



Brussels, 15.7.2020
C(2020) 4959 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 15.7.2020

on the Annual Action Programme 2020 in favour of Georgia

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 15.7.2020

on the Annual Action Programme 2020 in favour of Georgia

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 for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action², and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Annual Action Programme 2020 in favour of Georgia, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme for 2020. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is deemed to follow the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the Single Support Framework (SSF) for European Union support to the Republic of Georgia for the period 2017-2020⁴. In line with the SSF, this Implementing Decision falls under the priority sectors of economic development and market opportunities, connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change as well as mobility and people-to-people contacts.
- (4) The objectives pursued by the Annual Action Programme 2020 to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)⁵ are: (1) Mitigating the health, social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia; and (2) ensuring the continuous implementation of EU related commitments, notably the concerned Association Agreement, with a particular focus on environmental protection and

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

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(2017) 8160 of 7.12.2017 adopting a Single Support Framework for European Union support to Georgia for the period 2017-2020.

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 232/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 27).

reform of the healthcare system, and the Visa Liberalisation Action Plan (VLAP) requirements.

- (5) The action entitled “COVID-19 Resilience Contract for Georgia” (Annex I) aims at mitigating the health, social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in Georgia. It is part of the global Team Europe initiative. The action will provide citizens with social support to cope with the negative effects of the COVID-19 crisis, support businesses in managing a sustainable economic recovery and provide the health system with the necessary equipment and tools to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and similar future outbreaks.
- (6) The action entitled “EU Resilience Facility for Georgia: Economy, Environment, Health and Migration Management” (Annex II) is complementary to the first action and aims at addressing specific challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak as well as supporting Georgia in the continuous implementation of the EU-Georgia Association Agreement with a special focus on environmental action and migration management.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (8) 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (9)
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) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (11) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (12) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the ENI Committee established under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 4.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The Programme

The Annual Action Programme in favour of Georgia for 2020, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- Annex I: “COVID-19 Resilience Contract for Georgia”;

- Annex II: “EU Resilience Facility for Georgia: Economy, Environment, Health and Migration Management”.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2020 is set at EUR 87 700 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- budget line 22 04 02 01: EUR 2 700 000;
- budget line 22 04 02 02: EUR 75 000 000;
- budget line 22 04 03 03: EUR 10 000 000.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities and 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 points 5.3.3 and 5.3.4 of Annex II.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases of up to EUR 10 million not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where 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, acting in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 15.7.2020

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission