



Brussels, 8.10.2019
C(2019) 7322 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 8.10.2019

amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 5655 approving the cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg-IPA CBC Greece – The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" for the years 2014-2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)

CCI 2014TC16I5CB009

(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,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementation Decision C(2015) 5655, the cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg-IPA CBC Greece – The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" was adopted.
- (2) On 15 February 2019, the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia formally notified the Commission about the entry into force of the Prespa Agreement, which establishes the new name for the country, "Republic of North Macedonia", and the short name "North Macedonia".
- (3) On 5 July 2019, Greece on behalf of Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia ('the participating country') submitted a request for an amendment to the cooperation programme.
- (4) 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 447/2014², concerning the change of the name of one participating country, from "The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" to "Republic of North Macedonia".
- (5) 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 substantiated by the agreement between Greece and the Republic of North Macedonia on the name of the latter, and sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive

¹ OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 95.

² 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).

growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014³.

- (6) In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 38(6) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014, the joint monitoring committee on 22 April 2019, examined and approved in written procedure the proposal for the amendment to the cooperation programme taking into account the name change of the revised cooperation programme.
- (7) The Commission assessed the revised cooperation programme and did not make observations pursuant to Article 31(3) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 447/2014.
- (8) The amended elements of the revised cooperation programme should therefore be approved.
- (9) The measures provided for in this Decision do not fall in the categories of measures for which the opinion of the Committee set up by Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 is required. The IPA II Committee should, however be informed of this Decision within one month following its adoption.
- (10) Implementing Decision C(2015) 5655 should therefore be amended accordingly.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2015) 5655 is amended as follows:

1. The title of the cooperation programme is modified as follows: "Interreg-IPA CBC Greece – the Republic of North Macedonia";
2. The title of the decision is modified as follows: "Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 5655 approving the cross-border cooperation programme "Interreg-IPA CBC Greece – the Republic of North Macedonia" for the years 2014-2020 under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)";
3. Annex I 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 between the Commission, Greece and the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia.

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.

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).

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Done at Brussels, 8.10.2019

For the Commission
Johannes HAHN
Member of the Commission