



Brussels, 6.5.2020
C(2020) 3076 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 6.5.2020

**on the financing of the Annual Action Programme 2020 in favour of the Republic of
Zambia**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2015/322 of 2 March 2015 on the implementation of the 11th European Development Fund (EDF)¹, and in particular Article 9(1) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2018/1877 of 26 November 2018 on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th EDF, and repealing Regulation (EU) 2015/323², and in particular Article 24 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Annual Action Programme 2020 in favour of the Republic of Zambia, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, applicable in accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877, establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the National Indicative Programme for Zambia for the period 2014-2020⁴, which sets out the following priorities: improved access to clean reliable and affordable energy; reduced rural poverty and improved livelihoods; advanced democratic governance, accountability and state effectiveness for all.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2020 to be financed under the 11th EDF Internal Agreement⁵ (the 'Internal Agreement') are to contribute to the sustainable development and a reduction in poverty and inequality in Zambia through putting in place measures to support or accompany the programming, implementation, evaluation and audit of actions under the National Indicative Programme and to prepare for the post-2020 development cooperation strategy.

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 307, 3.12.2018, p. 1.

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 Commission Decision C(2014)3607 of 12.6.2014 on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and Zambia, as amended by Commission Decision C(2018)3723 of 14.6.2018.

⁵ Internal Agreement between the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Union, meeting within the Council, on the financing of European Union aid under the multiannual financial framework for the period 2014 to 2020, in accordance with the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement, and on the allocation of financial assistance for the Overseas Countries and Territories to which Part Four of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union applies, OJ L 210, 6.8.2013, p. 1.

- (5) The action entitled ‘Technical Cooperation Facility VI’ aims at ensuring the efficient and effective utilisation of EU development assistance in support of the implementation of the government’s development strategies and policies by providing a flexible instrument that will support on demand all stages of the project cycle and address specific needs to enhance policy dialogue in strategic areas.
- (6) 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, applicable in accordance with Article 24(2) and Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877.
- (7) 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, applicable in accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877.
- (8) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the Committee is required. The EDF Committee, established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement, shall be informed of this Decision within one month of its adoption.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The programme

The decision on the financing of the Annual Action Programme 2020 in favour of the Republic of Zambia is adopted.

The programme shall include the following action: ‘Technical Cooperation Facility VI’, set out in the Annex.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the measure is set at EUR 4 000 000 and shall be financed from the 11th EDF.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes 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, applicable in accordance with Article 24(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877, 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.

Done at Brussels, 6.5.2020

For the Commission
Koen Doens
Director-General
Directorate General for International
Cooperation and Development