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WORKING PAPER

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	Working Party on Enlargement and Countries Negotiating Accession to the EU
N° prev. doc.:	WK 5844/2020, WK 6279/2020
Subject:	Draft IPA III Regulation: – examination of the outcome of the latest technical meetings on recitals (1)-(12b)

Possible compromises on recitals (1)-(12b) of the draft IPA III Regulation were discussed with the European Parliament in the technical VTC meeting on 9 July 2020. The outcome of these discussions and updated compromises are indicated in the fifth column of the table.

In the light of the above, delegations are invited to consider the proposed compromises, taking into account the comments in the fifth column of the table, in particular as regards recitals in the following lines: 17, 19a (new), 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 27a.

**Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III):
outcome of VTC technical meetings on recitals (1) to (12b) with possible compromise proposals**

The amendments made by the Council and the EP in the text of the draft Regulation compared to the Commission's proposal are marked as follows:

- the new text is marked in ***bold italics***;
- the deleted parts of the text are marked in ~~strikethrough~~.

Where full paragraphs of the Commission's proposal were not amended by the EP and/or the Council, they are not repeated in the columns reflecting their respective positions.

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
1	2018/0247 (COD)			2018/0247 (COD)	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
2	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL			Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
3	establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III)			establishing the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III)	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
4	THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,			THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
5	Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 212 (2) thereof,			Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
				particular Article 212 (2) thereof,	
6	Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,			Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
7	After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,			After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
8	Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ¹ ,			Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee ¹ ,	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
⁹	¹ (footnote): OJ C , , p. .			¹ (footnote): OJ C , , p. .	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
10	Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions ² ,			Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions ² ,	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
¹¹	² (footnote): OJ C , , p. .			² (footnote): OJ C , , p. .	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
12	Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,			Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
13	Whereas:			Whereas:	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
14	(1) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 ³ expires on 31 December 2020. In order to maintain the Union's effectiveness in external actions, a framework for planning and delivering external assistance should be maintained.			(1) Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 ³ expires on 31 December 2020. In order to maintain the Union's effectiveness in external actions, a framework for planning and delivering external assistance should be maintained.	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
15	³ (footnote): Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 11).			³ (footnote): Regulation (EU) No 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 11).	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020</i>
16	(2) The objectives of an instrument for pre-accession are substantially distinct from the general objectives of Union external action as this instrument aims to prepare the beneficiaries listed in Annex I for future membership of the Union and support their accession process. It is therefore essential to have a dedicated instrument in support of enlargement, while ensuring its complementarity with the general objectives of Union external action		(2) The objectives objective of an instrument for pre-accession are substantially distinct from the general objectives of Union external action as this instrument aims is to prepare the beneficiaries listed in Annex I ("beneficiaries") for	(2) The objectives objective of an instrument for pre-accession are substantially distinct from the general objectives of Union external action as this instrument aims is to prepare the beneficiaries listed in Annex I for future membership of the Union and support their accession process. It is therefore essential to have a dedicated instrument in support of enlargement, while ensuring	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020</i>

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
	and in particular with the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).		future membership of the Union and support their accession process, <i>in line with the general objectives of the Union's external action, including respect for fundamental rights and principles as well as the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law as laid down in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union.</i> It is therefore essential to have <i>While the distinct nature of the accession process warrants a dedicated instrument in support of enlargement, the objectives and functioning of this instrument should be consistent with and complementary to while ensuring its complementarity with</i>	<i>that its objectives and functioning are consistent with, and complementary to,</i> the general objectives of Union external action <i>as laid down in Article 21 of the Treaty, including respect for fundamental rights and principles as well as the protection and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. This instrument should also be complementary</i> with the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI).	

