

Brussels, 16.12.2021
C(2021) 9766 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 16.12.2021

**amending Implementing Decision C(2020) 4356 final adopting a Multi-country Action
Programme for the year 2020 - part 1 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
(IPA II)**

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 16.12.2021

amending Implementing Decision C(2020) 4356 final adopting a Multi-country Action Programme for the year 2020 - part 1 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

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) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III)² and in particular Article 19(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Implementing Decision C(2020) 4356 final³, the Commission adopted the Multi-country Action Programme for the year 2020 – part 1 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance ('IPA II'), including 10 actions. Subsequently, that Decision was corrected by Decision C(2020) 4480 final⁴ and substantially amended by – Implementing Decision C(2021)1443⁵.
- (2) It is now necessary to modify the Multi-country Action Programme for the year 2020 – part 1 under IPA II, and in particular Action No 1 "EU4 Business: Western Balkans Enterprise Development and Innovation Facility (EDIF) and European Fund for Southeast Europe (EFSE)", by introducing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) as an alternative implementing entity for the first part of Component I, since in the course of the negotiations, the EIF's investment into ENEF II became uncertain, as well as its possibility to represent the Commission in the fund. This Action is part of the policy response to the COVID-19 crises in the Western Balkans in support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, so it is out of the utmost importance to ensure that the EU contribution to the equity Enterprise Expansion Fund II (ENEF II) is materialised.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

² OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p.1.

³ Commission Implementing Decision of 25.6.2020 adopting a Multi-country Action Programme for the year 2020 – part 1 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (C(2020) 4356 final).

⁴ Corrigendum of 29.6.2020 to Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 4356 final of 25.6.2020 adopting a Multicountry Action Programme for the year 2020 – part 1 under the Instrument for Preaccession Assistance (IPA II) (C(2020) 4480 final).

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision of 28.2.2021 amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 4356 of 25.6.2020 adopting a Multi-country Action Programme for the year 2020 - part 1 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (C(2021) 1443 final).

- (3) Therefore, Decision C(2020) 4356 final should be amended accordingly.
- (4) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁶.
- (5) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall into the categories of measures for which the opinion of the IPA III Committee, established by Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1529, is required. The measure is to be communicated to the European Parliament and to the Member States through the IPA III Committee within one month of its adoption,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Annex to Implementing Decision C(2020) 4356 final is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 16.12.2021

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission

⁶ 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.