



Brussels, 2.8.2024
C(2024) 5665 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 2.8.2024

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Sri Lanka for 2024

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 2.8.2024

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Sri Lanka for 2024

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to 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 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 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 480/2009², and in particular Article 23(1) and (2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Sri Lanka for 2024, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2024. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') 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 actions 'Fostering Sustainable Economic Recovery through Improved Biodiversity and Sustainable Waste Management' and 'AgriGreen Initiative - Green Economic Growth through Sustainable Agricultural Practices' provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'⁴ and in the Inter-institutional 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 resources⁵.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, 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 COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁵ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (4) The Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme for the period 2021 - 2027⁶ (MIP 2021-2027), which sets out the following priorities: 1) Green Recovery and 2) An inclusive and peaceful society.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme 'Asia and the Pacific' are to support climate resilient socioeconomic development, to build the capacity of local civil society as actors of development and governance, and to enhance the visibility and understanding of all EU programmes, values and partnership in Sri Lanka.
- (6) The action entitled 'Fostering Sustainable Economic Recovery through Improved Biodiversity and Sustainable Waste Management' will support environmental policies and actions to improve the management and protection of biodiversity and to contribute to the goal of a green, inclusive and sustainable economic recovery in Sri Lanka.
- (7) The action entitled 'AgriGreen Initiative - Green Economic Growth through Sustainable Agricultural Practices' will support the transition to green economic growth where sustainable and gender-responsive consumption and production practices and food security are ensured.
- (8) The action entitled 'Strengthening the Sri Lankan Civil Society as Actors of Development and Governance' seeks to strengthen Sri Lankan civil society (in its whole diversity) as actors of governance and development, thereby contributing to the achievement of overall priorities of the EU-Sri Lanka partnership as outlined in the MIP 2021-2027, and the EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in Sri Lanka 2021-2024.
- (9) The action entitled 'Support Measures - Cooperation Facility for Sri Lanka - Strategic Communication' will support the implementation of EU's strategic communication activities designed to raise more awareness and understanding of the EU values, policies, and the EU partnership with Sri Lanka, shifting away from a project-implemented fragmented communication effort.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the actions.
- (11) 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. 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 the Financial Regulation⁷ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (12) 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.
- (13) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.

⁶ Commission Decision on the adoption of the National Indicative Programme between the European Union and Sri Lanka C(2021)9291 final of 15.12.2021.

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.

- (14) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Sri Lanka for 2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) ‘Fostering Sustainable Economic Recovery through Improved Biodiversity and Sustainable Waste Management’ set out in Annex I;
- (b) ‘AgriGreen Initiative – Green Economic Growth through Sustainable Agricultural Practices’ set out in Annex II;
- (c) ‘Strengthening the Sri Lankan Civil Society as Actors of Development and Governance’ set out in Annex III;
- (d) ‘Support Measures – Cooperation Facility for Sri Lanka - Strategic Communication’ set out in Annex IV.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2024 is set at EUR 20 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line BGUE-B2024-14.020131 South and East Asia 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 Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in section 4.4 of the Annex I and Annex II.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 000 000 and 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 the Financial Regulation (provided that these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions).

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

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.

Done at Brussels, 2.8.2024

For the Commission
Jutta URPILAINEN
Member of the Commission