



Brussels, 3.7.2019
C(2019) 5165 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 3.7.2019

on the annual ENI East Regional Action Programme 2019 part 1

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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 ENI East Regional Action programme 2019 part 1, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing Decision, which constitutes an 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 TFEU³.
- (3) The Commission has adopted the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) East Regional Strategy Paper⁴ for the period 2014-2020 and the Multiannual Indicative Programme⁵ for the period 2017-2020, which sets out the following priorities (1) economic development and market opportunities; (2) strengthening institutions and good governance; (3) connectivity, energy efficiency, environment and climate change; (4) mobility and people-to-people contacts.
- (4) The objectives pursued by this annual action programme to be financed under the European Neighbourhood Instrument⁶ are (a) to increase the resilience to natural and man-made disasters in the Eastern partner countries and (b) to increase trade between Eastern Partnership countries and between Eastern Partnership countries and the EU.

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 Decision C(2014)5200 of 28.7.2014.

⁵ Decision C(2017)5408 of 4.8.2017

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).

- (5) Action (a) entitled “Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Partnership countries (PPRD East 3)” aims to increase the resilience to natural and man-made disasters in the Eastern partner countries. In this context it specifically has the intention 1) to build sustainable capacities of the Partner Countries' respective civil protection institutions for disaster prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters; 2) to strengthen interlinkages between all relevant governmental actors and civil society stakeholders as well as the scientific community, promoting a national inclusive approach to prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disasters and 3) to enhance regional co-ordination, institutional and operational co-operation between the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the Eastern neighbourhood countries and among Eastern neighbourhood countries.
- (6) Action (b) entitled “Eastern Partnership Trade Helpdesk” aims to increase trade between Eastern Partnership countries and between Eastern Partnership countries and the EU. The action aims through the creation of a helpdesk, to provide economic operators and in particular Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Business Support Organizations (BSOs) and policy makers in Eastern Partnership countries with a one stop online platform that offers access to trade information (tariffs, non-tariff measures, taxes, trade statistics for goods and services, trade procedures and companies), that govern access to regional markets and the EU.
- (7) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals, pursuant to Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 to the International Trade Center (ITC) for Annex 2, due to the high specialisation required in the field.
- (8) Pursuant to Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 236/2014, indirect management is to be used for the implementation of Action 2.
- (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. To this end, the Commission, in accordance with Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, retains the financial management responsibilities laid down in Annex 2
- (10) 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.
- (11) 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.
- (12) 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:

Article 1
The programme

The Regional East Action Programme 2019 part 1 as set out in the Annexes, is adopted.

The programme shall include the following actions:

- (1) Annex 1: Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made disasters in Eastern Partnership countries – phase 3 (PPRD East 3);
- (2) Annex 2: Eastern Partnership Trade Helpdesk

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2019 is set at EUR 9 700 000, 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 9 700 000;

The appropriations provided for in the first 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 2019.

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 Annex 2, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 5.3 of Annex 2.

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, 3.7.2019

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission