



Brussels, 5.12.2018
C(2018) 8292 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 5.12.2018

amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2017) 7533 of 8.11.2017 on the Annual Action Programme 2017 in favour of the Republic of Moldova to be financed from the general budget of the Union

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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) 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 action² and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By its Decision C(2017) 7533 of 8.11.2017 the Commission adopted the Annual Action Programme 2017 in favour of the Republic of Moldova, which included four actions.
- (2) After the adoption of the above Decision, several facts should be taken into account: (a) the lack of commitment of the Republic of Moldova to progress and implement mutually agreed³ reform objectives with regard in particular to the fight against corruption and money laundering, the judicial reform and the prosecution of the large bank fraud exposed in 2014; the Joint Staff Working Document on the “Association Implementation Report on Moldova” of 3.4.2018⁴ already points to lack of progress until March 2018 by the Republic of Moldova in these areas; (b) the democratic regression witnessed with the non-transparent invalidation of the Chisinau mayoral elections in June 2018; (c) the Council Conclusions on the Republic of Moldova of 26 February 2018, which recall “that EU assistance to the Republic of Moldova is based on strict conditionality and is linked to satisfactory progress in reforms”; (d) the European Parliament resolution of 5 July 2018 on the political crisis in Moldova, which “expresses its grave concern over the further deterioration of the democratic standards in Moldova”.
- (3) Therefore, it is now necessary to reduce the support to be provided through the Annual Action Programme 2017 in favour of the Republic of Moldova. In concrete terms, the following actions shall be withdrawn from the Annual Action Programme 2017:

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

³ EU-Republic of Moldova Association Agenda (OJ L 215, 19.8.2017).

⁴ SWD(2018) 94 final, 0.4.2018.

"Strengthening the growth potential of the Republic of Moldova through a more transparent, efficient, competitive and resilient economic environment" (Annex 2); "Water Supply and Sanitation and Solid Waste Management Investments in the Region of Cahul" (Annex 4). The two actions remaining in the Annual Action Programme 2017, namely the ones on "Citizens' Empowerment in the Republic of Moldova" (Annex 1) and "Strategic communication and media support" (Annex 3), shall target the direct benefit of Moldovan citizens.

- (4) It is also necessary to modify the action "Citizens' Empowerment in the Republic of Moldova" (Annex 1) in order to allow that this action is implemented without concluding a financing agreement with the partner country.
- (5) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁵.
- (6) Commission Implementing Decision C(2017)7533 of 8.11.2017 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (7) This amendment is in accordance with the opinion of the ENI Committee set up by Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 232/2014.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Commission Implementing Decision C(2017) 7533 of 8.11.2017 on the Annual Action Programme 2017 in favour of the Republic of Moldova to be financed from the general budget of the Union is amended as follows:

- (1) Article 1, second paragraph, is replaced by the following:

"The programme shall include the following actions:

Annex 1: Citizens' Empowerment in the Republic of Moldova;

Annex 2 : Strategic communication and media support."

- (2) Article 2, first paragraph, is replaced by the following:

"The maximum contribution of the European Union for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 10 million and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union for 2017:

– budget line 22 04 02 01: EUR 10 million."

- (3) Annex 1 is replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

⁵ 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) Annex 3 becomes Annex 2 to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 5.12.2018

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission