COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 6.5.2019

on the financing of the 2019 Partnership Instrument Annual Action Programme for cooperation with third countries to be financed from the general budget of the European Union
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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,


Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action2, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In order to ensure the implementation of the 2019 Partnership Instrument Annual Action Programme for cooperation with third countries to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2019. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.

(2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU3.

(3) The Commission has adopted an Implementing Decision on the second Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Partnership Instrument for the period 2018-20204. In line with the Multiannual Indicative Programme, the objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the Partnership Instrument5 are: support for the Union's cooperation partnership strategies, cooperation on global challenges, implementation of the international dimension of the "Europe 2020" strategy and promotion of the Union's internal policies abroad, support for economic and trade relations as well as promotion of the Union's values and interests.

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.
4 C(2018) 4001
The action entitled ‘Towards a liquid, flexible and transparent global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) market’ aims to contribute to the EU Energy Union objectives, in particular on secure, diverse and competitive gas supplies by supporting the establishment of a liquid, flexible and transparent global LNG market.

The action entitled ‘EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network – III’ aims to strengthen political and technical relations between the EU and GCC in the field of clean energy at regional and bilateral levels, to enable the EU to contribute to GCC decision-making on sustainable energy policies and to facilitate the uptake of EU innovative technology in GCC countries.

The action entitled ‘Security cooperation in and with Asia’ aims to enhance the EU's security and defence cooperation in and with Asia by supporting deeper and more operational security dialogues with partner countries, promoting greater convergence of the policies and practices of partner countries with those of the EU and by increasing international awareness and acknowledgement of the EU as a security provider.

The action entitled ‘International alliance for a human-centric approach to Artificial Intelligence’ aims to contribute to the setting up of a framework for ethics and trust to enable the growth of AI in accordance with EU and universally recognised values and to prepare the ground for global alliance building in this field.

The action entitled ‘Business and Human Rights in Asia’ aims to promote through an EU-UN partnership the agenda on Business and Human Rights and to ensure that it is further taken up by Asian governments and business, thereby also contributing to creating a more level playing field.

The action entitled ‘Low Carbon and Circular Economy Business Action in the Americas’ aims to contribute to enhancing the EU’s position as a leader in tackling climate change by promoting the decoupling of economic growth and CO2 emissions in the Americas.

The action entitled ‘EU Americas Partnership on Raw Materials’ aims to contribute to the secure, sustainable and ethical supply of raw materials for EU industrial value chains (from EU and non-EU countries), promoting at the same time EU technologies and services for mining and the values of responsible and sustainable mining.

The action entitled ‘Public and Cultural Diplomacy’ aims to continue long-term engagement to support actors in their endeavours to globally develop EU’s soft power by building alliances and better-informed decision-making on priority EU themes such as response to global challenges, the central role of multilateralism, EU values and principles, and economic partnerships. It will also enhance understanding and visibility of the EU and its role on the world scene.

The action entitled ‘Policy Dialogue Support Facility India’ aims to contribute to strengthening and expanding of the EU-India strategic relationship.

The action entitled ‘EU-Republic of Korea (RoK) Policy Dialogue Support Facility’ aims at strengthening and enlarging EU-RoK strategic partnership through fostering bilateral dialogues and partnerships in key priority areas.

The action entitled ‘Enhanced EU-GCC political dialogue, cooperation and outreach’ aims to contribute to a stronger relationship and to help strengthen the alliance between the EU and the GCC countries and the region on the basis of mutual interest.
The action entitled ‘EU-Malaysia and EU-Singapore Partnership Facility’ aims to contribute to the strengthening and enlargement of EU relations with Malaysia and Singapore.

The action entitled ‘EU-Brazil Sector Dialogues Support Facility’ aims to contribute to strengthening and further enlarging EU-Brazil bilateral relations by fostering new and existing sector dialogues and other cooperation initiatives on priority themes of mutual interest.

The action entitled ‘Support to project cycle management’ aims to maximise the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact of the projects and programmes carried out under the Partnership Instrument.

The action entitled ‘Policy Support Facility’ aims to support short-term actions that underpin fast changing policy priorities or emerging political commitments.

The Partnership Instrument will contribute to cooperation to reinforce respect for geographical indications relating to wine and spirits in South Africa, through a contribution to the Development Cooperation Instrument. Implementation through budget support to the South African (SA) authorities will fulfil the political commitment made by the EU to provide assistance of EUR 15 000 000 for the restructuring of the South African wines and spirits sector and for marketing and distribution of South African wines and spirits products. This commitment originates in the SA-EU Trade, Development and Cooperation Agreement, under the Agreement on Trade in Wines and Spirits under geographical indications negotiations, and is captured in its Annex X.

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 launch of a call for tender by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.

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.

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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 Partnership Instrument Committee established under Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 234/2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**

The programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the 2019 Partnership Instrument Annual Action Programme for cooperation with third countries to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

(a) ‘Towards a liquid, flexible and transparent global Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) market’ set out in Annex 1;

(b) ‘EU-GCC Clean Energy Technology Network – III’ set out in Annex 2;

(c) ‘Security cooperation in and with Asia’ set out in Annex 3;

(d) ‘International alliance for a human-centric approach to Artificial Intelligence’ set out in Annex 4;

(e) ‘Business and Human Rights in Asia’ set out in Annex 5;


(g) ‘EU Americas Partnership on Raw Materials’ set out in Annex 7;

(h) ‘Public and Cultural Diplomacy’ set out in Annex 8;

(i) ‘Policy Dialogue Support Facility India’ set out in Annex 9;

(j) ‘EU-Republic of Korea Policy Dialogue Support Facility (PDSF)’ set out in Annex 10;

(k) ‘Enhanced EU-GCC political dialogue, cooperation and outreach’ set out in Annex 11;

(l) ‘EU-Malaysia and EU-Singapore Partnership Facility’ set out in Annex 12;

(m) ‘EU - Brazil Sector Dialogues Support Facility’ set out in Annex 13;

(n) ‘Support to project cycle management’ set out in Annex 14.


**Article 2**

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2019 is set at EUR 87 300 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

– budget line Article 19 05 01: EUR 87 300 000;

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 3, 5 and 8, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.1 of the Annexes 3, 5 and 8.

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, 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. Those changes shall be applied 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 Annex 15. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex 15.

Article 6
Procurement

Launching a call for tender under a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision shall be authorised as of the date set out in point 4.1 of the Annexes 7 and 8.

Done at Brussels, 6.5.2019

For the Commission
Federica MOGHERINI
Vice-President

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