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			the general objectives of Union external action and in particular with the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI). [Am. 1]		
17	(3) Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) provides that any European state which respects the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and commits to promote these values, may apply to become a member of the Union. A European State which has applied to join the Union can become a member only when it has been confirmed that it meets the membership criteria established at the Copenhagen European Council in June 1993 (the ‘Copenhagen criteria’) and provided that the Union has the capacity to integrate the new member. The Copenhagen		(3) Article 49 Treaty on European Union (TEU) provides that any European state State which respects the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and commits to promote these values, may apply to become a member of the Union. Those values are common to Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-		<i>Possible compromise discussed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020, with a request by the EP to add a quote from Art.2 TEU:</i> (3) Article 49 Treaty on European Union (TEU) provides that any European state State which respects the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and commits to

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	criteria relate to the stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities, the existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union, and the ability to assume not only the rights but also the obligations under the Treaties, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.		<i>discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail. [Am. 2]</i> <i>(4a) A Any European State which has applied to join the Union can become a member of the Union only when where it has been confirmed that it fully meets the membership accession criteria established at the Copenhagen European Council in June 1993 (the 'Copenhagen criteria') and provided that the Union has the capacity to integrate the new member. The Copenhagen criteria relate to the stability of institutions guaranteeing which guarantee democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of</i>		promote these values, may apply to become a member of the Union. <u><i>Those values are common to Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.</i></u> <i>(4a) A Any European State which has applied to join the Union can become a member of the Union only when where it has been confirmed that it fully meets the membership accession criteria established at the Copenhagen European Council in June 1993 (the 'Copenhagen criteria') and provided that the Union has the capacity to integrate the new member. The Copenhagen criteria</i>

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			minorities, the existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union, and the ability to assume not only the rights but also the obligations under the Treaties, including adherence to the pursuit of the aims of political, economic and monetary union. [Am. 4]		relate to the stability of institutions guaranteeing which guarantee democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities, the existence of a functioning market economy as well as the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union, and the ability to assume not only the rights but also the obligations under the Treaties, including adherence to the pursuit of the aims of political, economic and monetary union. <i>Council to check</i>
18	(4) The enlargement process is built on established criteria and fair and rigorous conditionality. Each beneficiary is assessed on the basis		(4) The enlargement process is built on established criteria and fair and rigorous	(4) The enlargement process is built on established criteria and fair and rigorous conditionality. Each beneficiary is assessed on	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020</i>

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
	of its own merits. The assessment of progress achieved and the identification of shortcomings aim to provide incentives and guidance to the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to pursue the necessary far-reaching reforms. For the prospect of enlargement to become a reality, a firm commitment to the principle of the 'fundamentals first' ¹⁴ remains essential. Progression towards accession depends on each applicant's respect for the Union's values and its capacity to undertake the necessary reforms to align its political, institutional, legal, administrative and economic systems with the rules, standards, policies and practices in the Union.		conditionality. Each beneficiary is assessed on the basis of its own merits. The assessment of progress achieved and the identification of shortcomings aim to provide incentives and guidance to the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to pursue the necessary far-reaching reforms. For the prospect of enlargement to become a reality, a firm commitment to the principle of the 'fundamentals first' ¹⁴ remains essential. <i>Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation based on a definitive, inclusive and binding resolution of bilateral disputes are essential elements of the enlargement process and critical for security and stability of the Union as a whole.</i>	the basis of its own merits. The assessment of progress achieved and the identification of shortcomings aim to provide incentives and guidance to the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to pursue the necessary far-reaching reforms. For the prospect of enlargement to become a reality, a firm commitment to the principle of the 'fundamentals first' ¹⁴ remains essential. Progression <i>Progress</i> towards accession depends on each applicant's respect for the Union's values and its capacity to undertake <i>and implement</i> the necessary reforms to align its political, institutional, legal, administrative and economic systems with the rules, standards, policies and practices in the Union.	

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			Progression Progress towards accession depends on each applicant's respect for the Union's values and its capacity to undertake and implement the necessary reforms to align its political, institutional, legal, social, administrative and economic systems with the rules, standards, policies and practices in the Union. The Negotiating Framework sets out requirements against which progress in the accession negotiations with each candidate country is assessed. [Am. 3]		
¹⁹	⁴ (footnote): The 'fundamentals first' approach links rule of law and fundamental rights with the two other crucial areas of the accession process: economic governance – strengthened focus on			⁴ (footnote): The 'fundamentals first' approach links rule of law and fundamental rights with the two other crucial areas of the accession process: economic governance –	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020</i>

