



Brussels, 20.5.2024
C(2024) 3310 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.5.2024

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2024

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.5.2024

on the financing of the annual action plan in favour of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2024

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) In order to ensure the implementation of annual action plan in favour of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2024, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2024. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance should comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) The action plan provided for in this Decision should contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal'³ and in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources⁴.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p.1.

³ COM(2019)640 final of 11 December 2019.

⁴ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

- (4) The Commission has adopted a Pre-Accession Assistance ('IPA III') Programming Framework⁵ for the period 2021 – 2027, which identifies five thematic windows for the delivery of the specific objectives and thematic priorities of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529.
- (5) The objectives pursued by the annual action plan should support the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to effectively meet EU accession requirements.
- (6) The objective of the action entitled "EU4 Rule of Law and Equality" is to strengthen the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and gender equality in line with EU standards. The Commission should acknowledge and accept contributions from other donors pursuant to Article 21(2) of the Financial Regulation, subject to the signature of the relevant agreement. Where such contributions are not denominated in euro, a reasonable estimate of conversion should be made.

The objective of the action entitled "EU Integration Facility" is to contribute to Bosnia and Herzegovina's overall progress in fulfilling its obligations for European Union accession.

The objective of the action entitled "EU4 Green Economy" is to advance energy transition and improve business environment for low carbon and circular economy in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The objective of the action entitled "Support to Youth Employment" is to improve the functioning of labour market for youth entrants and employees.

The objective of the action entitled "Harnessing culture and creativity for sustainable development" is to increase socio-economic impact of the cultural and creative sectors in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- (7) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c) of the Financial Regulation, indirect management may be used for the implementation of the action plan.
- (9) 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 the Financial Regulation.
- (10) To that end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4)⁶ of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)8914 of 10 December 2021 on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) Programming Framework for the period 2021-2027.

⁶ Except for the cases referred to in Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

- (11) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (12) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the action plan, it is appropriate to determine the changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (13) The action plan provided for in this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA III Committee.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The action plan

The annual financing Decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the annual action plan in favour of Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2024, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The action plan shall include the following actions:

- EU4 Rule of Law and Equality, set out in Annex I;
- EU Integration Facility, set out in Annex II;
- EU4 Green Economy, set out in Annex III;
- Support to Youth Employment, set out in Annex IV;
- Harnessing culture and creativity for sustainable development, set out in Annex V

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the action plan for 2024 is set at EUR 50 700 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- budget line 15.020101.01: 19 250 000;
- budget line 15.020201: 31 450 000

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 Annexes, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4.3.3 of the Annex I, point 4.3.2 of the Annex II, point 4.3.1. of Annex III, point 4.3.1. of Annex IV and point 4.3.2. of Annex V.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases⁷ or decreases of up to EUR 10 million and not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation and execution period shall not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, provided that 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. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5
Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex I. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex I selected in accordance with point 4.3.1.1. of the Annex I.

Done at Brussels, 20.5.2024

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission

⁷ These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing Decision.