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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 21.12.2023

on the financing of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European Statistics and the adoption of the work programme for 2024-2027

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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) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014², and in particular Article 16 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics³, and in particular Article 17 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure implementation of the Programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's), the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme), it is necessary to adopt a multi-annual financing decision, which constitutes the multi-annual work programme for 2024-2027.
- (2) The European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency established by Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/173⁴ are to be entrusted with management and programme implementation tasks relating to the competitiveness of

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 1.

³ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/173 of 12 February 2021 establishing the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, the European Health and Digital Executive Agency, the European Research Executive Agency, the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, the European Research Council Executive Agency, and the European Education and Culture Executive Agency and repealing Implementing Decisions 2013/801/EU, 2013/771/EU, 2013/778/EU, 2013/779/EU, 2013/776/EU and 2013/770/EU (OJ L 50, 15.12.2021, p.9).

enterprises, particularly SMEs, supporting their access to markets; European standardisation (excluding in relation to financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards as well as the promotion of innovation and development of best practices in corporate reporting) and consumer protection.

- (3) The European Health and Digital Executive Agency established by Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/173 is to be entrusted with management and programme implementation tasks relating to the food chain, animal health and animal welfare, as well as to plant health and plant reproductive material.
- (4) In order to ensure the implementation of the Single Market Programme, it is necessary to adopt a multi-annual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme for 2024 to 2027 set out in Annex II and III.
- (5) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures⁵ adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty.
- (6) The work programme should contribute to climate and biodiversity mainstreaming in line with Commission Communication ‘The European Green Deal’ and in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources⁶. It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (7) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 (‘the Financial Regulation’), indirect management is to be used for the implementation of parts 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 the Financial Regulation. 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 that Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of that 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 the Financial Regulation.
- (10) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to determine changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (11) The measures provided for in Annex II to this Decision, which concern the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2), point (b) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690, improving the competitiveness of enterprises, particularly SMEs, are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 21(1) of that Regulation.
- (12) The measures provided for in Annex III to this Decision, which concern the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2), point (e), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690,

⁵ www.sanctionsmap.eu 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 the OJ prevails.

⁶ OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas, are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed.

- (13) The work programme implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2), point (f), of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 – producing and communicating high quality statistics on Europe in a timely, impartial and cost-efficient manner, through enhanced partnerships within the European Statistical System set out in Annex IV to this Decision was submitted to the European Statistical System Committee established by Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The work programmes

The multi-annual financing decision, constituting the following work programmes for the implementation of the Single Market Programme for years 2024 to 2027, as set out in the Annexes, is hereby adopted:

- the (annual) work programme implementing the specific objectives of making the internal market more effective, including for financial services, company law, anti-money laundering, contract and extra-contractual law, standardisation and support for competition policy, customs and taxation, and consumers and end-users in financial services as set out in Annex I.
- the (multi-annual) work programme implementing the specific objective of improving the competitiveness of enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, and supporting their access to markets as set out in Annex II.
 - the (multi-annual) work programme implementing the specific objective of contributing to a high level of health for humans, animals and plants along the food chain and in related areas as set out in Annex III.
 - the (annual) work programme implementing the specific objective of producing and communicating high quality statistics on Europe in a timely, impartial and cost-efficient manner, through enhanced partnerships within the European Statistical System as set out in Annex IV.

⁷ Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities (OJ L 87, 31.3.2009, p. 164).

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the Single Market Programme for 2023 is set at EUR 674 528 179 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union for 2024⁸:

- (a) budget line 03.020101 “Operation and development of the internal market of goods and services”: EUR 27 519 134;
- (b) budget line 03.020102 “Internal Market Governance Tools”: EUR 5 872 986;
- (c) budget line 03.020103 “Taxud regulatory work support – Implementation and development of the internal market”: EUR 3 400 000;
- (d) budget line 03.020104 “Company Law”: EUR 1 087 590;
- (e) budget line 03.020105 “Competition policy for a stronger union in the digital age”: EUR 20 714 964;
- (f) budget line 03.020106 “Implementation and development of the internal market for financial services”: EUR 5 655 468;
- (g) budget line 03.020107 “Market Surveillance”: EUR 15 308 088;
- (h) budget line 03.0202 “Improving the competitiveness of enterprises, particularly SMEs, and supporting their access to markets”: EUR 290 356 324;
- (i) budget line 03.020301 “European standardisation”: EUR 22 616 000;
- (j) budget line 03.020302 “International financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards”: EUR 10 004 792;
- (k) budget line 03.020402 “The participation of end users in financial services policy making”: EUR 1 498 140;
- (l) budget line 03.0205 “Producing and disseminating high quality statistics in Europe”: EUR 84 697 692;
- (m) budget line 03.0206 “Contributing to a high level of health and welfare for humans, animals and plants”: EUR 185 797 000;

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

The implementation of this Decision for the years 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 is subject to the availability of the appropriations as provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

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 the Annexes where such actions are included.

⁸ EUR 36,5 million in commitment appropriations for budget line 03.0202 are already accounted for in Financing Decision C(2021) 3046.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution as well as the increase of Union contribution for each budget line referred to in Article 2, first paragraph, of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officers responsible for the budget lines referred to in Article 2, first paragraph, may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph of this Article. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

The transfer between budget lines shall be agreed between authorising officers responsible for those lines.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annexes.

Done at Brussels, 21.12.2023

For the Commission
Thierry BRETON
Member of the Commission