



Brussels, 17.2.2020
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 17.2.2020

adopting an Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2020

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adopting an Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2020

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

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 of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action¹ and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

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 966/2012², and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2020, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 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) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014⁴ lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (4) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 the assistance should be implemented through annual or multi-annual, country-specific or multi-country programmes. These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the framework for assistance referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 and

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.]

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 Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 11).

the relevant country or multi-country indicative strategy papers referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.

- (5) The Commission adopted an indicative strategy paper for Montenegro for 2014 - 2020 on 18 August 2014 and revised on 3 August 2018 which provides indicative allocations for the sectors for pre-accession assistance.⁵
- (6) Considering the proposals for action submitted by the beneficiaries concerned, the Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2020 aims at providing assistance for actions in the following sectors: Governance and Democracy; Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights; Competitiveness and Innovation, Agriculture and Rural Development and Education, Employment and Social Policies.
- (7) The Commission should authorise the launch of a call for proposals by means of a suspensive clause before the adoption of this Decision.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (9) The Commission should be able to entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the IPA II beneficiary specified in this Decision, subject to the conclusion of a Financing Agreement. In accordance with Article 154(3) and (4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and first subparagraph of Article 14(3) of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014⁶ 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 and, if necessary, to take appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 before the relevant agreement can be signed.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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 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.
- (12) 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.
- (13) 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.

⁵ C(2014) 5771 / C(2018) 5026

⁶ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 of 2 May 2014 on the specific rules for implementing Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 132, 3.5.2014, p. 32).

(14) The action programme provided for by this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA II Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the Annual Action Programme for Monenegro for the year 2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II), as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 22 050 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

EUR 7 050 000 from the budget line 22.02.01.01

EUR 15 000 000 from the budget line 22.02.01.02

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2020, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

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 the Annex.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

The following changes shall not be considered substantial, within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions:

- (a) increases⁷ or decreases for not more than 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, and not exceeding EUR 10 million;
- (b) cumulated reassignments of funds between specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2;
- (c) extensions of the implementation and closure period;

The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 17.2.2020

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission

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