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COVER NOTE

From: Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director

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

No. Cion doc.: COM(2026) 187 final

Subject: Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION amending the Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Bulgaria

Delegations will find attached document COM(2026) 187 final.

Encl.: COM(2026) 187 final



Brussels, 30.4.2026
COM(2026) 187 final

2026/0102 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

**amending the Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 on the approval of the assessment
of the recovery and resilience plan for Bulgaria**

2026/0102 (NLE)

Proposal for a

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

amending the Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Bulgaria

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 Bulgaria on 15 October 2021, the Commission proposed its positive assessment to the Council. On 4 May 2022, the Council approved the positive assessment by means of an implementing decision ('the Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022')². The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 was amended by the Council Implementing Decisions of 8 December 2023³, Council Implementing Decision of 18 July 2025⁴ and Council Implementing Decision of 27 November 2025⁵.
- (2) On 24 April 2026, Bulgaria made a reasoned request to the Commission to make a proposal to amend the Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 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, Bulgaria has submitted an amended RRP.

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

- (3) The amendments to the RRP submitted by Bulgaria because of objective circumstances concern nine measures.
- (4) Bulgaria has explained that one measure is partially no longer achievable in the timeline provided under Annex to the Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022, because of unexpected delays in the legislative process caused by early parliamentary elections. This concerns C10.R2 Anti-corruption. On this basis, Bulgaria has requested

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

² See documents ST 8091/22 INIT; ST 8091/22 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>

³ See documents ST 15837/23 INIT; ST 15837/23 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>

⁴ See documents ST 11242/25 INIT; ST 11242/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>

⁵ See documents ST 15108/25 INIT; ST 15108/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>

that that measure be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 should be amended accordingly.

- (5) Bulgaria has explained that eight 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.R1: Reform in preschool and school education and vocational education and training, C3.I2: Economic Transformation Programme, C4.I2: Support for renewable energy for households, C4.I7: Increasing the use of renewable energy from geothermal sources, C6.I2: Digitalisation of processes from farm to fork, C8.R1: Strategic transport framework, C8.R4: Integrated public transport, C8.R5: Electric mobility. On this basis, Bulgaria has requested that those measures be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 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 Bulgaria.

Corrections of clerical errors

- (7) One clerical error has been identified in the text of the Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022, affecting Component 9: Local Development. The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 should be amended to correct that clerical error that does not reflect the content of the RRP submitted to the Commission on 16 April 2025 as agreed between the Commission and Bulgaria. This clerical error relates to the description of Component 9: Local Development. This correction does not affect the assessment or the implementation of the RRP.

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 Bulgaria do not affect the positive assessment of the RRP set out in the Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 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), (c), (d),(da), (db), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j) and (k).

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 should be set out.

Financial contribution

- (11) The estimated total costs of Bulgaria's amended RRP is EUR 6 174 106 145. As the amount of the estimated total cost of the amended RRP is equal to the updated maximum financial contribution available for Bulgaria, the financial contribution

determined in accordance with Article 4a of Regulation (EU) 2021/1755 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶, and with Article 20(4) and Article 21a(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 that is allocated for Bulgaria's amended RRP should be equal to EUR 6 174 106 145. Therefore, the financial contribution made available to Bulgaria remains unchanged.

- (12) The Council Implementing Decision of Bulgaria should therefore be amended accordingly. For the sake of clarity, the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 should be replaced entirely.
- (13) This Decision should be without prejudice to the outcome of any procedures relating to the award of Union funds under any Union programme other than the Facility or 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 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 Bulgaria 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 4 May 2022 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Bulgaria is amended as follows:

the Annex is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 3
Addressee

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council
The President

⁶ 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>).