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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 13.11.2024**

**on the financing of the Annual Action Plan 2024 of the Multi-Country Migration  
Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the Annual Action Plan 2024 of the Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union<sup>1</sup>, 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 (1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of “Annual Action Plan 2024 of the Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood”, 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 Union<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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
- (5) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) 2021-2027 for a Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood (MCMP)<sup>4</sup>, which in line with the Pact on Migration and Asylum<sup>5</sup> and reflecting the Joint Communication on a Renewed Partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood<sup>6</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 239, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

<sup>2</sup> JO L 209 du 14.6.2021, 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> 8015

<sup>5</sup> 609

<sup>6</sup> 2

which sets out the four following priorities. The first priority of the MCMP addresses the need to provide assistance and protection to forcibly displaced persons, including asylum seekers, refugees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and other persons in need, including migrants in vulnerable situations, as well as host communities notably in North Africa through a multi-sectoral and sustainable approach. The second priority aims at strengthening migration and asylum governance and management, while the third priority aims at fostering return, readmission and sustainable reintegration. Supporting a comprehensive approach to legal migration and mobility is the fourth priority.

- (6) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 are to encompass the four above mentioned priorities of the MCMP.
- (7) The action entitled “Supporting Protection and Strengthening the Resilience of Migrants, Refugees and Other People in Need of Protection in North Africa” is going to contribute to the implementation of a comprehensive support to strengthen the protection and resilience of vulnerable migrants, refugees, and persons in need of protection across North Africa.
- (8) In order to support safe and human rights-based migration governance, the second action foreseen under the annual action plan, and entitled “Support to strengthening migration governance and management” will strengthen partner countries’ ability to manage migration, their borders and their search and rescue operations in compliance with international obligations and human rights standards.
- (9) In order to increase assisted voluntary returns from North Africa, in particular from Libya, Algeria and Morocco, and contribute to sustainable reintegration in countries of origin, the third action entitled “Supporting Migrant Protection, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration for vulnerable and stranded migrants in North Africa” will support partner countries in managing migration flows while respecting the rights of migrants and other individuals in vulnerable situations.
- (10) The fourth action entitled “To increase employability and mobility of potential migrants from partner countries to EU member states in support of the Talent Partnership Initiative and South-South cooperation” will increase employability and mobility of potential migrants in partner countries in support of the Talent Partnership Initiative and South-South cooperation.
- (11) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement with respect to the four actions set out in Annex I, Annex II, Annex III and Annex IV. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (12) In accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the actions set out in the Annexes are of a regional nature, fostering regional cooperation in the Southern Neighbourhood. The fourth action set out in Annex IV is also of a trans-regional nature, as it will foster cooperation with and between the Southern Neighbourhood and Western African countries. 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.

- (13) The objective and design of action 1 (ACT-62803) ‘Supporting Protection and Strengthening the Resilience of Migrants, Refugees and Other People in Need of Protection in North Africa’, action 2 (ACT-62720) ‘Support to strengthening migration governance and management’, action 3 (ACT-62496) ‘Supporting Migrant Protection, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration for vulnerable and stranded migrants in North Africa’ and action 4 (ACT-62781) ‘To increase employability and mobility of potential migrants from partner countries to EU member states in support of the Talent Partnership Initiative and South-South cooperation’ 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 documents.
- (14) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c) of the Financial Regulation, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action plan.
- (15) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to persons and entities entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 157(3) of the Financial Regulation.
- (16) 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 Regulation<sup>7</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (17) It is necessary to protect the security and public order of the Union or its Member States as provided for in Article 136 of the Financial Regulation.
- (18) The action plan provided for to in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the NDICI Neighbourhood Committee.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The action plan*

The annual financing Decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the Annual Action Plan 2024 of the Multi-Country Migration Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

‘Supporting Protection and Strengthening the Resilience of Migrants, Refugees and Other People in Need of Protection in North Africa’ set out in Annex I;

‘Support to strengthening migration governance and management’ set out in Annex II;

‘Supporting Migrant Protection, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration for vulnerable and stranded migrants in North Africa’ set out in Annex III;

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<sup>7</sup> of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

‘To increase employability and mobility of potential migrants from partner countries to EU member states in support of the Talent Partnership Initiative and South-South cooperation’ set out in Annex IV;

## *Article 2*

### *Union Contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 is set at EUR 208 000 000 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 shall also cover interest due for late payment.

## *Article 3*

### *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, 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 where those 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 4*

### *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 4.3.2 of Annex I as well as 4.3.1 of Annexes II, III and IV.

## *Article 5*

### *Security and public order*

In accordance with Article 136(2) of the Financial Regulation, the actions set out in the Annex(es) have been identified as affecting the security and public order of the Union or its Member States.

In accordance with Article 136(3) of the Financial Regulation, the authorising officer responsible may set specific conditions for the award procedures and for the resulting legal commitments. The specific conditions shall be strictly limited to what is necessary to protect security or public order of the Union and/or its Member States.

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<sup>8</sup> These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision

Done at Brussels, 13.11.2024

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