



Brussels, 28.11.2018
C(2018) 8064 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 28.11.2018

on the Annual Action Programme in favour of Georgia for 2018

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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) No 1046/2018 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 Annual Action Programme in favour of Georgia it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2018. 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 Single Support Framework (SSF) for EU support to Georgia for the period 2017-2020⁴, which sets out the following priorities: (1) Economic Development and Market Opportunities; (2) Strengthening Institutions and Good Governance; (3) Connectivity, Energy, Environment and Climate Change; (4) Mobility and People-to-People Contacts.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2018 to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁵ are: (1) Increasing the security of Georgian citizens by strengthening good governance and the rule of law in Georgia; (2) reinforcing economic governance and democratic accountability in Georgia; and (3) deepening political, economic and trade relations between the EU and Georgia, raising

¹ OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p.1.

² OJ L77, 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 C(2017) 8160 final

⁵ 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).

awareness about EU support to Georgia and enhancing mobility of persons between the EU and Georgia. The Annual Action Programme contains three actions.

- (5) The first action entitled "EU4 Security, Accountability and Fight against Crime in Georgia (SAFE)" aims at increasing the security of Georgian citizens by strengthening good governance and the rule of law through consolidating the prevention and fight against crime, countering hybrid and emerging threats, improving civil protection and crisis management and enhancing the oversight of the security sector.
- (6) The second action entitled "EU4 Economic Governance and Fiscal Accountability" aims at strengthening fiscal governance through enhanced budgetary frameworks, external audit, independent monitoring as well as civic participation in and oversight of public finances.
- (7) The third action entitled "Support for the Implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement" aims at improving communication about the benefits of Georgia's political association and economic integration with the European Union, enhancing the capacity of and providing assistance to Georgian institutions to implement the Association Agenda and other relevant joint documents and fostering Georgian participation in the Erasmus+ programme.
- (8) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals, pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 to HALO Trust given that Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia is in a crisis situation and to the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) on account of its technical competence and high degree of specialisation in the monitoring of illicit drug use and trafficking.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (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 have been subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation and appropriate supervisory measures are in place in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (12) To this end, the Commission, in accordance with Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, retains the financial management responsibilities laid down in the Annex III.
- (13) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1046.
- (14) 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 Annual Action Programme 2018 in favour of Georgia, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex 1: "EU4 Security, Accountability and Fight against Crime in Georgia (SAFE)"
- Annex 2: "EU4 Economic Governance and Fiscal Accountability"
- Annex 3: "Support for the Implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement"

Article 2
Union Contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2018 is set at EUR 79.14 million and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- budget line 22 04 02 01: EUR 45.64 million ;
- budget line 22 04 02 02: EUR 33.5 million .

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

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 Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in points 5.3.6. and 5.3.7. of Annex 1, point 5.4.3. of Annex 2 and points 5.3.4, 5.3.5. and 5.3.6. of Annex 3.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases⁶ 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) 2018/1046, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

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

⁶ These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

Article 6
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 5.3.3 and 5.3.4. of Annex 1.

Done at Brussels, 28.11.2018

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission