



Brussels, 25.7.2024
C(2024) 5528 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 25.7.2024

on the financing of the individual measure in favour of Paraguay 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) 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 (3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of “Support for the promotion and strengthening of the sustainability and competitiveness of Paraguay’s agricultural, forestry and agro-industrial value chains”, 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 Commission has adopted the National Multiannual Indicative Programme⁴ for the period 2021-2027⁵, which sets out the following priorities: Green and Resilient Economy, with the objective of supporting Paraguay in making its development more sustainable, its economy resource-efficient and more competitive; and Fight against Inequalities, aiming at sectors where the EU has an added-value and can generate a transformational impact in fighting inequalities.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the measure to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947 geographic programme ‘Americas and the Caribbean’ is to promote

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 C(2021) 8988 final.

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision adopting the Multiannual Indicative Programme for Paraguay for the period 2021-2027, C(2021) 8988 final.

sustainability and competitiveness of Paraguay's agricultural, forestry and agro-industrial value chains.

- (5) The action entitled "Support for the promotion and strengthening of the sustainability and competitiveness of Paraguay's agricultural, forestry and agro-industrial value chains" aims to improve Paraguay's insertion into international trade dynamics by promoting and strengthening the sustainability, competitiveness and traceability of prioritised value chains; the quality infrastructure and the diversification and innovation of key sectors for the economy. The Commission should acknowledge and accept contribution[s] from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contribution[s] are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.
- (6) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the action.
- (8) 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 Regulation⁶ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (9) 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.
- (10) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the measure, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (11) The measure 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 measure

The annual measure for the implementation of the individual measure in favour of Paraguay for 2024, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

The measure shall include the following action: "Support for the promotion and strengthening of the sustainability and competitiveness of Paraguay's agricultural, forestry and agro-industrial value chains" set out in the Annex.

⁶ 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.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the measure for 2024 is set at EUR 10 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line 14.020140 of the general budget of the Union.

The amount referred to in the first paragraph includes contributions from other donors to the general budget of the Union as external assigned revenue as provided for in the action “Support for the promotion and strengthening of the sustainability and competitiveness of Paraguay’s agricultural, forestry and agro-industrial value chains”.

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 4.3.4 of the Annex.

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, considering each financial year separately, or cumulated changes⁷ 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 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.

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 referred to in the Annex selected in accordance with point 4.3.1 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 25.7.2024

For the Commission
Valdis DOMBROVSKIS
Member of the Commission

⁷ These changes can come from assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.