



Brussels, 28.12.2020
C(2020) 9654 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 28.12.2020

**amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2019) 8410 of 19.11.2019 adopting a
Multi-country Action Programme for Western Balkans Guarantee for the years 2019-
2020**

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amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2019) 8410 of 19.11.2019 adopting a Multi-country Action Programme for Western Balkans Guarantee for the years 2019-2020

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 966/2012⁽¹⁾, 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 of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action⁽²⁾, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By its Decision C(2019) 8410 of 19.11.2019, the Commission adopted the Multi-country Action Programme for Western Balkans Guarantee for the years 2019-2020, including one action. The Decision was last amended by Decision C(2020) 4295 of 23.06.2020.
- (2) There is a need to support the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery of the Western Balkans. It is therefore appropriate to expand the targeted priority sectors to the health sector.
- (3) Enhancing access to affordable, sustainable and high quality services, such as health care is among the thematic priorities set out in Annex II – thematic priorities for assistance of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014⁽³⁾.
- (4) It is appropriate to modify the Decision in order to: (i) introduce a new Action 2 “EU4Health: Contribution to the availability and access to vaccines against COVID-19 in the Western Balkans”; and (ii) reallocate EUR 70 million (2020 allocation) from Action 1 “Western Balkans Guarantee” to Action 2.
- (5) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals, pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (6) Therefore, Decision C(2019) 8410 of 19.11.2019 should be amended accordingly.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

⁽³⁾ 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).

- (7) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁴.
- (8) This amendment 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:

Sole Article

Commission Implementing Decision C(2019) 8410 of 19.11.2019 adopting a Multi-country Action Programme for Western Balkans Guarantee 2019-2020 as last amended by Decision C(2020) 4295 of 23.06.2020 is amended as follows:

a) Article 5 – Grants is added:

“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 the Annex.”

b) The Annex is replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 28.12.2020

For the Commission
Frans TIMMERMANS
Executive Vice-President

⁽⁴⁾ 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.