



Brussels, 28.11.2019
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 28.11.2019

on the annual action programme in favour of the Republic of Armenia for 2019

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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) 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 in favour of the Republic of Armenia for 2019, it is necessary to adopt an annual³ financing Decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2019. 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 TFEU⁴.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the Single Support Framework in favour of the Republic of Armenia⁵ for the period 2017-2020, which sets out the following priorities economic development and market opportunities; strengthening institutions and good governance; connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change and mobility and people-to-people contacts as well as complementary support for capacity development/institution building and strategic communication and for civil society development.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

³ Multiannual financing decision shall always constitute a multiannual action programme.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Decision C(2017)7838 of 28/11/2017

- (4) The objectives pursued by the annual action programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁶ are to support the country's resilience, security and prosperity built on democracy, human rights, the rule of law and sustainable economic growth based on the EU-Armenia Partnership Priorities and Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- (5) The action entitled 'CEPA Reform Facility' aims to strengthen the Government of Armenia's strategic and technical capacity to plan and implement structural reforms.
- (6) The action entitled 'EU4Energy efficiency and Environment' aims to improve Armenia's energy efficiency and enhance environmental protection and resilience.
- (7) The action entitled 'Local Empowerment of Actors for Development (LEAD)' aims to promote local growth and development leading to improved quality of life through community engagement in economic and social activity with particular focus on the Northern regions of Armenia.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (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 Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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.
- (13) The actions provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Neighbourhood Instrument Committee established under Article 15 of the financing instrument referred to in recital 4.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

⁶ 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).

Article 1
The programme

The annual action programme in favour of the Republic of Armenia for 2019, as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- (a) Annex I: CEPA Reform Facility;
- (b) Annex II: EU4Energy Efficiency and Environment;
- (c) Annex III: Local Empowerment of Actors for Development (LEAD).

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2019 is set at EUR 46 million, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 22 04 02 02: EUR 21 million;
- (b) budget line 22 04 03 03: EUR 25 million.

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 5.3.5 of the Annex I; point 5.3.3 of the Annex II; and points 5.3.1 and 5.3.2 of the Annex III.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Increases⁷ 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.

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

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.

Done at Brussels, 28.11.2019

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission