

- (5) The objective pursued by the annual action plan to be financed under the Regulation (EU) 2021/947, geographic programme ‘Asia and the Pacific’ is to contribute to sustainable economic and social development in Iran.
- (6) The action entitled “EU-Iran Trade Development project – phase II” has three components: (i) Improved capacity of Iranian animal product exporters to comply with EU’s import requirements; (ii) Enhanced capacity of Iranian SMEs and enterprises to trade and invest; and (iii) Enhanced capacity of Iran’s private sector/trade support institutions to serve their members.
- (7) Pursuant Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046<sup>6</sup> and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (10) 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (11) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*Action plan*

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual action plan for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Islamic Republic of Iran for 2021, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2021 is set at EUR 7 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union :

– budget line 14 02 01 30 NDICI Middle East and Central Asia.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

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<sup>6</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.