



Brussels, 5.12.2022
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 5.12.2022

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Montenegro for 2022

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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) 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 9(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Montenegro for 2022, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2022. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance should comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted a Pre-Accession Assistance ('IPA III') Programming Framework⁴ for the period 2021 – 2027, which identifies five thematic windows for the delivery of the specific objectives and thematic priorities of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan should contribute to the implementation of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) and Public Administrative reform (PAR) strategies and support developing capacity building related to the EU accession process while ensuring the effectiveness and impact of actions financed through IPA.
- (5) The objective of the action entitled "EU for Integrated Border Management" is to consolidate the Rule of Law and further prepare for joining the Schengen Area. It contributes to EU integration process of Montenegro and the achievements under

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, 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 Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)8914 of 10.12.2021 on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) Programming Framework for the period 2021-2027.

Chapter 24 requirements, including better detection and deterring of all types of cross-border crimes, and more effective management of mixed migration flows.

- (6) The objective of the action entitled “EU for Public Administration Reform” is to support the modernization and professionalization of public administration in Montenegro and to ensure better quality of life for citizens by creating a well-functioning and accessible public administration.
- (7) The objective of the action entitled “EU Integration Facility” is to provide capacity building related to the EU accession process and it should ensure the effectiveness and impact of actions financed through IPA.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529, indirect management may be used for the implementation of the action plan.
- (9) 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 the Financial Regulation. 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)⁵ of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) thereof before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (10) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (11) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (12) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA III Committee set up by Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529⁶.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The annual financing Decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Montenegro for 2022, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) EU for Integrated Border Management, as set out in Annex I;
- (b) EU for Public Administration reform, as set out in Annex II;
- (c) EU Integration Facility, as set out in Annex III.

⁵ Except for the cases referred to in Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

⁶ The Member States have declared, recalling the Council Conclusions of 18 February 2008, that the adoption of this action plan does not prejudice the position of each individual Member State on the status of Kosovo, which will be decided in accordance with their national practice and international law.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 37 720 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in budget line 15.020101.01 of the general budget of the Union.

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 Annex(es), may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.4.2 of the Annex 2 and in point 4.3.3 of the Annex 3.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases⁷ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation and execution period shall not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, provided that 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.

Done at Brussels, 5.12.2022

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission

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