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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject:	COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION amending the Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Ireland

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of …

amending the Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Ireland

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,

[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 Ireland on 28 May 2021, the Commission has proposed its positive assessment to the Council. On 8 September 2021, the Council approved the positive assessment by means of an implementing decision ('the Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021')[2]. The Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021 was amended by Council implementing decisions of 14 July 2023[3], 8 December 2023[4] and 21 June 2024[5].

(2) On 31 January 2025, Ireland made a reasoned request to the Commission to make a proposal to amend the Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 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, Ireland has submitted an amended RRP.

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

(3) The amendments to the RRP submitted by Ireland because of objective circumstances concern seven measures.

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[2] See documents ST 11046/21 INIT and ST 11046/21 ADD 1 at http://register.consilium.europa.eu.

[3] See document ST 11336/23 INIT at http://register.consilium.europa.eu.

[4] See documents ST 15965/23 INIT and ST 15965/23 ADD 1 at http://register.consilium.europa.eu.

[5] See documents ST 10262/24 INIT and ST 10262/24 ADD 1 at http://register.consilium.europa.eu.

(4) Ireland has explained that seven measures have been amended to implement better alternatives that would allow for the reduction of the administrative burden while still achieving the objectives of those measures. This concerns: milestone 4 under measure 1.2 (Accelerate the Decarbonisation of the Enterprise Sector) and milestones 15, 18 and 21 under measure 1.4 (Enable future electrification through targeted investment in Cork commuter rail) under component 1 (Advancing the Green Transition); target 75 under measure 2.7 (Addressing the digital divide and enhancing digital skills) under component 2 (Accelerating and Expanding Digital Reforms and Transformation); and target 90 under measure 3.4 (Reducing Regulatory Barriers To Entrepreneurship), milestone 100 under measure 3.7 (Pensions) and target 106 under measure 3.9 (Health), all under component 3 (Social and Economic Recovery and Job Creation). On this basis, Ireland has requested that the aforementioned milestones and targets be amended. Furthermore, Ireland has requested that the description of the following measures be amended: measure 1.2 (Accelerate the Decarbonisation of the Enterprise Sector) under component 1 (Advancing the Green Transition), measure 2.7 (Addressing the digital divide and enhancing digital skills) under component 2 (Accelerating and Expanding Digital Reforms and Transformation) and measure 3.8 (Increasing the provision of social and affordable housing) under component 3 (Social and Economic Recovery and Job Creation). The Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021 should be amended accordingly.

(5) The Commission considers that the reasons put forward by Ireland justify the amendments pursuant to Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241. The Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021 should be amended accordingly.

Correction of clerical errors

(6) Two clerical errors have been identified in the text of the Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021, affecting one milestone and one measure under one component. The Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021 should be amended in order to correct those clerical errors, which do not reflect the content of the RRP submitted to the Commission on 28 May 2021, as agreed between the Commission and Ireland. Those clerical errors relate to milestone 17 and the measure description of measure 1.4 (Enable future electrification through targeted investment in Cork commuter rail) under component 1 (Advancing the green transition). 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 Ireland do not affect the positive assessment of the RRP set out in the Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 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

(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 cost of Ireland's amended RRP is EUR 1 163 158 300. As the amount of the estimated total cost of the amended RRP is higher than the updated maximum financial contribution available for Ireland, the financial contribution determined in accordance with Article 20(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 allocated for Ireland's amended RRP should be equal to EUR 1 153 797 007. Therefore, the financial contribution made available to Ireland remains unchanged.

(11) The Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021 should therefore be amended accordingly. For the sake of clarity, the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021 should be replaced entirely,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Council Implementing Decision of 8 September 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Ireland 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 Ireland 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, 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 Republic of Ireland.

Done at …, …

For the Council
The President