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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 ADD 1) 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) 272 final.

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Proposal for a

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

amending Implementing Decision (EU) (ST 10161/21 INIT; ST 10161/21 ADD 1) 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 ADD 1) 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], 10 December 2024[4], 18 February 2025[5], and 11 March 2025[6].

(2) On 25 April 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 22 measures.

(4) Belgium has explained that eight measures have been amended to implement better alternatives in order to achieve the original ambition of the measure. This concerns the description of reform R-1.05: 'Regulatory framework for the transport of carbon dioxide (CO2) through pipelines in Flanders' and milestone 15bis of reform R-1.05,

[1] OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17.
[2] ST 10161/21 INIT; ST 10161/21 ADD 1.
[3] ST 15570/23 INIT; ST 15570/23 ADD 1.
[4] ST 15974/24 INIT; ST 15974/24 ADD 1.
[5] ST 5654/25 INIT; ST 5654/25 ADD 1.
[6] ST 6545/25 INIT; ST 6545/25 ADD 1.

under component 1.2 Emerging Energy Technologies; target 36 and target 37 of investment I-1.22: 'Biodiversity and adaptation to climate change', under component 1.3: Climate and Environment; description of investment I-2.01: 'Cybersecure and resilient digital society' of the Federal State, under component 2.1: Cybersecurity; target 44 of investment I-2.01: 'Cybersecure and resilient digital society' of the Federal State, under component 2.1: Cybersecurity; milestone 47 of investment I-2.01: 'Cybersecure and resilient digital society' of the Federal State, under component 2.1: Cybersecurity; milestone 58 of investment I-2.05 'Digitalisation SPF', under component 2.2: Public Administration; milestone 59 of investment I-2.05: 'Digitalisation SPF, sub-measure 1: Digital transformation of Justice' of the Federal State, under component 2.2: Public Administration; description of investment I-3.14: 'Modal shift grants' and target 113 of investment I-3.14, under component 3.2: Modal Shift; description of reform R-4.06: 'An inclusive labour market' and milestone 141 and milestone 142 of reform R-4.06, under component 4.2: Training and employment of Vulnerable Groups; description of R-5.01: 'Cumulation regime and mobility to sectors with shortages' of the Federal State, and milestones 175 and 176 of reform R-5.01, under component 5.1: Training and Labour Market; milestone 184 and milestone 185 of investment I-5.10: 'RD: Minimization of waste during dismantling', under component 5.2: Supporting Economic Activity. On this basis, Belgium has requested to amend the aforementioned milestones, targets and measure descriptions. The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

(5) Belgium has explained that eight measures have been amended to implement a better alternative allowing to reduce the administrative burden, whilst still reaching the objectives of the respective measure. This concerns target 5 of investment I-1A: 'Renovations of private and social housing', under component 1.1: Renovation; target 6 of investment I-1A: 'Renovations of private and social housing', under component 1.1: Renovation; target 7 of investment I-1A: 'Renovations of private and social housing', under component 1.1: Renovation; target 12 of investment I-1B: 'Public building renovations', under component 1.1: Renovation; target 13 of investment I-1B: 'Public building renovations', under component 1.1: Renovation; description of investment I-1.22: 'Biodiversity and adaptation to climate change' of the Walloon Region, under component 1.3: Climate and environment; milestone 82 of investment I-2.14: 'Development of an AI institute in order to use this technology to meet societal challenges' of the Brussels-Capital Region, under component 2.3: Optic fibre, 5G and new technologies; description of reform R-3.05: 'Charging stations – RBC' of the Brussels-Capital Region, under component 3.3: Greening road transport ; target 121 of reform R-3.05: 'Charging stations - RBC' of the Brussels-Capital Region, under component 3.3: Greening road transport; description of investment I-3.19: 'Charging stations - VLA' of the Flemish Region, under component 3.3: Greening road transport; description of reform R-4.04: 'Tackling discrimination at the labour market' of the Federal State, under component 4.2: Training and employment of vulnerable groups; milestone 140 of reform R-4.04: 'Tackling discrimination at the labour market' of the Federal State, under component 4.2: Training and employment of vulnerable groups; target 148 of investment I-4.10: 'Gender and work' of the Federal State, under component 4.2: Training and employment of vulnerable groups; milestone 228 of reform R-7.02: 'Appeal procedure to the Council of State' of the Federal State, under component 7.3: Renewable energy. On this basis, Belgium has requested to remove unnecessary background information or procedural elements that do not contribute to the objectives or the context of the measures, and to simplify descriptions of measures or milestones and targets that cause unjustified administrative burden for reaching the

objectives of the respective measures. The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

(6) Belgium has explained that one measure is partially no longer achievable, because of high inflation. This concerns, the description of investment I-4.13: 'Creation and renovation of early childcare infrastructure' and milestone 155 of investment I-4.13: 'Creation and renovation of early childcare infrastructure', under component 4.3: Social Infrastructure. The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

(7) Belgium has explained that one measure has been amended in the context of simplification, to align the wording of the qualitative indicator and the milestone description. This concerns milestone 159 of investment I-5.01: 'Limitation of unemployment benefits over time and enhanced degressive structure of unemployment benefits', under component 5.1: Training and Labour Market. The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

(8) Belgium has explained that four measures have been partially amended due to unexpected technical difficulties. This concerns milestone 124 and 125 of reform R-3.07: 'Emission Fraud' of the Flemish Region, and description of reform R-3.07, under component 3.3: Greening Road Transport. On this basis, Belgium has requested to amend the aforementioned measure description and milestones. Furthermore, Belgium has requested to extend the implementation timeline of milestone 50 of investment I-2.03: 'Cybersecurity: NTSU/CTIF interception and safeguard' of the Federal State, under component 2.1: Cybersecurity, and amend the description of the same investment I-2.03: 'Cybersecurity: NTSU/CTIF interception and safeguard' of the Federal State; milestone 79 of reform R-2.02: 'E-government: Tendering procedure' of the Federal State, under component 2.2: Public administration, and amend the description of the same reform R-2.02: 'E-government: Tendering procedure' of the Federal State; milestone 207 of reform R-6: 'Spending reviews', under component 6.1: Spending reviews; milestone 208 of reform R-6: 'Spending reviews', under component 6.1: Spending reviews. The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

(9) 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.

Distribution of milestones and targets

(10) The distribution of milestones and targets in instalments should be modified to take into account the amendments to the plan and the indicative timeline presented by Belgium.

Corrections of clerical errors

(11) 10 clerical errors have been identified in the text of the Council Implementing Decision, affecting one milestone and four targets 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 milestone 38 of investment I-1.22: 'Biodiversity and adaptation to climate change' under component 1.3: Climate and Environment; target 71 of investment I-2.10: 'Regional data exchange platform' under component 2.2: Public Administration; target 99 of investment I-3B 'Enhancing public transport in Wallonia'

under component 3.2: Modal Shift; target 138 of investment I-4.05: 'Digital turnaround for Brussels schools' under component 4.1: Education 2.0; target 146 of investment I-4.08 E-inclusion for Belgium under component 4.2: Training and Employment of Vulnerable Groups; and the description of the following measures I-2.15 'Improving the connectivity of the 35 business parks in Wallonia' under component 2.3: Optical fibre, 5G, and New Technologies; I-3H: 'Smart Mobility tools', I-3.07: 'Metro extension', I-3.08: 'Smart road signals', under component 3.2: Modal Shift; R-4.03: 'Global action plan against early school leaving' under component 4.1: Education 2.0. Those corrections do not affect the implementation of the measures concerned.

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 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).

Positive assessment

(14) 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

(15) 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 4a of Regulation (EU) 2021/1755 of the European Parliament and of the Council[7], 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

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

(17) 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,

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[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).

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 the non-repayable 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