernisation of welfare systems, they are issues for enhanced cooperation. Others can be addressed within a human rights framework – labour (inequalities, poverty, 'Gapjil'- bullying, etc) and gender ('Me Too' movement, discrimination, etc.) where the EU also has a lot to offer. Those issues could be addressed as part of the annual Human Rights Consultations or through specific projects, similar to the TAIEX seminars on gender-based violence online and Social Dialogue. More work needs to be done when it comes to violence against women, with special attention to the role of civil society.

Trade

The current Korean administration places much emphasis on creating fair market conditions and increasing productivity of SMEs, evident also through establishment of a new Ministry of SMEs and Start-ups. The EU can support the Korean government in its efforts to improve legislative and administrative environment for SMEs in the RoK, as this would also benefit the European companies' market access to the RoK, and facilitate linkages and internationalisation between SMEs on both sides.

Climate change and energy

Following the disengagement of the US Government from the Paris agreement and the election of centre-left President Moon Jae-in, the RoK has renewed its commitment to fulfil its obligations under the Paris Agreement. Its ambition and success in its domestic climate policies is very important in the context of the Asia region and globally. RoK is also becoming more active in the context of the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The latest policy plan revision (2030 Roadmap) raises domestic CO2 reduction ambitions. However, doubts persist regarding the RoK's commitment to an energy transition. A new EU-RoK Working Group on environment, energy and climate change met on 20 September 2018 and will help address these issues in a systematic way and identify further cooperation opportunities that will require follow-up through technical and policy support.

Connectivity

In view of the Joint Communication adopted in September 2018, which sets out the EU's vision for a new and comprehensive strategy to better connect Europe and Asia, concrete actions based on three strands: creating transport links, energy and digital networks and human connections; offering connectivity partnerships to countries in Asia and organisations; and promoting sustainable finance through utilising diverse financial tools should be envisaged. The aim would be to better connect
Europe and Asia through physical and non-physical networks to strengthen the resilience of societies and regions, facilitate trade, promote the rules-based international order, and create avenues for a more sustainable, low-carbon future. Discussions on connectivity at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit, held in Brussels on 18-19 October, are also relevant. The RoK, an ASEM member, is making every effort to connect with Eurasia via the DPRK should the political situation allow which would offer possibilities for the EU to engage drawing on the New Northern and Southern policies of the Korean government.

Working in coordination with the already existing projects, the proposed policy dialogue support facility could help operationalise the policy commitments in any of the areas outlined above or explore cooperation opportunities in additional areas such as international ocean governance, including sustainable fisheries, blue economy, rail transport, automotive standards, and aviation safety.

The proposed action will be crucial to support EU-ROK policy dialogues, consequently touching upon all of the four Partnership Instrument (PI) Regulation objectives described below.

I) Supporting the European Union's bilateral, regional and inter-regional cooperation partnership strategies by promoting policy dialogue and by developing collective approaches and responses to challenges of global concern.
II) Implementing the international dimension of ‘Europe 2020’.
III) Improving access to partner country markets and boosting trade, investment and business opportunities for companies from the Union, while eliminating barriers to market access and investment, by means of economic partnerships, business and regulatory cooperation.
IV) Enhancing widespread understanding and visibility of the EU and of its role on the world scene by means of public diplomacy, people-to-people contacts, cooperation in educational and academic matters, think tank cooperation and outreach activities to promote the Union's values and interests.

In particular, this action contributes to the PI Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2018-20 priorities and mainstreams the following cross-cutting issues: Multilateralism (building alliances) contributing to a global order based on international law, EU principles and values (democracy, rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality, including gender equality, and solidarity); Resilience and Innovation.

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 and multi-sector/horizontal nature of the action.

The proposed action will have direct impact on the EU-RoK policy dialogues and their follow-up. It will strengthen the existing partnership while offering concrete measures for the implementation of key strategic EU-RoK agreements through activities, aiming at achieving expected outcomes as agreed in the referred dialogues, consultations, working groups, committees, etc.

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. Keeping this in mind, the project steering committee should include representatives of the EEAS and of the different European Commission services present in the Delegation as well as relevant EEAS and EC representatives in Brussels.

This action can only achieve real impact if the tools it provides are effectively received and used by counterparts on both sides. It is expected that the systematic engagement with governmental counterparts will be facilitated and expectedly reach a new qualitative level in the course of the project implementation. It is therefore important that the proposed action allow for flexibility to adjust the
working methods and tools (means and activities) to the actual needs during the implementation period.

