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To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

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Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION amending Implementing Decision (EU) (ST 10687/21 INIT; ST 10687/21 ADD 1) of 28 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Croatia

Delegations will find attached document COM(2025) 648 final.

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Brussels, 22.10.2025
COM(2025) 648 final

2025/0328 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

**amending Implementing Decision (EU) (ST 10687/21 INIT; ST 10687/21 ADD 1) of 28
July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for
Croatia**

{SWD(2025) 340 final}

Proposal for a

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

amending Implementing Decision (EU) (ST 10687/21 INIT; ST 10687/21 ADD 1) of 28 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Croatia

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,

Whereas:

- (1) Following the submission of the national recovery and resilience plan ('RRP') by Croatia on 8 July 2021, the Commission proposed its positive assessment to the Council. On 28 July 2021, the Council approved the positive assessment by means of an implementing decision ('the Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021')². The Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 was amended by Council Implementing Decisions of 8 December 2023³ and 20 June 2025⁴.
- (2) On 7 October 2025, Croatia made a reasoned request to the Commission to make a proposal to amend the Council Implementing Decision of 28 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, Croatia has submitted an amended RRP.

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

- (3) The amendments to the RRP submitted by Croatia because of objective circumstances concern 151 measures.
- (4) Croatia has explained that seven measures are partially no longer achievable, because of the high cost increases. This concerns C3.1-R1-I1 Construction, upgrading, reconstruction and equipping of ECEC facilities, C3.1-R1-I2 Construction, upgrading, reconstruction and equipping of primary schools for single shift full-day teaching,

¹ OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/241/oj>

² See documents ST 10687/21 INIT; ST 10687/21 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>

³ See documents ST 15834/23 COR 1 ADD 1 REV 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>

⁴ See documents ST 9586/25 INIT; ST 9586/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>

C3.1-R1-I4 Construction, upgrading, reconstruction and equipping of primary schools for single shift full-day teaching, C7.1-R1-I1 Hydrogen use and new technologies, C7.1-R1-I2 Establishment of a hydrogen-based economy (through the North Adriatic Hydrogen Valley), C7.1-R1-I4 Strengthening the use of renewable energy sources in transport and heating, C7.1-R1-I5 Biorefinery for the production of advanced biofuels Sisak. On this basis, Croatia has requested that those measures be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

- (5) Croatia has explained that four measures are no longer achievable, because of the of the high cost increases. This concerns C1.4 R2-I2 Modernisation of the railway line M604 Oštarije – Knin – Split, C1.4 R2-I5 Replacement of freight wagon brake pads in order to reduce noise, C1.4-R3-I4 Equipping ports and harbours with waste management infrastructure, C 5.1- R4-I6 Waste management at Clinical Hospital Centre KBC Zagreb. On this basis, Croatia has requested to remove the aforementioned measures. The Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.
- (6) Croatia has explained that four measures are partially no longer achievable, because of the lack of demand. This concerns C1.4-R2-I7 Modernisation of the IT and sales system, C1.6-R1-I2 Strengthening the competitiveness of entrepreneurs and fostering the green and digital transition of the tourism sector, C2.3-R4-I1 Implementation of projects under the National Framework Programme for the Development of Broadband Infrastructure in areas where there is insufficient commercial interest in investment, C3.1-R1-I3 Construction, upgrading, refurbishment and equipping of secondary schools. On this basis, Croatia has requested that those measures be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.
- (7) Croatia has explained that one measure is no longer achievable, because of the lack of demand. This concerns C1.5-R2-I1 Agricultural land consolidation. On this basis, Croatia has requested to remove the aforementioned measure. The Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.
- (8) Croatia has explained that one measure is partially no longer achievable, because of the consequences of earthquakes in 2020 which damaged the court buildings. This concerns C2.5-R1 Increasing the efficiency of the justice system to increase citizens' trust. On this basis, Croatia has requested to amend the aforementioned measure. The Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.
- (9) Croatia has explained that one measure has been amended to implement better alternatives in order to achieve its original ambition. This concerns and C7.2-I2 Renovation of buildings damaged in earthquakes with energy renovation. On this basis, Croatia has requested to amend the aforementioned measure. As those circumstances justify an amendment of the measure, the Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.
- (10) Croatia has explained that 133 measures have been amended to implement better alternatives that allow the administrative burden to be reduced and simplify the Council Implementing Decision, while still achieving the objectives of those measures. This concerns C1.1.1-R1-I1 Digitalisation of government and public administration services provided to the business sector (G2B), C1.1.1-R1-I2 Continuing administrative and fiscal burden relief, R4-I1 Support to enterprises for the transition to an energy- and resource efficient economy, C1.1.1-R4-I2 Financial instrument for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, C1.1.1-R4-I3 Financial

