

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is not envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the People's Republic of China.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 48 months from the date of adoption by the Commission of this Financing Decision.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation Modalities applicable to Project modality

The Commission will ensure that the EU rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.

4.3.1 Direct Management (Procurement)

The procurement will contribute to achieving Specific Objectives under Section 3.1. The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement is indicated in section 4.5.

This call has been launched on XX (date to be indicated at a later stage) under a suspensive clause prior to the adoption of this Decision. This is justified due the nature of the action, which replies to new priorities and requires a timely contracting. Critical Raw Materials has become an EU priority to reduce our dependency on other countries, including China, by diversifying and securing a domestic and sustainable supply of critical raw materials. The information, data and analysis collected is of critical importance to conduct these dialogues as well as the discussions during the annual EU China Summit. It is therefore essential to start collecting critical information without any further delay to make urgent policy decisions promptly.

4.3.2 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

In case procurement envisaged under section 4.3.1 cannot be implemented as planned due to circumstances outside of the Commission's control, this action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity. In such circumstances, the following selection criteria would apply:

- experience in working with public authorities;
- experience in promoting alignment with EU interests, policies and values in partner countries;
- expertise in providing analytical advisory services, capacity building and/or technical assistance to public and private sectors in the field of trade, investments and industry, notably in the mining sector;
- deep knowledge of the China context.

4.4. Scope of geographical eligibility for procurement and grants

The geographical eligibility in terms of place of establishment for participating in procurement and grant award procedures and in terms of origin of supplies purchased as established in the basic act and set out in the relevant contractual documents shall apply, subject to the following provisions.

The Commission's authorising officer responsible may extend the geographical eligibility on the basis of urgency or of unavailability of services in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other