



Brussels, 29.11.2024
C(2024) 8316 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 29.11.2024

on the financing of the special measure in favour of Syria for 2024

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947² of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, and in particular Article 23(1) and (4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the special measure in favour of Syria for 2024, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which is to constitute the annual work programme, for 2024, in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('the Financial Regulation').
- (2) The envisaged assistance should comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union³.
- (3) The adoption of a special measure is justified in light of the ongoing repression by the regime and restrictive measures adopted by the Council of the European Union, whereby the Commission has suspended its cooperation with the Syrian Government in May 2011. Since then, normal programming for Syria has not been possible due to the ongoing conflict. Direct support to the affected population in Syria however has been maintained through various special measures complementary to humanitarian assistance in sectors such as education, livelihoods and civil society. Taking into account the crisis situation and the need to respond to the increasing needs, a declaration of crisis was issued in February 2012. Since then, the declaration has been annually extended due to the deteriorating situation. The most recent prolongation was issued in July 2024 and will be valid until June 2025. This special measure is in line

¹ OJ L 239, 26.09.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

³ 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.

with the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council ‘Elements for an EU strategy for Syria’⁴.

- (4) The special measure is in line with the amounts pledged at the 7th Brussels conference on the future of Syria and the region on 15 June 2023 and reconfirmed at the 8th Brussels conference on 27 May 2024.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the special measure to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 should enhance peace and resilience efforts in Syria.
- (6) The action entitled ‘2024 Special Measure in Support of the Syrian people’ aims at enhancing peace and resilience efforts in Syria in order to help creating a conducive environment for the safe, dignified and voluntary returns of Syrian refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) by creating the prospect of a life in dignity and promoting positive change for a just and equal society.
- (7) In accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the action set out in Annex is of a global, trans-regional or regional nature, fostering regional cooperation. Due to the action’s nature and the importance to ensure complete regional coverage, the eligibility of the action extends exceptionally to the countries identified in the action document, as their participation constitutes a substantial element to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional or trans-regional cooperation.
- (8) The objective and design of the action fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance established by the OECD/DAC, as per the requirements of Article 3(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 agenda. The countries benefiting from the action which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action document.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c) of the Financial Regulation, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the measure.
- (10) 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 157(3) of the Financial Regulation.
- (11) To that end, and before a contribution agreement can be signed, such persons and entities are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation⁵ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (12) It is necessary to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants in accordance with Article 198 (a) of the Financial Regulation.

⁴ Joint communication of the European Commission and the High Representative to the European Parliament and the Council ‘Elements for an EU strategy for Syria’. JOIN (2017)11 of 14/03/2017.

⁵ Except for the cases of Article 157(7) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide not to require an ex-ante assessment.

- (13) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (14) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the measure, it is appropriate to determine the changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (15) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the NDICI-GE Neighbourhood Committee.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The measure

The annual financing Decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the special measure in favour of Syria for 2024, as set out in the annex, is adopted.

The measure shall consist of the action set out in the annex.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the measure for 2024 is set at EUR 36 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 14.020110 of the general budget of the Union.

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 point 4.3. of the Annex.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases⁶ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, 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 the Financial Regulation, 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.

⁶These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 29.11.2024

For the Commission

Olivér VÁRHELYI

Member of the Commission