



Brussels, 28.4.2024
C(2024) 2899 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 28.4.2024

**on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of the Republic of North Macedonia
for 2024**

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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 North Macedonia for 2024, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2024. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The action plan provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'³ and in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources⁴.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p.1.

³ COM(2019)640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁴ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (3) The Commission has adopted a Pre-Accession Assistance ('IPA III') Programming Framework⁵ 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 support the country's reforms in the areas of human rights and security, sustainable economy, health, and to enhance the EU accession process of North Macedonia.
- (5) The objective of the action entitled, EU for Rights and Security is to improve the respect of human rights and strengthen security by enhancing the response to gender-based and domestic violence and promoting the legal housing rights of the Roma people, as well as strengthening the state response to security threats and risks posed by cybercrime, organised crime, terrorism, radicalisation and violent extremism.
- (6) The objective of the action entitled, EU Integration Facility is to enhance the EU accession process of North Macedonia, through backing-up the accession process in its entirety and improving the effectiveness and visibility of the EU funds invested in the country.
- (7) The objective of the action entitled, EU for Economic Cohesion is to contribute to unleashing sustainable economic potential of North Macedonia, through improving the legal, administrative and operational framework for private sector development, strengthening the strategic, institutional, and operational capacity for effective energy policy, and enabling national policies for sustainable food system towards EU objectives for green agriculture.
- (8) The objective of the action entitled, EU for Health is to improve the health and well-being of the citizens of North Macedonia, through the digitalisation and modernisation of the Healthcare System.
- (9) 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.
- (10) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to determine the changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (11) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA III Committee.

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)8914 of 10 December 2021 on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) Programming Framework for the period 2021-2027.

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 North Macedonia for 2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- (a) - *EU for Rights and Security*, set out in Annex I;
- (b) - *EU Integration Facility*, set out in Annex II;
- *EU for Economic Cohesion*, set out in Annex III;
- *EU for Health*, set out in Annex IV.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 is set at EUR 58 600 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (c) - budget line 15.020101.01: EUR 26 500 000;
- (d) - budget line 15.020201: EUR 32 100 000;

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 article 4.3.3. of Annex I and Annex III and in article 4.3.2. of Annex IV.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases⁶ 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

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

Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, 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, 28.4.2024

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission