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Subject: COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION amending the Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Belgium

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of ...

**amending the Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021
on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Belgium**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility¹, and in particular Article 20(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

¹ OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/241/oj>.

Whereas:

- (1) Following the submission of the national recovery and resilience plan ('RRP') by Belgium on 30 April 2021, the Commission proposed its positive assessment to the Council. On 13 July 2021, the Council approved the positive assessment by means of an implementing decision ('the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021')². The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 was amended by Council implementing decisions of 8 December 2023³, 10 December 2024⁴, 18 February 2025⁵, 11 March 2025⁶ and 20 June 2025⁷.
- (2) On 10 June 2025, Belgium made a reasoned request to the Commission to make a proposal to amend the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 in accordance with Article 21(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 on the grounds that the RRP is partially no longer achievable because of objective circumstances. On that basis, Belgium has submitted an amended RRP.

Amendments based on Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241

- (3) The amendments to the RRP submitted by Belgium because of objective circumstances concern 13 measures.

² See documents ST 10161/21 and ST 10161/21 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

³ See documents ST 15570/23 and ST 15570/23 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁴ See documents ST 15974/24 and ST 15974/24 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁵ See documents ST 5654/25 and ST 5654/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁶ See documents ST 6545/25 and ST 6545/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁷ See documents ST 9584/25 and ST 9584/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

- (4) Belgium has explained that 13 measures have been amended in order to implement better alternatives that allow the administrative burden to be reduced while still achieving the objectives of those measures. This concerns milestone 42 of investment I-1.24 (Blue Deal) under component 1.3 (Climate and Environment); the description of investment I-2.01 (‘Cybersecurity and resilient digital society’ of the Federal State) and target 46 of investment I-2.01 under component 2.1 (Cybersecurity); milestone 82 of investment I-2.14 (Development of an AI Institute in order to use this technology to meet societal challenges) under component 2.3 (Optic Fibre, 5G, and new technologies); target 99 of investment I-3.07 (‘Metro extension’ of the Walloon Region) and of investment I-3.08 (‘Smart road signals’ of the Walloon Region) under component 3.2 (Modal Shift); the description of reform R-3.05 (‘Charging Stations – RBC’ of the Brussels-Capital Region) and targets 121, 122 and 123 of reform R-3.05 under component 3.3 (Greening road transport); the description of measure R-4.06 (‘An inclusive labour market’ of Flemish Community) under component 4.2 (Training and employment of vulnerable groups); the description of measure I-4.07 (‘Re-qualification strategy’ of the Brussels Capital Region) and milestone 143 of investment 143 under component 4.2 (Training and employment of vulnerable groups); the description of measure R-5.03 (‘Learning account’ of the Federal State) under component 5.1 (Training and labour market); the description of measure R-6.01 (‘Spending reviews’ of the Federal State) and the description of measure R-6.05 (‘Spending reviews’ of the French Community) under component 6.1 (Spending Reviews); and milestone 228 of reform R-7.02 (‘Reform of the Appeal procedures of the Council of State’ of the Federal State) under component 7.3 (Renewable energy). On this basis, Belgium has requested that the aforementioned milestones, targets and measure descriptions be amended. Furthermore, Belgium has requested that the implementation timeline for milestone 226 under measure I-7.15 (‘Backbone for H2’) of the Federal State under component 7.2 (New emerging energy technologies) be extended. The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

- (5) The Commission considers that the reasons put forward by Belgium justify the amendments pursuant to Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241. The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

Distribution of milestones and targets

- (6) The distribution of milestones and targets in instalments should be amended to take into account the amendments to the RRP and the indicative timeline presented by Belgium.

Correction of clerical errors

- (7) One clerical error has been identified in the text of the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021, affecting one measure under one component. The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended to correct that clerical error, which does not reflect the content of the RRP submitted to the Commission on 30 April 2021, as agreed between the Commission and Belgium. That clerical error relates to the description of measure v1 (Description of the reforms and investments for non-repayable financial support) under component V (Audit and Control). The correction does not affect the implementation of the measures concerned.

Commission's assessment

- (8) The Commission has assessed the amended RRP against the assessment criteria laid down in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.
- (9) The Commission considers that the amendments put forward by Belgium do not affect the positive assessment of the RRP set out in the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 regarding the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the RRP against the assessment criteria laid down in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.

Positive assessment

- (10) Following the positive assessment by the Commission of the amended RRP, with the finding that the RRP satisfactorily complies with the criteria for assessment set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/241, in accordance with Article 20(2) of and Annex V to that Regulation, the reforms and investment projects necessary for the implementation of the amended RRP, the relevant milestones, targets and indicators, and the amount made available from the Union for the implementation of the amended RRP in the form of non-repayable financial support should be set out.

Financial contribution

- (11) The estimated total cost of Belgium's amended RRP is EUR 5 279 567 854. As the amount of the estimated total cost of the amended RRP is higher than the updated maximum financial contribution available for Belgium, the financial contribution determined in accordance with Article 4a of Regulation (EU) 2021/1755 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸ and with Article 20(4) and Article 21a(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 that is allocated for Belgium's amended RRP should be equal to EUR 5 033 950 235. Therefore, the financial contribution made available to Belgium remains unchanged.

Loans

- (12) The loan support made available to Belgium amounting to EUR 244 200 000 remains unchanged.
- (13) The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should therefore be amended accordingly. For the sake of clarity, the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be replaced entirely,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/1755 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 October 2021 establishing the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (OJ L 357, 8.10.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1755/oj>).

Article 1

The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Belgium is amended as follows:

- (1) Article 1 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 1

Approval of the assessment of the RRP

The assessment of the amended RRP of Belgium on the basis of the criteria provided for in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 is approved. The reforms and investment projects under the RRP, the arrangements and timetable for the monitoring and implementation of the RRP, including the relevant milestones and targets and the additional milestones and targets related to the payment of the loan, the relevant indicators relating to the fulfilment of the envisaged milestones and targets, and the arrangements for providing full access by the Commission to the underlying relevant data are set out in the Annex to this Decision.’;

- (2) the Annex is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President