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	economic development and improved competitiveness – and the strengthening of democratic institutions and public administration reform. Each of the three fundamentals is of crucial importance for the reform processes in the candidate countries and potential candidates and addresses key concerns of the citizens.			strengthened focus on economic development and improved competitiveness – and the strengthening of democratic institutions and public administration reform. Each of the three fundamentals is of crucial importance for the reform processes in the <i>beneficiaries listed in Annex I</i> and addresses key concerns of the citizens <i>people.</i>	
19a (new)					<i>Possible compromise discussed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020:</i> <i><u>Good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation are essential elements of the enlargement process and critical for security and stability of the Union as a whole. A definitive, inclusive and binding resolution of bilateral disputes is also important.</u></i> <i>Council to check</i>

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20	(5) The enlargement policy of the Union is an investment in peace, security and stability in Europe. It provides increased economic and trade opportunities to the mutual benefit of the Union and the aspiring Member States. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic and societal change.	(5) The enlargement policy of the Union is an investment in peace, security and stability in Europe and allows the Union to be better positioned to address global challenges. It also provides increased economic and trade opportunities to the mutual benefit of the Union and the aspiring Member States. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic and societal change.	(5) The enlargement policy of the Union is an investment in integral part of the Union's external action, contributing to peace, security, prosperity and stability in Europe both within and outside the Union's borders. It provides increased economic and trade opportunities to the mutual benefit of the Union and the aspiring Member States, while respecting the principle of progressive integration to ensure a smooth transformation of the beneficiaries. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic and societal change. [Am. 5]	(5) The enlargement policy of the Union is an a strategic investment in peace, security, and stability and prosperity in Europe and allows the Union to be better positioned to address global challenges. It also provides increased economic and trade opportunities to the mutual benefit of the Union and the aspiring Member States, while ensuing a gradual transformation of the beneficiaries. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic and societal change.	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 13/5/2020 together with additions provisionally agreed at the technical meeting on 6/2/2020</i>

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21		<i>(5a) Embracing and committing to core European values is a choice, and is essential for all partners aspiring to EU membership. In line with this, the Union expects partners to take ownership and fully commit to European values and the vigorous pursuit of necessary reforms in the interest of their people. This includes progressive alignment with the Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy, notably on issues where major common interests are at stake, such as restrictive measures and tackling hybrid threats.</i>			Possible compromise discussed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020, <u>with the EP request for stronger language on CFSP alignment</u>: <i>(5a) Embracing and committing to core European values is a choice, and is essential for all partners aspiring to EU membership. In line with this, the Union expects <u>should encourage</u> partners to take ownership and fully commit to European values <u>as well as to uphold a rules and values based global order and to the vigorously pursue of the necessary reforms in the interest of their people. This includes progressive enhanced alignment with the Union's</u></i>

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					<i>Common Foreign and Security Policy, notably on issues where major common interests are at stake, such as restrictive measures and tackling disinformation and other hybrid threats.</i> <i>Council to check this wording</i>
22	(6) The European Commission reaffirmed the firm, merit-based prospect of EU membership for the Western Balkans in its Communication '<i>A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans</i>'⁵. This is a strong message of encouragement for the whole Western Balkans and a sign of the EU's commitment to their European future.				<i>Possible compromise discussed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020 <u>with the EP request to shorten the text:</u></i> (6) The European Commission reaffirmed <u>underlined</u> the firm, merit-based prospect of EU membership for the Western Balkans in its Communication '<i>A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans</i>'⁵. This

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					is a strong message of encouragement for the whole Western Balkans and a sign of the EU's commitment to their European future. 2018 Western Balkans strategy. ⁵ <i>In 2020, the European Commission presented a revised methodology aiming to reinvigorate the accession process <u>by making it more predictable, more credible, more dynamic and subject to stronger political steering, based on objective criteria and rigorous positive and negative conditionality, and reversibility</u>, which was endorsed by the Council. [The European Commission also presented an economic and investment plan for the Western Balkans for</i>