instrument for mid-cap and large enterprises, C1.1.1-R4-I4 Financial instrument for public sector entities, C1.1.1-R6-I1 Transforming and strengthening the competitiveness of cultural and creative industries, C1.1.1-R6-I2 Establishment of media fact-checking and public disclosure system, C1.1.1-R2 Continuing the reform of regulated professions, C1.1.1-R3 Advancing the strategic framework for the promotion of private investment, C1.1.1-R5 Diversifying capital markets and improving access to alternative financing, C1.1.1-R7 Establishing the Sustainable Finance Support Forum, C1.1.2-R2-I2 Investing in the management capacity of small and medium-sized enterprises, C1.1.2-R2-I3 Start-up grant funding, C1.1.2-R2-I4 Strengthening Enhancing Accelerating Activities, C1.1.2-R2-I5 Commercialisation of innovation projects, C1.1.2-R3-I2 Digitalization vouchers, C1.1.2-R3-I3 Grants for digitalisations, C1.1.2-R1 Reform of the R&D incentive system, C1.2-R1-I1 Revitalising, building and digitising the energy system and supporting infrastructure to decarbonise the energy sector, C1.2-R1-I2 Fostering energy efficiency, heat and renewable energy to decarbonise the energy sector, C1.2-R1 Decarbonisation of the energy sector, C1.3-R1 Implementation of the water management programme, C1.3-R1-I1 Public sewage development programme, C1.3-R1-I2 Public water supply development programme, C1.3-R1-I3 Disaster risk reduction programme, C1.3-R2-I1 Waste disposal reduction programme, C1.3-R2-I2 Remediation programme for closed landfills and sites contaminated with hazardous waste, C1.3-R3 Further implementation of the water management programme, C1.3R-R3-I1 Further investments into the public sewage development programme, C1.3-R3-I2 Further investments into the public water supply development programme, C1.3-R2 Implementation of sustainable waste management, C1.4-R1-I1 Electronic tolling system, C1.4-R1-I3 National road transport electronic storage and data exchange system (NSCP), C1.4-R1-I5 Monitoring of Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road (e-ADR), C1.4-R2-I3 Removing “bottlenecks” on railway infrastructure, C1.4-R2-I6 Use of green technologies in rail passenger transport, C1.4-R3-I1 Modernisation programme for ports open to public traffic, C1.4-R4-I1 Procurement of alternative-fuel-powered vehicles for public urban and suburban regular transport, C1.4-R4-I2 Modernisation of tram fleet, C1.4-R5-I1 Electrification and greening of the ground handling and power supply system at the Zadar airport, C1.4-R5-I2 Research, development and production of new mobility vehicles and supporting infrastructure, C1.4-R5-I3 Co-financing programme for the purchase of new alternative fuel vehicles and the development of alternative fuel infrastructures in road transport, C1.4-R2 Reform of the railway sector, C1.5-R1-I1 Construction and equipping of logistic and distribution centres for fruit and vegetables, C1.5-R1-I2 Strengthening the position and visibility of producers in the food supply chain, C1.5-R2-I2 Agricultural Land Monitoring Programme, C1.5-R3-I2 Smart Agriculture, C1.6-R1-I1 Regional diversification and specialization of Croatian tourism through investments in the development of high added value tourism products, C1.6-R1-I3 Strengthening system capacity for resilient and sustainable tourism, C2.1-R1-I1 Optimisation, standardisation and digitalisation of processes for strategic planning and impact assessment of public policies, C2.1-R1-I2 Strengthening capacity in strategic planning and better regulation, C2.1-R2-I1 Provide assistance to beneficiaries in the preparation of technical tender project-technical documentation, C2.1-R1 Strengthening mechanisms for the integration and management of public policies with the professionalisation of strategic planning, C2.2-R3-I1 Deployment of digital infrastructure and public administration services by developing a conservation basis system, C2.2-R3-I2 Improving digital public sector infrastructure and services by developing the National Archive Information System and strengthening the national

