



Brussels, 10.12.2021
C(2021) 9448 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 10.12.2021

on the financing of the special measure in favour of the Republic of Belarus for 2021

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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) 2021/947² of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe and amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009, and in particular Article 23(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Special Measure in favour of the Republic of Belarus for 2021, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2021. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing Decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU³.
- (3) The objectives pursued by the measure to be financed under the Neighbourhood geographic programme of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument are to contribute to human rights, democracy and governance.
- (4) The action entitled “EU4Belarus: Reinforcing Resilience and Democratisation” aims at reinforcing the resilience and capacity among the Belarusian people affected by the political crisis to achieve democratic changes in Belarus. The objectives pursued by this action are to sustain and strengthen independent and diverse newsgathering, promote mobility and people-to-people contacts for Belarusian youth, academics and professionals, support Belarusian entrepreneurs and companies forced into exile, and to support Belarusian culture and art initiatives.
- (5) Pursuant to Article 26(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of 9 June 2021, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the measure.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p.1.

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.

- (6) 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.
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the measure, 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.
- (10) The measure provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established under Article 45 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/947 of 9 June 2021.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The measure

The annual financing Decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the Special Measure in favour of the Republic of Belarus for 2021, as set out in the Annex (“Action Document for EU4Belarus: Reinforcing Resilience and Democratisation”), is adopted.

The measure shall consist of the action set out in the Annex.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the measure for 2021 is set at EUR 15 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

budget line 14.020111: EUR 15 000 000.

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

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.2 of the Annex.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases⁴ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated reassignments of funds between actions contained in an action plan 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, 10.12.2021

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission

⁴ These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.