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. The required skills and attributes would include excellent coordination and communication skills, a proactive attitude allowing her/him to be in constant contact with the relevant services to facilitate the translation of their policy priorities into concrete activities, a good understanding of and experience in EU and Korea as well as the ability to link the activity-policy/political levels.

2.4 Coherence and complementarity

Currently, RoK is primarily benefitting from PI funded actions, which is the only EU instrument supporting EU-RoK bilateral cooperation. Involvement of other DGs is very limited (mainly, DG EAC and DG RTD via calls for proposals open also to Korean students, researchers, higher education institutions). Occasionally, DG DEVCO runs regional projects that include the Republic of Korea, but only marginally (i.e. ILO/UNWOMEN programme for safe and fair labour migration for all women in ASEAN countries).

The proposed project will serve as a tool to help operationalise existing EU-Korea political and sectoral decisions and commitments (e.g. those agreed upon in the framework of political and policy dialogues, joint working groups, summits, country team meetings, joint committees, etc.). It will also help identify new areas of mutual interest.

In the meantime, complementarity and synergies will be sought with all relevant ongoing and future PI actions in the Republic of Korea when/ if pertinent vis-a-vis the political dialogues between the EU and RoK. Among relevant on-going projects are:

• Bilateral:
  - EU Green Gateway to the RoK
  - Public Diplomacy Action in the RoK
  - Implementation of the Emission Trading Scheme in the RoK
  - Low Carbon Action in the RoK

• Multi-country:
  - Strategic partnerships for the implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA)
  - International Digital Cooperation
  - IUC: Sustainable and Innovative Cities and Regions in Asia
  - Cooperation on competition in Asia

Given that a security dimension is expected to be covered under this project, complementarities will be sought with a planned action on ‘‘Enhancing security cooperation in and with Asia’’. The same will apply to any other upcoming multi-country actions, where the RoK will be prioritised as a partner country.

Outreach and coordination with the EU Member States and their projects implemented in Korea will be ensured from the onset, including through regular reporting on ongoing and planned activities under this project to the EU Heads of Missions in Korea and EUMS trade, political and sectoral counsellors. This will allow synergies to be built between actions of individual member states and the activities implemented under this facility as well as ensure coherence in delivering the messages to the Korean partners and stakeholders.
2.5 EU added value

This action aims to support and promote the implementation of key bilateral agreements and sectoral EU-run dialogues with RoK. It will be therefore managed by the EU Delegation, and jointly steered with the EEAS and Commission services, in coordination with RoK counterparts as well as via information sharing and consultation with the EU Member States.

The EU-RoK signed bilateral agreements, namely Framework Agreement (FA), the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Framework Participation Agreement (FPA) on crisis management operations form a solid basis for the partnership, but there is still room for further improvements to ensure their effective implementation. With the support of this Action, EU will be able to operationalize political and sector-specific conclusions and priorities, while ensuring effective implementation of the three key agreements and sectoral dialogues and bring the strategic partnership forward.

Regarding multilateral agreements, the action would contribute towards further supporting the alliance between the EU and RoK towards meeting and promoting multilateral commitments, particularly vis-à-vis core ILO conventions and effectively implementing the Paris Agreement and international human rights instruments, such as the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women), CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child).

2.6 Cross-cutting issues

The proposed action shall consistently mainstream cross-cutting issues such as human rights in general, gender equality, non-discrimination, environmental sustainability, as well as sustainable economic growth. They shall be in particular addressed at the level of designing and implementing activities in support of the bilateral dialogues, etc. To ensure effective integration of gender and non-discrimination issues, gender analysis will be incorporated into project design. At the activity level, gender-sensitive indicators will be included to ensure that gender does not evaporate during implementation phase. Gender indicators in the six Thematic Guidance Notes prepared by the PI Gender Facility could be useful for this purpose.

3 ACTION DESCRIPTION

3.1 Objectives

Considering the present state of the bilateral relationship between the EU and RoK, and the momentum for further consolidation and expansion, the proposed action offers a tool set to accelerate implementation of activities foreseen/agreed in the dialogues and to explore the potential agenda on issues of strategic and of mutual interest.

The overall objective of this action is to contribute to the strengthening and enlargement of EU-RoK strategic partnership through fostering bilateral dialogues and partnerships in key priority areas, in line with the Framework Agreement (FA), Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and Framework Participation Agreement (FPA) on crisis management operations and other relevant bilateral agreements and documents.

The specific objective of this action is to help advance EU-RoK relations and alliances in specific priority areas of EU and mutual interest.

The Action must maintain a flexible approach in order to support activities that will be defined on a demand-driven basis and according to the orientations and priorities set by the EU and RoK, in the framework of summits, dialogues, working groups, consultations, joint committees etc.
More specifically, the Action implementation will concentrate on the three main areas:

1. Streamlining EU-RoK policy dialogue efforts and related sectoral and technical work in line with the EU-RoK sectoral priorities and mutual interest;

2. Consolidating and expanding areas of EU-RoK cooperation in identified priority sectors (e.g. trade, human rights, environment/climate change/energy, connectivity security and other areas as appropriate);

3. Supporting the formulation and implementation of concrete and integrated sector-based strategies and activities, in particular, through technical assistance in implementing key bilateral agreements, and where relevant regional and/or international cooperation agreements to develop and strengthen alliances and influence decision-making.

The Action will be primarily implemented through:

I. Fostering policy dialogues and exchanges of experiences at various levels between the EU and the RoK, as well as promoting a shared vision on key issues and consequent implementation and further improvement of existing bilateral agreements.

II. Provision of flexible and demand-driven technical support in line with the EU-RoK priorities and policy dialogues, with a strong focus on harmonizing processes and regulatory frameworks in implementing commitments under the existing agreements.

III. Knowledge management, communication and outreach in support of the above.

Expected results:

R1: The basis for the EU-RoK relationships in the framework of the three strategic agreements (FA, FTA, FPA) is extended and strengthened.

R2: The external dimension of EU policies in priority areas is promoted, better understood and influences the dialogue, decision-making processes, as well as leads to greater policy and regulatory convergence in selected areas with the Korean institutions.

R3: Cooperation in priority areas is reinforced and concrete follow-up measures to summits, dialogues, consultations, working groups, visits, and committees are put in place and implemented.

R4: New areas of partnership and cooperation of EU and mutual interest are identified and developed in line with other regional and/or global priority sector’s initiatives.

R5: EU outreach to various stakeholders (policy makers and influencers, academia and think thanks, the general public, civil society and international partners) is enhanced and streamlined through strategic knowledge management, communication and outreach.

R6: Updated information available and regularly disseminated on the evolution, contents and results of the different activities implementing the strategic framework agreements.

Types of foreseen activities

The Action will serve as an instrument to translate policy commitments into concrete and coherent steps through various activities, such as:

- Preparation of baselines, benchmarking, specific sector studies and policy briefs on issues that are relevant for the dialogues and partnerships that are on-going and upcoming;
- Provision of specialised technical / legal/ policy implementation assistance and expertise to relevant stakeholders;
- Planning and organisation of events (conferences, seminars, workshops, mutual visits and other exchange activities, and outreach and awareness-raising activities etc.) within the scope of the dialogues;
- Support the preparation and delivery of outreach events in line with policy dialogue priorities;
- Consolidation and further development of monitoring, knowledge management, communication and visibility tools, including technical publications.

The specific topics covered by this Action may include, but are not limited to:

- the expansion of cooperation on regional and global political and security issues
- supporting the work of the recently established specialised working groups (counterterrorism, as well as energy, environment and climate change)
- increased bilateral cooperation on cyberspace, ensuring its openness and security
- strengthening possible cooperation in developing satellite navigation systems
- strengthening education and cultural cooperation, especially in supporting networks and people-to-people exchange in the field of education and outreach to youth
- streamlining actions to support the FTA full implementation
- reinforcing public diplomacy activities to maintain the overall positive perception of the EU in the RoK and its role as global actor despite the growing challenges
- Continue strengthening bilateral cooperation on climate action and promoting transition to circular economy, while addressing issue of air and marine pollution (global health issues).
- Any other strategic priority stemming from sector policy dialogues and sectoral cooperation.

### 3.2 Stakeholders

The main stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of this Policy Dialogue Support Facility are:

- EU Institutions including the EEAS, European Commission Directorate Generals, EU sectoral agencies as/where appropriate

These institutions were/will be consulted at an early stage of the project formulation, as well as during the implementation (i.e. via Project Steering Committee or country team meetings). Their engagement and steer will be crucial to the success of the project as they are the key counterparts to the RoK.

- EU Member States

The EU Member States (22 present in RoK) will be regularly informed on the evolution of the project and consulted, as necessary, via regular political, trade, climate counsellors and other sector meetings.

They will be invited to take part in the project activities once implementation has commenced.

- RoK central government (Ministries), local authorities (where appropriate) and government agencies

Coordination with the RoK will be an essential element to the success of the project. The organization of summits, Joint Committees, specific working groups, etc. is closely organised in cooperation with RoK. We intend to build on established relations in order to involve specific ministries, agencies or local authorities in defining operational follow up to the EU-RoK dialogues and definition of priorities.
Civil society, academia, business, women's associations/networks and other actors when relevant in the EU and RoK context of policy dialogues

This action intends to go beyond Government-to-Government approach and allow for inclusion of other groups to secure effective information dissemination and wide-spread understanding of the EU and EU-RoK relationships in specific sectors. The relevant actors will be invited to contribute in the domains of their expertise and their inputs will be valuable in shaping dialogues and advancing on specific policy issues.

Attention will be paid to gender balance in representation and participation of stakeholders.

3.3 Risk assessment and management

The main assumption is that the RoK remains interested in further strengthening cooperation with the EU and the EU remains a strategic partner to the RoK; the political conditions do not deteriorate; and the RoK remains active as a global actor in various thematic areas of mutual interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk description</th>
<th>Risk level (High, Medium, Low)</th>
<th>Mitigating measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decline in the interest and/or political commitment in the RoK in strengthening cooperation with the EU</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Continuous overall assessment of the political situation in the RoK and with respect to the implementation of the 3 key political agreements; continuous engagement activities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deterioration of EU-RoK relations, deterioration of the overall political conditions in RoK</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Continuous dialogue and monitoring of the situation, RoK position in international negotiations and commitment/participation to global agreements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement and availability of RoK Government officials is not sufficient</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>The proposed activities have to meet the interest of the RoK counterpart authorities and secure early support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate target audience attends events</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Clear identification and description of the RoK participants to activities (including sex-disaggregation); high quality preparation and regular exchange with involved parties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor availability of EU institutions to get involved in the activities, including the provision of necessary human resources to steer them</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Strategic selection of the areas of intervention, in line with the EU's interest and policy priorities. Extensive internal coordination among services, i.e. through country team meetings and/or EEAS desk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive last minute changes to work programme rendering actual implementation problematic.</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Good identification, preparation and negotiation of actions and work-plans discussed and agreed upon by relevant stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.4 Communication and EU visibility

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external Actions funded by the EU.

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 the service contract.

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.

This will be particularly relevant for activities carried out as part of the project knowledge management, communication and outreach, therefore contributing to the achievement of R5, where EU outreach to various stakeholders (policy makers and influencers, academia and think thanks, the general public, civil society and international partners) is expected to be enhanced and streamlined.

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Method of implementation

**Procurement (direct management)**

(a) The programme will be implemented via service contract.
(b) Indicative timing: call for tender expected to be launched in the 3rd Quarter of 2019.

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>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures\(^3\).

The estimated budget of the action is based on the prevailing service contract rates for the Republic of Korea, reflecting also previous contracts and Delegation's experience.

4.3 Organisational set-up and responsibilities

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be set up, which will include relevant EU services, in Headquarters and Delegation to the RoK, concerned by sector dialogues with the Government of the RoK, its ministries and agencies as appropriate.

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\(^3\) [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://www.sanctionsmap.eu) Please 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 between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.
Prior clearing of individual activities by the Korean Government is not foreseen. The cooperation with relevant Korean Government counterparts will be sought on identification of resource persons and sectors in which interest exists for further strengthening of the EU-RoK relations.

The selected implementing partner will be responsible for the implementation of the project, and expected to proactively propose new activities based on regular and in-depth following of the EU-RoK sectoral relations; the related discussions with relevant EU services; and in consultation with the relevant external stakeholders. The implementing partner will perform secretariat role of the PSC.

The project team of the implementing partner shall be independent from the Government, while operating in full cooperation with the RoK relevant institutions/entities, as well as with other relevant stakeholders, under the steering of, and in permanent coordination with the contracting authority. This will allow tailoring the actions to the facility’s objectives, understanding specific needs and constraints and adjusting the project to the context of implementation. Lessons learnt from previous policy dialogue support facilities, including the most appropriate design of action will be taken into consideration.

EU Member States will also be involved as appropriate and whenever pertinent to participate in the implementation of actions deriving from the bilateral dialogues.

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.