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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 1.8.2024**

**on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2024 and 2025**

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## on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2024 and 2025

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046<sup>1</sup> 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, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947<sup>2</sup> 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(2); thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of a multiannual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2024 and 2025, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing Decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2024 and 2025.
- (2) The envisaged assistance should comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.<sup>3</sup>
- (3) The actions provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with the European Green Deal<sup>4</sup> and in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources<sup>5</sup>.
- (4) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme for Lebanon<sup>6</sup> for the period 2021-2027, which sets out the following priorities 1)

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

<sup>3</sup> [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.

<sup>4</sup> COM(2019)640 final of 11 December 2019.

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

<sup>6</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8363 of 24 November 2022 on Multi-Annual Indicative Programme European Union – Lebanon 2021-2027

Enhancing good governance and supporting reforms, 2) Strengthening an inclusive and resilient economy, 3) Promoting a green and sustainable recovery.

- (5) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 should support reforms, good governance, strengthen an inclusive and resilient economy and promote green and sustainable recovery.
- (6) The action entitled ‘Promote safety, security and stability in Lebanon’ aims to contribute to long-term capability of the relevant Lebanese stakeholders to enhance safety and security by preventing and responding to security threats derived from organised crime, cybercrime, terrorism and smuggling, in line with international standards, the respect of the Rule of Law and human rights-based approach..
- (7) The action entitled ‘EU for Enhanced border security in Lebanon’ aims to strengthen border management and security in Lebanon in line with EU and international standards, including through a human rights-based approach.
- (8) The action entitled ‘EU support to promote transparency and fight against corruption’ aims to strengthen accountability and prevent corruption in Lebanon through supporting the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and the implementation of measures to fight and prevent corruption in a selected administration that provides public services to the citizens.
- (9) The action entitled ‘Cooperation Facility with Lebanon’ aims to enhance the administrative capacity of the Lebanese government in alignment with international and European standards.
- (10) The action entitled ‘Communication and visibility of EU cooperation and promotion of EU policies’ will enhance the EU's role as a critical political actor and a catalyst for policy reform and development in Lebanon.
- (11) The action entitled ‘Support Towards Access to Necessary Micro-finance for MSEs’ Inclusive and sustainable growth in Lebanon (EU-TANMIA)’ aims to improve Lebanon’s private sector’s sustainable economic recovery, resilience and financial inclusion through providing targeted support to microfinance institutions.
- (12) The action entitled ‘EU support to Blue economy and Green sustainability’ aims to enhance Lebanon's blue economy and green sustainability by promoting economic growth, job creation, climate resilience and environmental conservation, aligning protection efforts with economic development through integrated strategies and value chains across blue and green sectors.
- (13) The action entitled ‘EU support to renewable energy for security forces’ will support the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency equipment in security forces’ buildings, hence contributing to both energy transition and a more efficient provision of public services.
- (14) The action entitled ‘EU support to address post conflict scenarios in Lebanon’ will support the medium and long-term recovery and stability in Lebanon through promoting the resumption of economic activities, including through the restoration of critical natural resources, upon cessation of hostilities at the Southern border.
- (15) The objective and design of all actions fulfils 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 country benefiting from the

action which is included in the list of ODA recipients, is identified in the respective action document.

- (16) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (17) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c) of the Financial Regulation, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action plan.
- (18) 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 the Financial Regulation.
- (19) To that end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation<sup>7</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (20) 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.
- (21) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to determine the changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (22) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the NDICI-GE Neighbourhood Committee.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The action plan*

The multiannual financing Decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of Lebanon for 2024 and 2025, as set out in the annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- Promote safety, security and stability in Lebanon set out in Annex I;
- EU for Enhanced border security in Lebanon set out in Annex II;
- EU support to promote transparency and fight against corruption set out in Annex III;
- Cooperation Facility with Lebanon set out in Annex IV;
- Communication and visibility of EU cooperation and promotion of EU policies set out in Annex V;
- Support Towards Access to Necessary Micro-finance for MSEs' Inclusive and sustainable growth in Lebanon (EU-TANMIA) set out in Annex VI;
- EU support to Blue economy and Green sustainability set out in Annex VII;
- EU support to renewable energy for security forces set out in Annex VIII;

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<sup>7</sup> 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

- EU support to address post conflict scenarios in Lebanon set out in Annex IX.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 and 2025 is set at EUR 132 000 000, 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.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2025 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority, and in the revised programming document for Lebanon.

*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, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.1 of the Annexes I, II, VIII, IX, in point 4.3.2 of Annex III, IV, VI, and point 4.4 of Annex VII.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases<sup>8</sup> or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, considering each financial year separately, 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, 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.

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<sup>8</sup> These 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 Annexes. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex IV or selected in accordance with point 4.3.2 of the Annexes I, 4.4 of Annex II, VIII, IX, 4.3.1 of Annex III, IV, VI, VII.

Done at Brussels, 1.8.2024

*For the Commission*  
*Olivér VÁRHELYI*  
*Member of the Commission*