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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 24.7.2019

on the ENI East Regional Action Programme for 2019, Part 2, including some actions to be carried out in 2020, to be financed from the general budget of the European Union

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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) No 236/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action², and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the ENI East Regional Action Programme for 2019, part 2, including some actions to be carried out in 2020, to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing Decision, which constitutes of a multiannual work programme, for the years 2019 and 2020. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) East Regional Strategy Paper⁴ for the period 2014-2020 and the Multiannual Indicative Programme⁵ for the period 2017-2020, which sets out the following priorities (1) economic development and market opportunities; (2) strengthening institutions and good governance; (3) connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change; (4) mobility and people-to-people contacts.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ 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 Decision C(2014)5200 of 28.7.2014.

⁵ Decision C(2017)5408 of 4.8.2017

- (4) The objectives pursued by this multiannual action programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁶ are to provide assistance to the Eastern Partnership countries to prevent and combat threats to the rule of law, to support justice sector and public administration reform, in line with the European Partnership ‘20 Deliverables for 2020’, to support the implementation of the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Dimension and the implementation of the Northern Dimension and the Black Sea Synergy policy frameworks, as guided by the European Neighbourhood Policy, to contribute to the transformation of the unresolved conflicts in the EaP region (except Ukraine), to strengthen equal rights and opportunities for women and men, through shifting social perceptions and behaviour on gender stereotypes and by increasing men’s participation in caretaking and in prevention of gender based violence.
- (5) The action entitled “EU for Integrity” (Annex 1) aims to focus on the ‘supply and demand-side’ of necessary reforms in the Eastern Partnership (EaP), including measures to foster evidence-based anti-corruption policy implementation in the Eastern Partnership countries through regional analysis and pressure tools, as well as in-depth regional analysis and experience-sharing on specific corruption-prone sectors, such as education and business (component 1). Further, the programme will help enable open, inclusive and responsive governments and citizen-centred service delivery through enhanced civil society participation and engagement in the Eastern Partnership region (component 2).
- (6) The action entitled “Support to the Implementation of the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Dimension and the Implementation of the Northern Dimension and the Black Sea Synergy” (Annex 2) provides a flexible mechanism giving the European Commission the possibility to finance policy processes and dialogue as well as small-scale actions in line with the objectives of these policy frameworks.
- (7) The action entitled “E4Dialogue” (Annex 3) aims to contribute to the transformation of the unresolved conflicts in the EaP region (except Ukraine). It will focus on: (i) establishing an environment that can help defuse tension and foster better understanding across the conflict divides; (ii) improving targeted sectors, including human security, for communities; and (iii) improving exchanges across the divide through education and culture.
- (8) The action entitled “EU4Gender Equality: Challenging gender stereotypes and practices in the EaP countries” (Annex 4) aims to focus on the root causes of gender inequality related to norms and gender stereotypes. Furthermore, the programme intends to focus attention on the role of men in caregiving responsibilities and to combat gender based violence through increased use of violence prevention programmes for perpetrators. Finally, the programme will also provide EU expert support on the inclusion of a citizen and gender perspective in planning and implementation of mayor reforms.
- (9) The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors in accordance with Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.

⁶ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

- (10) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals, pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (11) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (12) 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(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (13) The entities referred to in the Annexes are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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.
- (14) 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.
- (15) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the programme, 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.
- (16) The actions provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 4.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The programme

The ENI East Regional Action Programme for 2019, part 2, including some actions to be carried out in 2020, to be financed from the general budget of the European Union, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: EU for Integrity;
- Annex 2: Support to the Implementation of the Eastern Partnership Multilateral Dimension and the Implementation of the Northern Dimension and the Black Sea Synergy;
- Annex 3: EU4Dialogue;
- Annex 4: EU4Gender Equality: Challenging gender stereotypes and practices in the EaP countries.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme is set at EUR 43 550 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) for 2019:

- budget line 22 04 02 01: EUR 20 150 000;
- budget line 22 04 02 03: EUR 5 850 000;
- budget line 22 04 03 04: EUR 9 800 000;

(b) for 2020:

- budget line 22 04 02 03 : EUR 5.000.000;
- budget line 22 04 03 04 : EUR 2.750 000.

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

Contributions from other donors can be acknowledged and accepted in accordance with Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, subject to the conclusion of the relevant agreements. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.

The implementation of the actions to be carried out in the year 2020 is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2020 as adopted by the budgetary authority.

Article 3

Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions to be carried out by way of indirect management may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 5.3 of Annexes 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, 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 within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible shall apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 to the bodies referred to in point 5.3 of Annexes 1, 2 and 3.

Done at Brussels, 24.7.2019

For the Commission

Johannes HAHN

Member of the Commission