archives network, C2.2-R4-I1 Further optimisation and decentralisation of local and regional government units through support for functional and actual mergers, C2.3-R2-I1 Establishment of a central interoperability system, C2.3-R3-I1 Upgrading the Shared Services Centre, C2.3-R3-I6 Investment in State information infrastructure networks, C2.3-R3-I7 Improvement of the system of spatial planning, construction and state assets through digitisation, C2.3-R3-I10 Digitalisation and computerisation of the CES (eHZZ), C2.3-R3-I11 ICT support modernisation of HZMO (eHZMO), C2.3-R3-I12 Digitalisation of the HZMO archives (eArhiva), C2.3-R3-I13 Digital transformation of the Tax Administration, C2.3-R3-I15 Setting up tourism application solutions with the aim of administratively relieving entrepreneurs and transforming the tourism model towards sustainability, C2.3-R3-I16 Digitalisation of processes in sport and recreation at local and regional level, C2.3-R3-I17 Establishment of the Register of Population, Family and Households, C2.3-R4-I2 Construction of passive electronic communications infrastructure, C2.4-R2 Improving corporate governance in state-owned enterprises of particular interest to the Republic of Croatia and in majority-owned enterprises of central government, C2.4-R3 Strengthening human capacity to monitor corporate governance in state-owned enterprises, C2.4-R4 Continuing reducing the number of state-owned enterprises which are not of particular interest to Croatia, C2.4-R5 Optimisation of State-owned property management, C2.5-R1-I2 Improvement of land register information system and cadastre, C2.5-R1-I4 Design and implementation of the Zagreb Justice Square project to improve access to justice and efficiency of commercial procedures and administrative disputes, C2.5-R1-I6 Stable and resilient IT infrastructure for the Justice Information System, C2.5-R1-I7 Design and implementation of the Zagreb Justice Square project to improve access to justice and efficiency of commercial procedures and administrative disputes, C2.6-R1-I1 Engaging the general public in the fight against corruption by raising public awareness about the harmfulness of corruption, the necessity of prevention and legal protection of reporting persons, C2.6-R1-I4 Supporting efficiency in the fight against corruption and organised crime, C2.6-R1 Increasing the efficiency, coherence and openness of authorities in the fight against corruption through digitalisation, enhancing transparency and improving coordination, C2.6-R3 Improving corporate governance in majority-owned companies of local and regional government units, C2.8-R4 Enhancing anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing supervision based on a risk assessment in the financial sector in Croatia, C2.9-R2 Strengthening the review system in public procurement, C2.9-R3 Innovative Procurement, C3.1-R1 Structural reform of the education system, C3.1-R2-I1 Digital transformation of higher education, C3.2-R1-I1 Development of a system of programme agreements for funding universities and research institutes focused on innovation, research and development, C3.2-R2-I1 Development of an enabling model for researchers' career progression and conducting cutting-edge scientific research in STEM and ICT fields, C3.2-R2-I2 Investing in research – technology infrastructure in STEM and ICT fields, C3.2-R3-I1 Introducing a more functional research, development and innovation project funding programming framework, C4.1-R1 Development and implementation of new targeted active labour market policies for the purposes of green and digital transition of the labour market, C4.1-R2 Strengthening of the system of inclusion and monitoring of vulnerable groups in the labour market through improvements of the employment service processes, C4.1-R3-I1 Implementation of vouchers for adult education, training and upskilling, C4.2-R1 Increasing pension adequacy through continued pension reform, C4.3-R1-I1 Improving the digitalisation of the social benefits system between the national and local levels, C4.3-R2-I1 Introduction of social mentoring services, C4.3-R3-I4 Construction and equipping of centres for the