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					<u>the longer term post-pandemic recovery following the Corona virus crisis, demonstrating that the Western Balkans are a priority for the European Union].</u> Council to check amended wording
23	⁵ (footnote): COM(2018) 65 final available at https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication-credible-enlargement-perspective-western-balkans_en.pdf			⁵ (footnote): COM(2018) 65 final available at https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/communication-credible-enlargement-perspective-western-balkans_en.pdf	
24		<i>(6a) The European Union and its Member States have, in the Sofia Declaration and Sofia Priority Agenda for the EU and the Western Balkans, reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the European perspective of the Western Balkans as</i>			Possible compromise discussed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020: <i>(6a) The European Union and its Member States have, in the Sofia Declaration <u>and the Zagreb Declaration</u> and Sofia Priority</i>

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		<i>well as their commitment to accelerate improvement in the lives of the citizens in the areas of connectivity and security, drawing on the relevant aspects of the Commission's Communication adopted on 6 February 2018. Actions under this Regulation should help support the implementation of these commitments.</i>			<u><i>Agenda for the EU and the Western Balkans</i></u>, reaffirmed their unequivocal support for the European perspective of the Western Balkans as well as their commitment to accelerate improvement in <u>of the quality of life</u> lives of the citizens <u>people</u>. In the Zagreb Declaration, the European Union and its Member States have reiterated their strong <u>solidarity and engagement</u> with the Western Balkan partners, in particular in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. Council to check amended wording
25		<i>(6b) The European Council has granted the status of candidate</i>			Possible compromise, discussed at the VTC

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		<i>country to Albania, Iceland⁶, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. It has confirmed the European perspective of the Western Balkans. Without prejudice to positions on status or to any future decisions to be taken by the European Council or by the Council, those benefiting from such a European perspective which have not been granted candidate country status may be considered as potential candidates for the sole purpose of this Regulation.</i>			<i>technical meeting on 9/7/2020:</i> <i>(6b) The European Council has granted the status of candidate country to Albania, Iceland⁶, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. It has confirmed the European perspective of the Western Balkans, <u>based on the Stabilisation and Association Process, which remains the common framework for relations with the Western Balkans up to their accession.</u> Without prejudice to positions on status or to any future decisions to be taken by the European Council or by the Council, those benefiting from such a European perspective which have not been</i>

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					<i>granted candidate country status may be considered as potential candidates for the sole purpose of this Regulation.</i> <i>EP: considers redundant, but to explore, possibly adding the reference to the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP),</i> <i>Council to check proposed wording.</i>
26		⁶ (footnote): <i>In March 2015, the Government of Iceland asked the EU to no longer consider Iceland a candidate country, without, however, officially withdrawing Iceland's membership application.</i>			Possible compromise: ⁶ (footnote): <i>In March 2015, the Government of Iceland asked the EU to no longer consider Iceland a candidate country, without, however, officially withdrawing Iceland's membership application.</i>

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27	(7) Assistance should also be provided in compliance with the agreements concluded by the Union with the beneficiaries listed in Annex I. Assistance should mainly focus on assisting the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform the judiciary and public administration, respect fundamental rights and promote gender equality, tolerance, social inclusion and non-discrimination. Assistance should also support the key principles and rights as defined in the European Pillar of Social Rights.⁷ Assistance should continue to support their efforts to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as territorial development, including through implementation of Union macro-regional strategies. It should also enhance their economic and social development and economic governance, underpinning a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth agenda, including through implementation of regional development, agriculture and rural	(7) Assistance should also be provided in compliance with the agreements concluded by the Union with the beneficiaries listed in Annex I. Assistance should mainly focus on assisting the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform the judiciary and public administration, respect fundamental rights and promote gender equality, tolerance, social inclusion and non-discrimination. Assistance should also support the key principles and rights as defined in the European Pillar of Social Rights.⁷ <i>(7a) As good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation are essential elements of the enlargement process, Assistance should also continue to support their</i>	(7) Assistance should also be provided in compliance with the international agreements concluded by the Union, including with the beneficiaries listed in Annex I. Assistance should mainly focus on assisting the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform the judiciary and public administration, respect fundamental rights, including those of minorities and promote gender equality, tolerance, social inclusion, respect for international labour standards on workers' rights and non-discrimination of vulnerable groups, including children and people with disabilities.		<i>Possible compromise discussed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020:</i> (7) Assistance should also be provided in compliance with the agreements concluded by the Union with the beneficiaries listed in Annex I. Assistance should mainly focus on assisting the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to strengthen democratic institutions and the rule of law, reform the judiciary and public administration, respect fundamental rights <i>including those of persons belonging to minorities</i> and promote gender equality, tolerance, social inclusion and non-discrimination <i>based on any ground, including of persons in vulnerable situations,</i>

