COMMISSION DECISION

of 11.8.2022

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 210(2) and Article 214(6) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The Facility for Refugees in Turkey (‘the Facility’) was set up by Commission Decision C(2015)9500 final1 to assist Turkey in addressing the immediate humanitarian and development needs of refugees and persons eligible for subsidiary protection and their host communities, national and local authorities in managing and addressing the consequences of the inflow of refugees and persons eligible for subsidiary protection. The first tranche of the Facility (EUR 3 billion) was committed and contracted by the end of 2017. The second tranche of the Facility (EUR 3 billion) was committed and contracted by the end of 2020.

(2) In accordance with Article 8(3) of Commission Decision C(2015)9500 final, the Commission, in full coordination with Member States, is to carry out an evaluation of the first tranche of the Facility by 31 December 2021, and of the second tranche by 30 December 2023.

(3) The Commission adopted in May 2017 a first financing decision2 and in November 2019 a second financing decision3 on a support measure on monitoring, evaluation, audit and communication of the Facility.

(4) A very comprehensive evaluation of the first tranche of the Facility4 was carried out in 2019 and 2020 and released in mid-2021. That independent evaluation found that the Facility has made a significant contribution to the welfare of Syrians and others fleeing conflict in the region. Furthermore, the evaluation found that the Facility was unprecedented in its scale and reach and was mobilised quickly once the Member States and Turkey had reached a common understanding. The size and scale of the Facility allowed the Union to have an impact that would not have been possible for Member States alone or for the Commission alone, without the additional contributions of Member States.

2 Commission Implementing Decision C(2017)3378 final of 23.5.2017 on the support measure on monitoring, evaluation, audit and communication of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.
3 Commission Implementing Decision C(2019)8101 final of 19.11.2019 on the adoption of a support measure on monitoring and evaluation, audit and communication under the Facility for Refugees in Turkey.
(5) The actual implementation of a sizeable number of projects under the second tranche of the Facility only started in 2021. Equally, it is likely that a substantial number of projects funded under the first tranche will run beyond end-2023, especially as there have been delays in implementation due to COVID-19.

(6) Facility operations should be completed by mid-2025. In order to continue providing an independent assessment of its performance and impact, a final evaluation of the Facility as a whole is necessary. That assessment should take into account all the projects and interventions implemented within the Facility framework.

(7) It is therefore necessary to amend Commission Decision C(2015)9500 final accordingly,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Commission Decision C(2015)9500 final is amended as follows:

Article 8(3) is replaced by the following:

'The Commission, in full coordination with Member States, shall carry out an evaluation of the first tranche of the Facility by 31 December 2021, and a final evaluation of the Facility as a whole by 30 June 2027.'

Done at Brussels, 11.8.2022

For the Commission

Olivér VÁRHELYI

Member of the Commission