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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 12.2.2019**

**amending Commission Decision C(2015) 9488 approving the cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia" for the years 2014-2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)**

**CCI 2014TC16I5CB001**

(ONLY THE HUNGARIAN 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 on the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 2(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 9488, as amended by Commission Decision C(2017) 6126, the cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg IPA CBC Hungary-Serbia" for the years 2014-2020 was approved.
- (2) On 15 August 2018 Hungary, on behalf of Hungary and Serbia, submitted a request for an amendment to the cooperation programme.
- (3) The request was accompanied by a revised cooperation programme, in which Hungary proposed an amendment to the elements of the cooperation programme referred to in Article 34(1) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014<sup>2</sup> in conjunction with Article 8(2)(a) and (b)(iv) and (v), Article 8(2)(d)(ii) and Article 8(4)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013<sup>3</sup> subject to Implementing Decision C(2015) 9488.
- (4) The amendments consist mainly in shifting allocations between priority axes. In particular, the allocation increases for priority axes 2 "Decreasing the bottlenecks of cross-border traffic" and 3 "Encouraging tourism and cultural heritage", the allocation decreases for priority axes 1 "Improving cross-border water management and risk prevention" and 4 "Enhancing SME's economic competitiveness through innovation driven development". In consequence, final values for some output indicators are increased.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

<sup>2</sup> 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 L132, 03.05.2014, p. 32).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1299/2013 of the European Parliament and of 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 344, 20.12.2013, p. 259).

- (5) The amendments relate also to the modification of final values of the financial indicators included in the performance framework.
- (6) The amendments also concern an update of the information on the programme authorities.
- (7) In accordance with Article 31(5) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, the request for amendment to the cooperation programme is duly substantiated by the fact that priority axes 2 and 3 attracted the biggest interest from the stakeholders and that the objectives of priority axes 1 and 4 will be met also with a decreased allocation. Concerning the modification of the performance framework, the milestone values of the financial indicators were calculated on the basis of wrong assumptions used when the methodology for the performance framework was originally set. The request for amendment also 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<sup>4</sup>.
- (8) In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 38(6) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, the monitoring committee, by written procedure of 31 July 2018, approved the proposal for the amendment to the cooperation programme taking into account the text of the revised cooperation programme and its financing plan.
- (9) The Commission assessed the revised cooperation programme and made observations pursuant to Article 31(3) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014. Hungary submitted a modified version of the revised cooperation programme on 4 December 2018.
- (10) The amended elements of the revised cooperation programme should therefore be approved.
- (11) Implementing Decision C(2015) 9488 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

Annex I of Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 9488 is replaced by the text set out in Annex I to this Decision.

#### *Article 2*

Annex III of Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 9488 is replaced by the text set out in Annex II to this Decision.

#### *Article 3*

This Decision shall be implemented by means of an amendment to the Financing Agreement concluded between the Commission and the Republic of Serbia.

The Director-General of the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy is hereby mandated to sign the amendment to the Financing Agreement of behalf of the Commission.

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 on establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p.11).

*Article 4*

This Decision is addressed to Hungary.

Done at Brussels, 12.2.2019

*For the Commission*

*Corina CREȚU*

*Member of the Commission*