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	development, social and employment policies and the development of the digital economy and society, also in line with the flagship initiative Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans.	<i>the efforts of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I</i> to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as territorial development, including through implementation of Union macro-regional strategies. It should also enhance their economic and social development and economic governance, underpinning a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth agenda, including through implementation of regional development, agriculture and rural development, social and employment policies, and the development of the digital economy and society <i>and boosting research and innovation, also in line with in the context of</i> the flagship initiative Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans.	Assistance should also support <i>adherence by the beneficiaries to</i> the key principles and rights as defined in the European Pillar of Social Rights ⁷ <i>as well as to the social market economy and convergence towards the social acquis.</i> Assistance should continue to support their efforts to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as territorial development, including through implementation of Union macro-regional strategies, <i>with the aim to develop good neighbourly relations and enhance reconciliation.</i> It should also <i>promote sectoral regional co-operation structures and</i> enhance their		<i>children or persons with disabilities.</i> Assistance should also support <i>the development of a social market economy in line with</i> the key principles and rights <i>as</i> defined in the European Pillar of Social Rights. ⁷ <i>Council to check amended wording</i> <i>(7a) As good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation are essential elements of the enlargement process, Assistance should also continue to support their efforts of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to advance regional, macro-regional and cross-border cooperation as well as</i>

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
			economic and social development and economic governance, <i>foster economic integration with the Union single market, including customs cooperation, and promote an open and fair trade</i>, underpinning a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth agenda, including through implementation of regional development, <i>cohesion and inclusion</i>, agriculture and rural development, social and employment policies and the development of the digital economy and society, also in line with the flagship initiative Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans. [Am. 6]		territorial development, including through implementation of Union macro-regional strategies. It should also enhance their economic and social development and economic governance, <i>foster economic integration with the Union single market, including customs cooperation, and promote an open and fair trade</i> underpinning a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth agenda, including through implementation of regional development <i>and cohesion</i>, agriculture and rural development, social and employment policies, and the development of the digital economy and society <i>and boosting research and</i>

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					<i>innovation</i> , also in line with <i>in the context of</i> the flagship initiative Digital Agenda for the Western Balkans.
27a					<i>Possible compromise discussed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020:</i> <i>(7b) Assistance under this Regulation should also be used to strengthen health security and <u>preparing preparedness for future public health crisis emergencies</u> as well as addressing, in complementarity with other Union instruments, the major economic shock generated by the COVID-19 outbreak and to mitigate its severe socio-economic impacts, mobilising resources to speed-up</i>

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					<i>the economic recovery of the region.</i> <i>Council to check amended wording</i>
28	⁷ (footnote): European Pillar of Social Rights solemnly proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission at the Gothenburg Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth, Gothenburg 17 November 2017.			⁷ (footnote): European Pillar of Social Rights solemnly proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission at the Gothenburg Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth, Gothenburg 17 November 2017.	
28a				(7b) Actions under this Regulation should support reconciliation, peace-building and conflict prevention, through mediation efforts, confidence-building measures, and processes promoting justice, truth-seeking, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence.	<i>At the technical meeting on 9/3/2020 in relation to Art. 3(c), additional recital (7b) was provisionally agreed</i> <i>EP: should be moved up to give bigger prominence</i>
29		(7b) Special emphasis should be put toward creating further opportunities for the youth, including young professionals, while		(7c) Special emphasis should be put toward creating further opportunities for the youth, including young professionals, while ensuring that this contributes to the socio-	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 25/5/2020</i>

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		<i>ensuring that this contributes to the socio-economic development of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I. Assistance under this Regulation should also aim to tackle brain drain.</i>		<i>economic development of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I. Assistance under this Regulation should also aim to tackle brain drain.</i>	
30			<i>(7a) Taking into consideration the transformatory nature of the reform process during the enlargement process in the candidate countries, the Union should enhance its efforts in prioritising key areas for Union funding, such as institution and security building, and enhance its support to candidate countries when implementing projects with a view of protecting those candidate countries from non-EU influences. [Am. 7]</i>	-----	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020: <u>OK to delete this line in view of the compromise in line 21.</u></i>

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
31			<i>(7b) The Union's efforts to support reform progress in candidate countries through IPA funding should be well communicated in candidate countries, as well as in the Member States. The Union, in that regard, should enhance communication and campaign efforts in order to ensure visibility of the IPA funding, as the main EU instrument of peace and stability in enlargement area.</i> [Am. 8]		<i>VTC technical meeting on 25/5/2020:</i> <i>EP: related to lines 31, 37, 64, 74. <u>First agree to Article 17.</u></i> <i>Council: cannot agree with obligations towards MS; nor last phrase. OK to first seek agreement on Article 17.</i> <i>COM: OK to first seek agreement on Article 17. Not the last phrase.</i>
32			<i>(7c) The importance of the facilitation and implementation of the budget is recognised as regards institution building, which will in return help in anticipation of possible security issues, and</i>	-----	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020.</i> <i><u>Ok to delete; address in line 36</u></i>

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
			<i>prevent possible future illegal migratory flows towards the Member States. [Am. 9]</i>		
33	(8) The Union should provide support to the transition towards accession for the benefit of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I, based on the experience of its Member States. This cooperation should focus in particular on the sharing of experience acquired by the Member States in the reform process.			(8) The Union should provide support to the transition towards accession for the benefit of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I, based on the experience of its Member States. This cooperation should focus in particular on the sharing of experience acquired by the Member States in the reform process.	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 25/5/2020</i>
34	(9) Enhanced strategic and operational cooperation between the Union and the beneficiaries listed in Annex I on security is pivotal to addressing effectively and efficiently security and terrorism threats.		(9) Enhanced strategic and operational cooperation between the Union and the beneficiaries listed in Annex I on security and defence sector reform is pivotal to addressing effectively and efficiently security, organised crime and terrorism threats. [Am. 10]	(9) Enhanced strategic and operational cooperation between the Union and the beneficiaries listed in Annex I on security is pivotal to addressing effectively and efficiently security, organised crime and terrorism threats.	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020.</i> <i>EP: "Fighting terrorism financing" to be addressed in the Annex</i>

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35			<i>(9a) Actions under the instrument established by this Regulation should also contribute to assisting the beneficiaries in the progressive alignment with the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), and the implementation of restrictive measures as well as the Union's broader external policies in international institutions and multilateral fora. The Commission should encourage the beneficiaries to uphold a rules- and values-based global order and cooperate on the promotion of multilateralism and the further strengthening of the international trading system, including WTO</i>	-----	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020: <u>Ok to delete this line in view of the compromise in line 21.</u></i>

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
			reforms. [Am. 11]		
36	(10) It is essential to further step up cooperation on migration including border management, ensuring access to international protection, sharing relevant information, strengthening the development benefits of migration, facilitating legal and labour migration, enhancing border control and pursuing our effort in the fight against irregular migration, trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling.	(10) It is essential to further step up international and regional cooperation on migration including further consolidating border and migration management capacities , ensuring access to international protection, sharing relevant information, strengthening the development benefits of migration, facilitating legal and labour migration, enhancing border control and pursuing our efforts in the fight against irregular to combat illegal migration, trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling.	(10) It is essential to further step up eCooperation on migration, including border management and control , ensuring access to international protection, sharing relevant information, strengthening the development benefits of migration, facilitating legal and labour migration, enhancing border control and efforts to prevent and discourage irregular migration and pursuing our effort in the forced displacement, and to fight against trafficking in human beings and migrant people smuggling are an important aspect of cooperation between the Union and the beneficiaries. [Am. 12]		VTC technical meeting on 25/5/2020: EP: park migration language.

