



Brussels, 14.2.2020  
C(2020) 871 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 14.2.2020**

**adopting a special measure on supporting Albania in post-earthquake reconstruction  
and rehabilitation to be financed from the general budget of the Union for 2020**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 14.2.2020

### **adopting a special measure on supporting Albania in post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation to be financed from the general budget of the Union for 2020**

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 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, 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<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of this special measure on supporting Albania in post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2020. 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 TFEU<sup>3</sup>.
- (3) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014<sup>4</sup> 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 or special measures. 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.
- (5) The Commission adopted the revised indicative strategy paper for Albania for 2014 - 2020<sup>5</sup> on 3 August 2018 which provides indicative allocations for the sectors for pre-

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.]

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

<sup>3</sup> [www.sanctionsmap.eu](http://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.

<sup>4</sup> 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).

accession assistance.<sup>(6)</sup> Considering the proposals for action submitted by the beneficiaries concerned, it is now necessary to adopt a special measure on supporting Albania in post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation.

- (6) This measure is justified by the need to assist Albania in the reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake, in order to support the fast recovery of vital public services such as the education of children and youth.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (8) 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. 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 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) The special measure 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.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

##### *The measure*

The annual financing decision, constituting the special measure on supporting Albania in post-earthquake reconstruction and rehabilitation 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 special measure referred to in Article 1 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:

- EUR 15 000 000 from the budget line 22.02.01.02

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

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20180817-revised-indicative-strategy-paper-2014-2020-for-albania.pdf>

*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 the Annex.

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20% of the initial contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 and which do not cause the total contribution to exceed EUR 10 million, 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, provided that they do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions. The authorising officer responsible may adopt such non-substantial changes in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 14.2.2020

*For the Commission*  
*Olivér VÁRHELYI*  
*Member of the Commission*