



Brussels, 28.7.2020
C(2020) 5268 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 28.7.2020

amending Commission Implementing Decisions C(2016)8226 of 2.12.2016 adopting a Country Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2016, C(2019)8343 of 15.11.2019 adopting an Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2019 and C(2020)447 of 17.2.2020 adopting an Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2020.

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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(2016)8226 of 2.12.2016, the Commission adopted the Country Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2016, including 2 actions.
- (2) By its Decision C(2019)8343 of 15.11.2019, the Commission adopted the Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2019, including 3 actions.
- (3) By its Decision C(2020)447 of 17. 2.2020, the Commission adopted the Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2020, including 5 actions.
- (4) On 8 April 2020 , the Commission and the European External Actions Service adopted a Joint Communication on the Global EU Response to COVID-19, engaging the Union's contribution to a global response which addresses the humanitarian, health, social and economic consequences of the crisis.³
- (5) On 29 April 2020 , the Commission adopted its Communication on Support to the Western Balkans in tackling COVID-19 and the post-pandemic recovery, laying down in more details the Union planned interventions in the region.⁴
- (6) In order to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis in Montenegro, a budget support programme has been identified as the most effective and efficient intervention to help Montenegro to reduce the macro-economic effects of the crisis

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

³ JOIN(2020) 11 final

⁴ COM(2020) 315 final

on the economy, to preserve vulnerable social groups from the disruptive effects of the crisis, to guarantee their continued access to basic social services and to increase access of vulnerable business to economic relief. It is thus necessary to adopt an amending financing decision to pull funds from the three above-mentioned decisions in order to allow for a large-scale and all-encompassing budget support operation, worth EUR 40.5 million.

- (7) It is now necessary to modify the Country Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2016. For the two concerned actions , the Union contribution should be reduced in order to reallocate funds to a new action, entitled “Support to COVID-19 crisis response in Montenegro”.
- (8) It is now necessary to modify the Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2019. Actions 2 and 3 should be cancelled and their funds are to be reallocated to a new action, entitled “Support to COVID-19 crisis response in Montenegro”.
- (9) It is now necessary to modify the Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2020. For actions 1 and 5 the Union contribution should be reduced and the funds are to be reallocated to a new action, entitled “Support to COVID-19 crisis response in Montenegro”. These modifications require a reassignment between the concerned budget lines.
- (10) Therefore, Commission Decisions C(2016)8226, C(2019)8343 and C(2020)447 should be amended accordingly.
- (11) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁵ .

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Commission Implementing Decision C(2016)8226 of 2.12.2016 adopting a Country Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2016 is amended as follows:

The Annex is replaced by the Annex A to this Decision.

Commission Implementing Decision C(2019)8343 of 15.11.2019 adopting an Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2019 is amended as follows:

The Annex is replaced by the Annex B to this Decision.

Commission Implementing Decision C(2020)447 of 17.2.2020 adopting an Annual Action Programme for Montenegro for the year 2020 is amended as follows:

The Annex is replaced by the Annex C to this Decision.

In addition, Article 2, first paragraph, is replaced by the following :

“The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 22 050 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

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.

EUR 4 484 025 from the budget line 22.02.01.01;
EUR 17 565 975 from the budget line 22.02.01.02.”

Done at Brussels, 28.7.2020

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission