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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 22.7.2026

on the financing of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Regional South Neighbourhood for 2026-2027

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/947[1] 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,

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[2], and in particular Article 110(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) In order to ensure the implementation of the multiannual action plan in favour of the Regional South Neighbourhood for 2026-2027, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing Decision, which is to constitute the multiannual work programme for 2026-2027, in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('the Financial Regulation').

(2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures[3] adopted pursuant to Article 215 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

(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 action plan provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming, ensuring a transition that it is just and inclusive and put people first, in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'[4] 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

[1] OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj.

[2] OJ L 239, 26.9.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj.

[3] See 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.

[4] COM(2019) 640 of 11 December 2019.

management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources[5].

(6) The Commission has adopted the Multiannual Indicative Programme for the Southern Neighbourhood for the period 2021-2027[6], which sets out the following priorities: Priority Area 1: Human development, good governance, and rule of law; Priority Area 2: Strengthen resilience, build prosperity and seize the digital transition; Priority Area 3: Peace and Security; Priority Area 4: Green Transition; Priority Area 5: Support to the main drivers of regional integration.

(7) The objectives pursued by the multiannual action plan to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 are to tackle the interconnected challenges of climate change, water scarcity, and energy transition while boosting resilience, equity, and sustainable growth across the Mediterranean through the Pact's Support to Advancing the Green and Energy Transition; to enhance regional stability, economic prosperity, and technological leadership while advancing the EU's geopolitical and sustainable development goals in the Mediterranean and beyond through the Pact's support to digital, space and transport connectivity (EU PACT CONNECT); to treamline trade, strengthen regional value chains, and boost private-sector expansion by implementing targeted reforms and simplifying customs processes through the Pact's support to Sustainable Investment and Trade Facility for the Southern Neighbourhood (EU Pact SITF Med) ; to address deep-rooted economic and social challenges through Boosting inclusive economies and jobs in the Middle East and North Africa region; to strengthen Mediterranean security and resilience targeting transnational threats through the 2025-2027 Security Package; to strengthen regional integration, democracy, and intercultural dialogue through Support to Institution Building and Regional Integration in the Southern Neighbourhood II; to preserve and revitalise the region's cultural heritage through the Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cultural and Sport Relations; to offer short- and medium-term technical support and capacity building for applying and enforcing EU laws and best practices through the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) and to ensure efficient implementation, monitoring, and promotion of EU-funded programmes in the region through the Neighbourhood South Global Allocation.

(8) The objective of the action entitled 'The Pact's Support to Advancing the Green and Energy Transition' is to enhance water, climate, and energy resilience in the Mediterranean through digital tools, sustainable fisheries, and renewable energy expansion, prioritising inclusive governance and gender equity.

(9) The objective of the action entitled 'The Pact's support to digital, space and transport connectivity (EU PACT CONNECT)' is to strengthen EU-Mediterranean connectivity under the Global Gateway and Pact for the Mediterranean, advancing digital, space, and transport infrastructure for sustainable growth.

(10) The objective of the action entitled 'The Pact's support to Sustainable Investment and Trade Facility for the Southern Neighbourhood (EU Pact SITF Med)' is to enhance trade relations, regional value chains, and private-sector growth through targeted reforms, regulatory convergence with EU standards (including the Green Deal), and simplified customs procedures.

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5 OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

6 Commission Implementing Decision of 16 December 2021 adopting a multi-annual indicative programme for the Southern Neighbourhood for the period 2021-2027 [C(2021) 9399].

(11) The objective of the action entitled ‘Boosting inclusive economies and jobs in the Middle East and North Africa region’ is to strengthen governance and macroeconomic reforms while boosting green, circular, and social economies to create decent jobs for women and youth, particularly in fragile and recovery contexts.

(12) The objective of the action entitled ‘2026-2027 Security Package’ is to bolster Mediterranean security under the Pact’s third pillar, tackling crime, terrorism, and disasters through cross-border law enforcement and disaster preparedness initiatives.

(13) The objective of the action entitled ‘Support to Institution Building and Regional Integration in the Southern Neighbourhood II’ is to boost Euro-Mediterranean integration by strengthening the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) to advance democracy, diversity, and regional cooperation.

(14) The objective of the action entitled ‘Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cultural and Sport Relations’ is to advance the Pact for the Mediterranean by preserving cultural heritage and boosting creative industries to drive economic growth, youth employment, and social cohesion, particularly in post-conflict areas.

(15) The objective of the action entitled ‘Neighbourhood South Global Allocation’ is to provide a facility supporting headquarters and EU delegations regarding project management and visibility.

(16) The objective of the action entitled ‘Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX)’ is to aim to provide short and medium-term technical assistance and peer-to-peer capacity building concerning the alignment, application and enforcement of EU legislation as well as advice about EU best practices.

(17) In accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the actions are of a trans-regional nature, fostering regional cooperation. Due to the actions’ nature and the importance to ensure complete regional coverage, the eligibility of the actions extends exceptionally to the countries identified in the action documents, as their participation constitutes a substantial element to ensure the coherence and effectiveness of Union financing or to foster regional or trans-regional cooperation.

(18) The objective and design of all actions fulfil the criteria for Official Development Assistance (‘ODA’) established by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, pursuant to Article 3(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, contributing to the sustainable development of partner countries and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by creating sustainable jobs and infrastructures, and addressing root causes of migration. The program will also support gender equality, human rights-based approach and disability mainstreaming; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation and infrastructure; climate action; affordable and clean energy; sustainable and inclusive cities and communities; peace, justice and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals. The countries benefiting from the actions which are included in the list of ODA recipients, are identified in the respective action documents.

(19) Pursuant to Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c), of the Financial Regulation and Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action plan.

(20) 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. 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[7] and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation.

(21) 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, points (c) and (f), of the Financial Regulation.

(22) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument 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 the Regional South Neighbourhood for 2026-2027, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- The Pact's Support to Advancing the Green and Energy Transition, set out in Annex I;
- The Pact's support to digital, space and transport connectivity (EU PACT CONNECT), set out in Annex II;
- The Pact's support to Sustainable Investment and Trade Facility for the Southern Neighbourhood (EU Pact SITF Med), set out in Annex III;
- Boosting inclusive economies and jobs in the Middle East and North Africa region, set out in Annex IV;
- 2026-2027 Security Package, set out in Annex V;
- Support to Institution Building and Regional Integration in the Southern Neighbourhood II, set out in Annex VI;
- Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cultural and Sport Relations, set out in Annex VII;
- Neighbourhood South Global Allocation, set out in Annex VIII;
- Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX), set out in Annex IX.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2026-2027 is set at EUR 165 700 000, 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.

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations as provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2027 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Increases[8] 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 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 4.3.3 of Annex I, point 4.3.1 of Annex II, point 4.3.1 of Annex III, point 4.3.3 of Annex IV, point 4.3.3 of Annex V and point 4.3.1 of Annex VII.

Article 6
Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes to the bodies referred to or selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of Annex I, point 4.3.1 of Annex IV and point 4.3.1 of Annex VI.

Done at Brussels, 22.7.2026

For the Commission
Dubravka ŠUICA
Member of the Commission

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