elderly care (home and community based services and institutional services), C4.3-R1 Transparency and adequacy of social benefits in the social protection system, C5.1-R1-I1 Introduction of mobile pharmacies into primary care, C5.1-IR1-I2 Mobile outpatient care units, C5.1-R1-I3 Construction and equipping of clinical insulation units (3, 4 and 1/5 of buildings) Infectious Disease Clinic ‘Dr Fran Mihaljević’, C5.1-R1-I5 Construction and fitting out of the General Hospital ‘OB Varaždin’ central operating block, C5.1-R1-I9 Development of Clinical Hospital Centre ‘KBC Zagreb’, Stage III – equipping with medical and non-medical equipment, C5.1-R2-I1 Purchase of equipment for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients, C5.1-R2-I2 Acquisition and implementation of equipment for the establishment of the National Oncological Network and National Oncological Database, C5.1-R3-I1 Central funding for specialisations, C5.1-R3-I2 Specialist training of nurses and technicians in emergency medicine, C5.1-R4-I1 Central preparation of parenteral preparations in 8 Croatian hospitals, C5.1-R4-I2 Introduction of a unit therapy distribution system in 40 Croatian hospitals, C5.1-R4-I3 Digitising the medicine tracking through healthcare institutions at secondary and tertiary levels of healthcare, C5.1-R4-I4 Development of a medicines shortages monitoring and prevention system in Croatia, C5.1-R4-I5 Introducing a treatment outcome monitoring system for outpatient care with a focus on chronic patients in public pharmacies, C5.1-R2 Introducing a new care model for key health challenges, C6.1-R1-I1 Energy renovation of buildings, C6.1-R1-I3 Energy renovation of buildings with the status of a cultural good, C6.1-R4-I1 Seismological data network development, C6.1-R2 Developing a framework for ensuring adequate skills in the context of green jobs needed for post-earthquake reconstruction, C6.1-R3 Increasing efficiency, reduction of administrative burden and digitalisation of the renovation process, C6.1-R4 Modernisation and integration of seismic data for the renovation process and planning of future construction and monitoring of public infrastructure, C6.1-R5 Introduction of a new model of green urban renewal strategies and implementation of a pilot project for the development of green infrastructure and the circular management of buildings and space, C6.1-R6 Pilot project for the establishment and implementation of systematic management energy and the development of a new financing model, C6.1-R7 Circular use of construction waste from buildings with the status of a cultural good: a pilot project exploring exchange and trade possibilities, C7.1-I1 Scaled-up measure: Procurement of alternative-fuel-powered vehicles for public urban and suburban regular transport, C7.1-I2 Scaled-up measure: Co-financing programme for the purchase of new alternative fuel vehicles and the development of alternative fuel infrastructures in road transport, C7.1-I3 Increasing the capacity of the LNG terminal on the island of Krk and strengthening the gas infrastructure, C7.1-R1-I3 Strengthening the use of renewable energy sources in transport and heating, C7.1-R1-I6 Strengthening the transmission and distribution capacities of the electricity network, C7.1-R1 Scaled-up measure: Decarbonisation of the energy sector, C7.2-I1 Scaled-up measure: Energy renovation of buildings, C7.2-R1 Scaled-up measure: Increasing efficiency, reduction of administrative burden and digitalisation of the renovation process, C7.2-R2 Scaled-up measure: Introduction of a new model of green urban renewal strategies and implementation of a pilot project for the development of green infrastructure and the circular management of buildings and space, C7.2-R3 Scaled-up measure: Introduction of a new model of green urban renewal strategies and implementation of a pilot project for the development of green infrastructure and the circular management of buildings and space, C7.2-R4 Introduction of a new model for the preparation, organisation and implementation of adult learning programmes aimed at developing green skills and competences in the construction sector and appropriate modules to encourage successful integration to the

sector for workers from third countries. On this basis, Croatia has requested that those measures be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

