



Brussels, 14.2.2018
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 14.2.2018

amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 5482 approving the cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg-IPA CBC Greece-Albania" for the years 2014-2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

CCI 2014TC16I5CB010

(ONLY THE GREEK TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

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 action¹, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementation Decision C(2015) 5482, as amended by Decision C(2017) 6809, the cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg-IPA CBC Greece-Albania" was adopted.
- (2) On 17 October 2017, Greece on behalf of Greece and Albania submitted a request for an amendment to the cooperation programme.
- (3) The request was accompanied by a revised cooperation programme, in which Greece proposed an amendment to the elements of the cooperation programme referred to in Article 34(1) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014³ in conjunction with points (b)(iv) and (v) and (d) of the second subparagraph of Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2015) 5482. The amendment of the cooperation programme consists in the modification of the financial plan due to the integration of EUR 10 000 000 as well as in changes in the performance framework (indicators/key implementation steps).

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 of 2 May 2014 on the specific rules for Implementing Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 132, 3.5.2014, p. 32).

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 17 December 2013 on specific provisions for the support from the European Regional Development Fund to the European territorial cooperation goal (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 259).

- (4) In accordance with Article 31(5) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, the request for the amendment to the cooperation programme is duly justified by the integration of IPA II allocations both for Greece and Albania into this cooperation programme and sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵.
- (5) In accordance with Article 48(3) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 in conjunction with the second subparagraph of Article 4(7) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013, at the request of Greece, an amount of EUR 5 000 000 for that Member State should be allocated to this cross-border cooperation programme, as one of the three possible cross-border cooperation programme under the IPA II with Greece has not been submitted to the Commission by 30 June 2017.
- (6) In accordance with Article 48(3) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014 in conjunction with Article 4(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 an extra amount of EUR 5 000 000 equivalent to the amount provided for Greece shall be provided to this cross-border cooperation programme.
- (7) In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 38(6) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, the monitoring committee on 17 October 2017 examined and approved in written procedure the proposal for the amendment to the cooperation programme and the transfer of the amount of EUR 10 000 000 taking into account the text of the revised cooperation programme and its revised financial plan.
- (8) The Commission assessed the revised cross-border cooperation programme and made observations on 20 November 2017 pursuant to Article 31(3) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014. A modified version of the revised cooperation programme was submitted on 12 December 2017.
- (9) The amended elements of the revised cooperation programme as well as the transfer of an amount of EUR 10 000 000 to this cooperation programme should therefore be approved.
- (10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014.
- (11) Implementing Decision C(2015) 5482 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2015) 5482 is amended as follows:

1. Article 2(1) is replaced by the following:

"1. The maximum amount of the European Union contribution for the implementation of the cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg-IPA CBC Greece – Albania 2014-2020" referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 45 965 222, to be financed from the following budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union:

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.

- (a) 13 05 63 01 (Cross-border cooperation (CBC) - Contribution from Heading 1b): EUR 22 982 611; and
- (b) 13 05 63 02 (Cross-border cooperation (CBC) - Contribution from Heading 4): EUR 22 982 611.

The European Union contribution for the implementation of the cross-border cooperation programme per year is set out in Annex II to this Decision. The commitments for the years 2019 and 2020 are indicative and dependent on the future annual budgets of the Union.";

- 2. Annex I is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision;
- 3. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision;
- 4. Annex III is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall be implemented by means of an amendment to the financing agreement concluded between the Commission, Greece and the Government of Albania.

The Director-General of the Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy is hereby mandated to sign the amendment to the financing agreement on behalf of the Commission.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Done at Brussels, 14.2.2018

For the Commission
Corina CREȚU
Member of the Commission