



Brussels, 11.11.2020
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 11.11.2020

**amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 424 of 17.2.2020 adopting an
Annual Action Programme for Albania for the year 2020**

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amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 424 of 17.2.2020 adopting an Annual Action Programme for Albania for the year 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 966/2012¹, 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 of the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action², and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By its Decision C(2020) 424 of 17.2.2020, the Commission adopted the Annual Action Programme for Albania for the year 2020, including four actions.
- (2) It is now necessary to increase the Union contribution for the Programme from the original amount of EUR 75 300 000 to the new amount of EUR 103 300 000. This increased contribution comes from the IPA II performance reward for Albania (EUR 28 000 000), provided for in the Article 14 of the IPA II regulation³, and it complies with the Indicative Strategy Paper for Albania for the period 2014-2020⁴. Most of the additional contribution will be allocated to reinforce the response of the government of Albania to the current COVID-19 pandemic, with a view to alleviating its consequences on the country's economy and hence also on the most vulnerable categories of its population. Accordingly, it is now necessary to add a new action, entitled "EU for Economic Recovery", to the Annual Action Programme for Albania for the year 2020. It will respond to the crisis situation caused by the pandemic through targeted actions aimed at reducing the macro-economic effects and disruptions of the economy and at ensuring that vulnerable businesses and unemployed people have access to economic relief.
- (3) Furthermore, two additional new actions are added to the Annual Action Programme for Albania for the year 2020 through reallocation of funds of existing actions ("EU

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 77, 15.03.2014, p. 95.

³ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 11).

⁴ Commission Decision C(2014)5770 of 18.8.2014 adopting the Indicative Strategy Paper for Albania for the period 2014-2020, as amended by the Commission Decision C(2018)5027 of 3.8.2018.

for rule of law” and “EU for property rights”) . The new action entitled “EU Integration Facility” will strengthen the capacity and accountability of the Albanian public administration to guarantee a sustainable role of the Government in the preparation for EU membership by enhancing capacities for alignment and implementation of *acquis* requirements, reforms and strategies. The new action entitled “International Monitoring Operation (IMO): Support to the process of temporary re-evaluation of Judges and Prosecutors in Albania – Phase II” aims at strengthening the independence, transparency, efficiency, accountability and public trust in the Albanian justice system in line with the European standards and the EU *acquis*.

- (4) Therefore, Decision C(2020) 424 should be amended accordingly.
- (5) This amendment is in accordance with the opinion of the IPA II Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014⁵.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 424 of 17.2.2020 adopting an Annual Action Programme for Albania for the year 2020 is amended as follows:

- (1) Article 2, first paragraph, is replaced by the following :

“The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 103 300 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union for 2020:

EUR 77 300 000 from the budget line 22.02.01.01;

EUR 26 000 000 from the budget line 22.02.01.02.”

- (2) The Annex is replaced by the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 11.11.2020

For the Commission
Olivér VÁRHELYI
Member of the Commission

⁵ Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 11).