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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 13.12.2022**

**approving the cooperation programme “(Interreg VI-B) NEXT Black Sea Basin” for support from the European Regional Development Fund, the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania with the participation of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Türkiye and Ukraine**

**CCI 2021TC16NXTN002**

(ONLY THE BULGARIAN, GREEK AND ROMANIAN TEXTS ARE 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) 2021/1059 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 18(4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 30 June 2022 Romania on behalf of Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Türkiye and Ukraine which have agreed on the content of the cooperation programme pursuant to Article 16(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 (‘the participating Member States and partner countries’) submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, the cooperation programme “(Interreg VI-B) NEXT Black Sea Basin” for support from the European Regional Development Fund (‘ERDF’), the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (‘IPA III’) and the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (‘NDICI’) under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) in the participating Member States and with the participation of partner countries.
- (2) In accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the programme supports a programme area from the list set out in Annex II to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/75<sup>2</sup>.
- (3) The programme was prepared by the participating Member States and partner countries in cooperation with the partners referred to in Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 94.

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/75 of 17 January 2022 setting out the list of Interreg programme areas to receive support from the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments of the Union, broken down by strand and Interreg programme under the European territorial cooperation goal (OJ L 12, 19.1.2022, p. 164).

- (4) The programme contains all the elements referred to in Article 17(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 and has been prepared in accordance with the model set out in the Annex to that Regulation.
- (5) The thematic priorities of the relevant macro-regional and sea basins strategies have been taken into account and the relevant actors have been consulted pursuant to Article 16(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059.
- (6) The Commission has assessed the consistency of the programme with the multi-annual strategy document pursuant to Article 18(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059 and with Regulations (EU) 2021/947<sup>4</sup> and (EU) 2021/1529<sup>5</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- (7) In accordance with Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, the Commission assessed the cooperation programme and made observations pursuant to paragraph 2 of that Article on 18 August 2022. Romania provided supplementary information and submitted a revised cooperation programme on 22 November 2022.
- (8) The Commission concluded that the programme complies with Regulation (EU) 2021/1059.
- (9) Pursuant to Article 50 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, this Decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 110(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>6</sup> with regard to the ERDF and the support by IPA III and NDICI under shared management. It is necessary to specify the elements needed to make the budgetary commitments with respect to the programme in this Decision.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 112(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, it is necessary to fix, for each year, the amount of the total financial appropriations envisaged for the support from the Interreg funds and, for each priority, the co-financing rate and the maximum of support from the Funds. It is also necessary to specify whether the co-financing rate for the priority applies to total contribution, including public and private contribution, or to public contribution.
- (11) As the total ERDF allocation to this programme is below EUR 30 000 000, the amount needed for technical assistance expressed in EUR and the resulting percentage should be fixed pursuant to Article 27(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059.

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<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1).

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1).

<sup>6</sup> 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 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

(12) Pursuant to Article 59 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1059, in order to implement an Interreg programme in a third country, partner country or OCT, in accordance with Article 112(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, a financing agreement should be concluded between the Commission, representing the Union, and each participating third country, partner country or OCT represented in accordance with its national legal framework.

(13) The cooperation programme should therefore be approved,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

The cooperation programme “(Interreg VI-B) NEXT Black Sea Basin” for support from the ERDF, IPA III and NDICI under the European territorial cooperation goal (Interreg) in Bulgaria, Greece and Romania with the participation of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Türkiye and Ukraine for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027, submitted in its final version on 22 November 2022, is hereby approved.

#### *Article 2*

1. The maximum amount of support from the Interreg funds for each year is set out in Annex I.
2. The maximum amount of support for the programme is set at EUR 65 047 623, to be financed from the following specific budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2022:  
05 02 01 00.06: EUR 14 552 489 (ERDF - ETC – contribution to programmes in the area of European Neighbourhood Policy 2021-2027);  
14 02 01 12: EUR 40 995 134 (NDICI);  
15 02 03 00: EUR 9 500 000 (IPA III).
3. The co-financing rate for each priority is set out in Annex II. The co-financing rate for each priority shall apply to total contribution, including public and private contribution.
4. The amount needed for technical assistance is set at EUR 5 913 420 which results in 10% of the ERDF, IPA III and NDICI contribution (without technical assistance).

#### *Article 3*

The Director-General of the Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy is hereby mandated to sign the financing agreement to be concluded with the Governments of Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Türkiye and Ukraine on behalf of the Commission.

*Article 4*

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Bulgaria, the Hellenic Republic and Romania.

Done at Brussels, 13.12.2022

*For the Commission*  
*Elisa FERREIRA*  
*Member of the Commission*