- (11) Following the removal of five measures and decrease in the level of implementation of measures in accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, Croatia has requested to use the resources freed up by the removal of measures and decrease in the level of their implementation to add three new measures. This concerns C1.1.1-R4-I5 Equity Injection into HBOR to Support Strategic Digital Investments and Strategic Green Investments, C1.1.1-R4-I6 Investment - Equity Injection into HBOR to Support Strategic Defence and Security Investments, C7.2 – I3 Renovation of buildings damaged in earthquakes with energy renovation. On this basis, Croatia has requested that three new measures be added.

Commission's assessment

- (12) The Commission has assessed the amended RRP against the assessment criteria laid down in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.
- (13) The Commission considers that the amendments put forward by Croatia do not affect the positive assessment of the RRP set out in the Council Implementing Decision of 28 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 points (a), (b), (db), (g), (h), (j) and (k).

Contribution to growth potential, job creation and economic, social and institutional resilience

- (14) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (c), of and Annex V, criterion 2.3, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the amended RRP is expected to have a high impact (rating A) on strengthening the growth potential, job creation, and economic, social and institutional resilience of Croatia.
- (15) The amendments to the contribution to economic, social and institutional resilience relate to the allocation for the new measures C1.1.1-R4-I5 Equity Injection into HBOR to Support Strategic Digital Investments and Strategic Green Investments and C1.1.1-R4-I6 Investment - Equity Injection into HBOR to Support Strategic Defence and Security Investments, notably by including measures to support the growth potential by structurally adjusting the level of public support available to address market failures.

Do no significant harm

- (16) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (d), of and Annex V, criterion 2.4, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the amended RRP is expected to ensure that no measure (rating A) for the implementation of reforms and investments projects included in the RRP does significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵ (the principle of 'do no significant harm').
- (17) The modified plan assesses compliance with the 'do no significant harm' principle following the methodology set out in the Commission's technical guidance on the

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/852/oj/eng>).

application of ‘do no significant harm’ under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation (2021/C58/01). Changes introduced in measures through the modification of the RRP do not affect the assessment carried out for the original version of the RRP. The information provided allows to conclude that the modified plan is expected to ensure that no measure does significant harm within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.

Contribution to the REPowerEU objectives

- (18) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (da), of and Annex V, criterion 2.12, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the REPowerEU chapter is expected to effectively contribute to a large extent (rating A) to energy security, the diversification of the Union’s energy supply, an increase in the uptake of renewables and in energy efficiency, an increase of energy storage capacities or the necessary reduction of dependence on fossil fuels before 2030.
- (19) Despite Croatia’s request to remove or decrease the level of their implementation of three measures, the REPowerEU chapter is still coherent with Croatia’s policy framework aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the share of renewable energy sources. The measures also reinforce those included in the original RRP on promoting energy efficiency, zero-emission transport, and increasing the share of renewables.

Contribution to the green transition including biodiversity

- (20) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (e), of and Annex V, criterion 2.5, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the amended RRP contains measures that contribute to a large extent (rating A) to the green transition, including biodiversity, or to addressing the challenges resulting therefrom. The measures supporting climate objectives account for an amount which represents 37.10 % of the amended RRP’s total allocation and 60.53 % of the total estimated costs of measures in the REPowerEU chapter calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in Annex VI to Regulation (EU) 2021/241. In accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the amended RRP is consistent with the information included in the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030.
- (21) Overall, due to the differing climate tagging content of the increased measure and the decreased measures, the amendments to Croatia’s RRP entail a net decrease in the overall contribution to the climate target of the RRP by 1.46 percentage points to 37.10 % from 38.56%. Despite the reduction, the measures removed or reduced do not impact the overall ambition of the plan regarding the green transition. The measures of the plan are still expected to have a lasting impact by accelerating the phase-out of fossil fuels towards a durable renewable energy system in Croatia. They are expected to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate the uptake of renewable energy in Croatia and thus contribute to the attainment of the 2030 climate targets and the objective of the Union climate neutrality by 2050.

Contribution to the digital transition

- (22) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (f), of and Annex V, criterion 2.6, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the amended RRP contains measures that contribute to a large extent (rating A) to the digital transition or to addressing the challenges resulting from it. The measures supporting digital objectives account for an amount which represents 21.07% of the amended RRP’s total allocation calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in Annex VII to that Regulation.

- (23) Overall, due to the differing digital tagging content of the increased measure and the decreased measures, the amendments to Croatia's RRP entail a net increase in the overall contribution to the digital target of the RRP by 0.85 percentage points to 21.07% from 20.22%. The modified RRP continues to significantly contribute to the digital transition, including by increasing digitalisation of the public administration and enterprises, increasing the number of digital services for citizens and business as well as investments in e-health and digitalisation of transport sector.

Costing

- (24) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (i), of and Annex V, criterion 2.9, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the justification provided in the amended RRP on the amount of the estimated total cost of the RRP is to a medium extent (rating B) reasonable and plausible, is in line with the principle of cost efficiency and is commensurate to the expected national economic and social impact.
- (25) Croatia has provided individual cost estimates for the modified and new investments and reforms with an associated cost included in the modified RRP, relying on several sources to justify them. These include calls of interest specifically launched for the purposes of the RRP, procurement contracts referring to similar services or past investments of similar nature. Additionally, Croatia provided, for the equity injections, information on costs to be allocated as well as information on management costs and fees. The cost information provided by Croatia is sufficiently detailed and substantiated. Croatia provided estimates and assumptions on costs using the standard template table, which was intended to summarize the key information and evidence on costing, including the methodology underlying the cost calculations. These documents include descriptions and explanations of the main drivers and changes in the costs of the modified measures and their proportionality.
- (26) The amount of the estimated total costs of the RRP is in line with the nature and type of the envisaged reforms and investments. As a result, cost estimates for all measures in the RRP are deemed plausible to either a high or medium extent. Croatia has provided sufficient information and evidence that the amount of the estimated total costs is not covered by existing or planned Union financing. Finally, the estimated total cost of the RRP is in line with the principle of cost-efficiency and commensurate to the expected national economic and social impact.

Measures supporting investment operations contributing to the objectives of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

- (27) In accordance with Article 4(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)⁶, Croatia considered as a matter of priority projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal pursuant to Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2024/795. However, Croatia considered that no project having been awarded a Sovereignty Seal was to be included in the amended RRP because the projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal do not cover the areas that have been upscaled with this revision.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), and amending Directive 2003/87/EC and Regulations (EU) 2021/1058, (EU) 2021/1056, (EU) 2021/1057, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) 2021/1060, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697 and (EU) 2021/241

Positive assessment

- (28) 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 should be set out.

Financial contribution

- (29) The estimated total costs of Croatia's amended RRP is EUR 10 040 701 600. As the amount of the estimated total cost of the amended RRP is higher than the updated maximum financial contribution available for Croatia, the financial contribution determined in accordance with Article 4a of Regulation (EU) 2021/1755 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷, and with Article 20(4) and Article 21a(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 that is allocated for Croatia's amended RRP should be equal to EUR 5 786 544 628. Therefore, the financial contribution made available to Croatia remains unchanged.

Loans

- (30) The loan support made available to Croatia amounting to EUR 4 254 156 972 remains unchanged.
- (31) The Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 should therefore be amended accordingly. For the sake of clarity, the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 should be replaced entirely.
- (32) This Decision should be without prejudice to procedures relating to distortions of the operation of the internal market that may be undertaken, in particular under Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty. It does not override the requirement for Member States to implement the measures in accordance with Union and national law and, in particular, to notify instances of potential State aid to the Commission under Article 108 of the Treaty'.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Approval of the assessment of the RRP

The assessment of the amended RRP of Croatia on the basis of the criteria provided for in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 is approved.

Article 2

Amendments

The Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Croatia is amended as follows:

⁷ 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>).

the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision of 28 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Croatia is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 3
Addressee

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Croatia.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President