



Brussels, 2.12.2020
C(2020) 8669 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 2.12.2020

**on the financing of the Annual Action Programme 2020 – part 2 in favour of West
Africa**

COMMISSION DECISION

of 2.12.2020

on the financing of the Annual Action Programme 2020 – part 2 in favour of West Africa

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 Fund¹, 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 European Development Fund, and repealing Regulation (EU) 2015/322², and in particular Article 24 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Annual Action Programme 2020 – part 2 in favour of West Africa, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046³, 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 TFEU⁴.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the Regional Indicative Programme for West Africa for the period 2014-2020⁵, which sets out the following priorities (i) peace, security and regional stability, (ii) regional economic integration and support for trade, and (iii) resilience, food and nutrition security and natural resources.
- (4) The objective pursued by the Annual Action Programme to be financed under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Internal Agreement⁶ (the ‘Internal Agreement’) is

¹ OJ L 58, 3.3.2015, p. 1.

² OJ L 307, 3.12.2018, p. 1.

³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

⁴ 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.

⁵ Commission Decision C(2015)4093 final of 19.6.2015 on the adoption of the Regional Indicative Programme between the European Union and West Africa (2014-2020).

⁶ 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.

to contribute to peace and security in West Africa through support to law enforcement agencies.

- (5) The action entitled ‘Introduction of criminal Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) in West African countries’ aims to improve policing capabilities in the region by setting up national biometric databases for law enforcement agencies and facilitate exchange of information at national, regional and global levels. This objective will be reached by delivering equipment and training in beneficiary countries that meet the requirement for the introduction of AFIS, and providing technical assistance in areas such as legal, processes and change management.
- (6) Pursuant to Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (7) 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, applicable in accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877.
- (8) 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) 2018/1046⁷, applicable in accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877 and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, applicable in accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1877, before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the EDF Committee established under Article 8 of the Internal Agreement.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The programme

The decision on the financing of the Annual Action Programme 2020 - part 2 in favour of West Africa is adopted.

The programme shall include the following action: ‘Introduction of criminal Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) in West African countries’, set out in the Annex.

⁷ 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.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme is set at EUR 15 000 000 and shall be financed from the 11th European Development Fund.

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 Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in points 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 of the Annex.

Article 4
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 changes⁸ 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 action.

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, 2.12.2020

For the Commission
Jutta URPIAINEN
Member of the Commission

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