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
37		<i>(10a) The communication capacities of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I should be enhanced in order to ensure public support for and understanding of the EU values, as well as the benefits and obligations of potential Union membership, while addressing disinformation.</i>			<i>VTC technical meeting on 25/5/2020: EP: part of visibility package</i>
38	(11) Strengthening the rule of law, including the fight against corruption and organised crime, and good governance, including public administration reform, remain key challenges in most of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I and are essential in order for beneficiaries to come closer to the Union and later to fully assume the obligations of Union membership. In view of the longer-term nature of the reforms pursued in those areas and the need to build up track records, financial assistance under this Regulation should address the requirements placed on the	(11) Strengthening the rule of law, including the fight against corruption and organised crime, and good governance, including public administration reform, remain key challenges in most of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I and are essential in order for beneficiaries to come closer to the Union and later to fully assume the obligations of Union membership. In view of the longer-term nature of	(11) Strengthening the rule of law, including the <i>independence of the judiciary</i> , fight against corruption, <i>money laundering</i> and organised crime, and good governance, including public administration reform, <i>providing support for human rights defenders, continued alignment on transparency, public procurement, competition, state aid,</i>	(8a) Strengthening the rule of law, including the <i>independence of the judiciary</i> , fight against corruption, <i>money laundering</i> and organised crime, <i>as well as transparency</i> , good governance <i>at all levels</i> , and public administration reform, <i>including in the fields of public procurement, competition, and state aid</i> remain key challenges in most of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I and are essential in order for beneficiaries to come closer to the Union and <i>to prepare</i> to fully assume the	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020. EP: underline "support for human rights defenders" through a wording in recitals, ensuring synergy/ complementarity with NDICI COM: covered in NDICI</i>

	COM proposal (14.6.2018, doc. 10184/19)	Council position (partial general approach approved on 19.03.2019, doc. 7539/19)	EP position (vote on 27.03.2019, doc. 7802/19)	Compromise proposals	Comments
	beneficiaries listed in Annex I as early as possible.	the reforms pursued in those areas and the need to build up track records, financial assistance under this Regulation should address the requirements placed on the beneficiaries listed in Annex I as early as possible.	<i>intellectual property and foreign investment</i> remain key challenges in most of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I and are essential in order for beneficiaries to come closer to the Union and <i>to prepare</i> to fully assume the obligations of Union membership. In view of the longer-term nature of the reforms pursued in those areas and the need to build up track records, financial assistance under this Regulation should <i>be programmed to</i> address the requirements placed on the beneficiaries listed in Annex I <i>these issues</i> as early as possible. [Am. 13]	obligations of Union membership. In view of the longer-term nature of the reforms pursued in those areas and the need to build up track records, financial assistance under this Regulation should address the requirements placed on the beneficiaries listed in Annex I <i>these issues</i> as early as possible.	
39	(12) In accordance with the principle of participatory democracy, parliamentary oversight in each beneficiary listed in Annex I	(12b) In accordance with the principle of participatory democracy, parliamentary oversight in	(12) <i>The parliamentary dimension remains fundamental in the accession process.</i>	(12) In accordance with the principle of participatory democracy, <i>the strengthening of parliamentary capacities,</i>	<i>Provisionally agreed at the VTC technical meeting on 9/7/2020</i>

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	should be encouraged by the Commission.	each beneficiary listed in Annex I should be encouraged by the Commission.	<i>Therefore</i> , in accordance with the principle of participatory democracy, <i>the strengthening of parliamentary capacities</i> , parliamentary oversight, <i>democratic procedures and fair representation</i> in each beneficiary listed in Annex I of the <i>beneficiaries</i> should be encouraged <i>promoted</i> by the <i>Commission</i> . [Am. 14]	parliamentary oversight, <i>democratic procedures and fair representation</i> in each beneficiary listed in Annex I, should be encouraged by the <i>Commission</i> .	
39a				<i>(12b) The Union must lead the transition to a healthy planet and a more connected world. The [European Green Deal] provides a renewed commitment and a new strategic framework to achieve this global objective. The Union should use its influence, expertise and financial assistance to mobilise the beneficiaries</i>	<i>In discussions in relation to Art. 6(3) at the technical meeting on 6/2/2020, recital (12b) has been provisionally agreed</i>

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				<i>listed in Annex I to join it on a sustainable path. This Regulation should promote the green agenda by reinforcing environmental protection, contributing to mitigation and increasing resilience to climate change and, accelerating the shift towards a low-carbon economy.</i>	