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## **Suspicion of irregularities related to Agribiz, an EU-funded delegated cooperation with Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC) in Kenya**

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In 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) entered into a delegated cooperation with the European Union (EU) on the project “Enhancing the Role of Kenyan Women and Youth in Agribusiness” (Agribiz) for the period 2020-2024, implemented by Kenya Climate Innovation Centre (KCIC). The MFA is the lead partner in the delegated cooperation. KCIC has been granted DKK 160.9 million in total, of which DKK 25.25 million is the Danish contribution. To date, DKK 98.2 million has been disbursed to KCIC of which DKK 12.75 million are Danish funds.

In 2023, the EU conducted a desk review of specific budget lines in the Agribiz financial report for 2021 and 2022. The desk review raised suspicion of conflict of interest in the award of certain contracts between KCIC and their subsidiary, KCIC Consulting Limited (KCL). Further, the review pointed at possible systematic irregularities in the award process of sub-grants under the project. An EU Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission carried out in late 2023 resulted in a number of findings related to issues related to financial management of the Agribiz project and general governance issues within KCIC. As a consequence, the EU included the project in the list of projects to undergo expenditure verification in 2024.

The Expenditure Verification (EVR) commenced in June 2024 and is yet to be concluded. The Embassy has been cooperating with the EU and the audit firm conducting the EVR to ensure that all requested documentation and information is submitted in a timely manner.

A new report will be forwarded when there are further developments in the case.