



Brussels, 23.7.2019
C(2019) 5586 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 23.7.2019

**adopting a Support Measure for
Communication about the European Union and the EU Accession Process
for the years 2019-2020**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 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 966/2012 ⁽¹⁾, 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 action ⁽²⁾ and in particular Article 3(3) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the *Support Measure for Communication about the European Union and the EU Accession Process*, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for the years 2019 and 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 TFEU ⁽³⁾.
- (3) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 ⁽⁴⁾ lays down the objectives and main principles for pre-accession assistance to beneficiaries listed in Annex I to that Regulation.
- (4) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 the assistance should be implemented through annual or multi-annual, country-specific or multi-country programmes. These programmes should be drawn up in accordance with the framework for assistance referred to in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 and the relevant country or multi-country indicative strategy papers referred to in Article 6 of that Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 77, 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⁾ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 11).

- (5) In accordance with Article 6(3)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, the Commission may adopt multi-annual action programmes for a period of up to three years in the case of recurrent actions. For years other than the initial commitment year, the commitments are indicative and depend on the future annual budgets of the Union.
- (6) The Commission adopted an indicative multi-country strategy paper for 2014 – 2020 ⁽⁵⁾ on 30 June 2014, which provides indicative allocations priorities for multi-country pre-accession assistance.
- (7) The Support Measure for Communication about the European Union and the EU Accession Process for the years 2019-2020 aims to implement the objectives set out in the Strategy "A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans"⁶ and the 2019 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy ⁽⁷⁾ and specifically to contribute to increasing public support for enlargement policy and political leverage for reform in the beneficiaries.
- (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 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.
- (10) The action programme provided for by this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA II Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 ⁽⁸⁾.

⁽⁵⁾ C(2014) 4293, 30.6.2014.

⁽⁶⁾ COM(2018) 65, 6.2.2018.

⁽⁷⁾ COM(2019) 260, 29.5.2019.

⁽⁸⁾ The Member States have declared, recalling the Council Conclusions of 18 February 2008, that the adoption of this programme does not prejudice the position of each individual Member State on the status of Kosovo, which will be decided in accordance with their national practice and international law.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The programme

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the *Support Measure for Communication about the European Union and the EU Accession Process for the years 2019-2020* under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II), as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for the years 2019 and 2020 is set at EUR 25 505 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

EUR 12 790 000 from the budget line 22.02.04.01 for year 2019

EUR 12 715 000 from the budget line 22.02.04.01 for year 2020

The financial contributions referred to in the first sub-paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2020 as adopted by the budgetary authority.

Article 3

Flexibility clause

The following changes shall not be considered substantial, within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions:

- (a) Increases ⁽⁹⁾ or decreases for not more than 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, and not exceeding EUR 10 million, considering each financial year separately;

⁽⁹⁾ These changes can come from external assigned revenue made available after the adoption of the financing decision.

- (b) cumulated reassignments of funds between specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2;
- (c) extensions of the implementation and closure period;
- (d) within the limits of 20% referred to in points (a) and (b) above, up to 5% of the contribution referred to in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this financing decision may serve to finance actions which were not foreseeable at the time the present financing decision was adopted, provided that those actions are necessary to implement the objectives and the results set out in the programme.

The authorising officer responsible may apply such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 23.7.2019

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission