



Brussels, 30.11.2022
C(2022) 8947 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.11.2022

amending “Implementing Decision C(2021) 9716 final adopting a financing of the multi-country multiannual action plan in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2022”

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 30.11.2022

amending “Implementing Decision C(2021) 9716 final adopting a financing of the multi-country multiannual action plan in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2022”

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) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III)² and in particular Article 9(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) With Decision C(2021) 9716 final³, the Commission adopted the financing of the “multi-country multiannual action plan in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2022”, including 17 actions.
- (2) The Commission should take note of the following non-substantial changes that were carried out by the responsible authorising officer under the flexibility provision of Article 4 of Decision C(2021) 9716 final. On 27 September 2022, the allocation of the “multi-country multiannual action plan in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2022” was decreased for a total amount of EUR 3.2 million. In particular, Action 7 “Support for the participation of IPA III beneficiaries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia) in Union programmes” was decreased by EUR 4.2 million (allocation 2021); and Action 8 “EU Integration Facility, including EU support for the participation of IPA III beneficiaries in EU agencies and TAIEX support to Western Balkans and Turkey” was increased by EUR 1 million (allocation 2022).
- (3) It is necessary to add a new Action (EUR 5 million): “EU Support to Cybersecurity Capacity Building in the Western Balkans” in order to enhance the cyber resilience of the Western Balkans in compliance with EU *acquis* and best practices. An amount of EUR 4.2 million (allocation 2022) which was previously decommitted by making use of Article 30 of NDICI-Global Europe, will be recommitted; and an additional amount of EUR 0.8 million (allocation 2022) will be reallocated from Annex 8/Action 8 “EU Integration Facility, including EU support for the participation of IPA III beneficiaries in EU agencies and TAIEX support to Western Balkans and Turkey”.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

² OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1.

³ Commission Implementing Decision of 16.12.2021 on the financing of the multi-country multiannual action plan in favour of the Western Balkans and Turkey for 2021-2022 (C(2021) 9716 final).

- (4) It is also necessary to reallocate funds within the Annex 8/Action 8 “EU Integration Facility, including EU support for the participation of IPA III beneficiaries in EU agencies and TAIEX support to Western Balkans and Turkey”, and include prizes and call for proposals/grants as new delivery methods within the Action, in order to support pilots actions and studies in line with the scope and objectives of the action.
- (5) Finally, it is necessary to change from direct management mode and to introduce indirect management mode as a preferred option for one of the components under Annex 4/Action 4 “EU Support to fundamental rights of Roma in the Western Balkans and Turkey” in order to allow for broader policy coherence and synergies with the other relevant actors in the area of Roma inclusion.
- (6) Therefore, Decision C(2021) 9716 final should be amended accordingly.
- (7) The proposed assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁴.
- (8) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall into the categories of measures for which the opinion of the Committee established pursuant to Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 is required. The measure should be communicated to the European Parliament and to the Member States through the IPA III Committee within one month of its adoption,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 9716 final is amended as follows:

- (1) in Article 1, the following point is added:

“(r) Action 18 “EU Support to Cybersecurity Capacity Building in the Western Balkans”, as set out in Annex 18.”;
- (2) Article 2 is amended as follows:
 - (a) in the first paragraph, introductory wording, the amount “EUR 191 750 000” is replaced by “EUR 192 750 000”;
 - (b) in the first paragraph, point (a), the amount “EUR 115 250 000 for year 2021” is replaced by “EUR 111 050 000 for year 2021”, and the amount “EUR 19 700 000 for year 2022” is replaced by “EUR 24 900 000 for year 2022” respectively;
- (3) the text in Article 3 is replaced by the following:

“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 point 4.2.1 of Annexes 1, 3, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14; 4.2.2 of Annexes 2, 4, 5, 13, 15; 4.2.4. of Annex 8; and 4.3.1 of Annex 18”;
- (4) the text in Article 5 is replaced by the following:

⁴ www.sanctionsmap.eu 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, the OJ prevails.

“Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annexes selected in accordance with point 4.2.1 of Annexes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 15”;

- (5) Annexes 4, and 8 are replaced by Annexes 1 and 2 respectively to this Decision as Annexes 4 and 8 to Decision C(2021) 9716 final;
- (6) Annex 3 to this Decision is added as Annex 18 to Decision C(2021) 9716 final.

Done at Brussels, 30.11.2022

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission