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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 10161/21 INIT; ST 10161/21 ADD1) of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Belgium

Delegations will find attached document COM(2025) 21 final.

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Proposal for a

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

amending Implementing Decision (EU) (ST 10161/21 INIT; ST 10161/21 ADD1) of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Belgium

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Proposal for a

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

amending Implementing Decision (EU) (ST 10161/21 INIT; ST 10161/21 ADD1) 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 Facility[1], 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 Belgium on 30 April 2021, the Commission has proposed its positive assessment to the Council. The Council approved the positive assessment by means of the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021[2]. That CID was amended on 8 December 2023[3] and 10 December 2024[4].

(2) On 7 January 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 one measure.

(4) Belgium has explained that one measure has been amended to implement a better alternative allowing to reduce the administrative burden, while still reaching the objectives of the respective measure. This concerns milestone 68 and milestone 69 under measure I-2.09: Digitalisation of the Flemish Government of the Flemish Region, and the description of the investment I-2.09 under component 2.2 Public Administration. On this basis, Belgium has requested to remove unnecessary background information or procedural elements that do not contribute to the objectives of the measure, and to

[1] OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17.
[2] ST 1161/21; ST 10161/21 ADD 1.
[3] ST 15570 2023 INIT.
[4] ST 15974 2024 INIT.

simplify description of the measure and milestones that cause an unjustified administrative burden for reaching the objectives of the measure. 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 amendment(s) pursuant to Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, and the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

Corrections of clerical errors

(6) 14 clerical errors have been identified in the text of the Council Implementing Decision, affecting five milestones, and five measures under six components. The Council Implementing Decision should be amended to correct these clerical errors that do not reflect the content of the RRP submitted to the Commission on 13 July 2021, as agreed between the Commission and Belgium. Those clerical errors relate to the name of milestone 63 in table "second instalment (non-repayable support)"; the description of the investment I-3A: 'Cycling infrastructure'; the description of the investment I-3.03a: 'Cycling infrastructure' – Vélo Plus – RBC of the Brussels-Capital Region under component 3.1: Cycling and walking infrastructure; the name of measure I-3F: 'Smart Mobility tools of Brussels Capital region; the description of the investment I-3.15a: 'FLOYA app' of the Brussels-Capital Region under component 3.2: Modal Shift; milestone 119 of reform R-3.04: Charging stations – WAL, under component 3.3: Greening Road Transport; the name of milestone 174 in table "Third instalment (non-repayable support)"; the name of milestone 187 in table "Sixth instalment (non-repayable support)"; the name of milestone 206 in table "second instalment (non-repayable support)"; the name of measure I-7.05 in table "fifth instalment (non-repayable support)"; the amounts mentioned in paragraph 2: "Estimated total cost of the Recovery and Resilience Pan". Those corrections do not affect the implementation of the measures concerned.

Commission's assessment

(7) The Commission has assessed the amended RRP against the assessment criteria laid down in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.

(8) 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 (ST 10161/21, ST 15570 2023 INIT) of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the RRP for Belgium regarding the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the RRP against the assessment criteria laid down in Article 19(3), points (a), (b), (c), (d), (da), (db), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k). This is without prejudice to the assessment of the Commission of milestones 250 and 251 within the audit and control component of the Annex.

Positive assessment

(9) 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

(10) The estimated total costs of Belgium's amended RRP is EUR 5 279 567 854. As the amount of the estimated total costs of the amended RRP is higher than the updated maximum financial contribution available for Belgium, the financial contribution determined in accordance with Article 4(a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1755 of the European Parliament and of the Council[5], Article 20(4) and 21a(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 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

(11) The loan support made available to Belgium amounting to EUR 244 200 000 remains unchanged.

(12) Council Implementing Decision (ST 10161/21 INIT; ST 10161/21 ADD 1) of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the RRP for Belgium should therefore be amended accordingly. For the sake of clarity, the Annex to that Council Implementing Decision should be replaced entirely,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

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 modified 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 related to the payment of non-repayable financial support 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 in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2
Addressee

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

[5] 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).