



Council of the
European Union

039994/EU XXVI. GP
Eingelangt am 26/10/18

Brussels, 26 October 2018
(OR. en)

13553/18

ECOFIN 976
UEM 334
FC 63
REGIO 104
AGRISTR 82
PECHE 430
CADREFIN 299
CODEC 1789
SOC 649

COVER NOTE

From: Mr Valdis DOMBROVSKIS, Vice-President of the European Commission
date of receipt: 22 October 2018
To: Mr Hartwig LÖGER, Minister of Finance of Austria

Subject: Structural Reform Support Programme - Letter from the Commission on the annual work programmes and Amended Cooperation and Support Plan with Bulgaria

Delegations will find attached the letter from the Vice-President Dombrovskis addressed to the Minister of Finance of Austria on the Structural Reform Support Programme annual work programmes and the Amended Cooperation and Support Plan with Bulgaria.

E-MAIL / FAX

Received on
21.10.2018

IM 10757 2018
22.10.2018

VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS

Vice-President of the European Commission

Brussels, 16/10/2018
registration number (2018)5876826/
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Mr Hartwig Löger
Minister of Finance of Austria

Dear Minister, *Dear Hartwig!*

According to Article 13(5) of Regulation (EU) 2017/825 on the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP Regulation), the Commission should inform the European Parliament and the Council of the adoption of the Structural Reform Support Programme annual work programmes.

Accordingly, you will find attached the work programme for operational technical assistance managed by the Commission on the request of Bulgaria pursuant to Article 11 of the SRSP Regulation and adopted on 9.8.2018 as an annex to the Commission Implementing Decision C(2018)5435 final¹. The objective of the work programme is to support the Bulgarian authorities with the introduction of certain reforms that have been identified and committed to by Bulgaria in the context of Bulgaria's commitments towards participation in the Exchange Rate Mechanism II.² The work programme also contains a description, objectives and expected results of the specific actions that the Commission services will carry out in Bulgaria for the amounts transferred under Article 11 of the Programme. In this context, I would like to inform you that the SRSS is starting the implementation of the agreed actions on the ground.

In addition, and according to Article 8 of the SRSP Regulation, the Commission should also transmit to the European Parliament and the Council the Cooperation and Support Plans agreed with Member States. The Cooperation and Support Plans indicate the areas of support, the scope of the support measures, the objectives, the indicative timeline and the estimated financial resources for the support to be provided by the Commission to the Member State concerned. They set an overall framework for the provision of support and are indicative of Member States' ownership of the package of the support measures to be implemented.

¹ Commission Implementing Decision C(2018)5435 final of 9.8.2018 on the adoption of the 2018 work programme for operational technical assistance managed by the Commission on the request of Bulgaria pursuant to Article 11 of Regulation (EU) 2017/825 of the European Parliament and the Council, serving as financing decision

² Letter of 29 June 2018 to the Presidents of the Eurogroup and the Ecofin sent by the Bulgarian Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Bulgarian National Bank on Bulgaria's path towards ERM II participation, available at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/36125/st11119-cs18.pdf>

In view of the new support measures foreseen, an amended version of the Cooperation and Support Plan with Bulgaria has been signed and the Bulgarian authorities have also given their consent to transmit the Cooperation and Support Plan to the co-legislators in their entirety, without the need to redact sensitive or confidential information. Please note, however, that the consent for the transmission to the European Parliament and the Council does not entail consent to publicly disclose these documents.

Yours sincerely,



Valdis Dombrovskis

c.c.: General Secretariat of the Council, DG GI A - Economic and Financial Affairs

Enclosures:

- Financing Decision C(2018)5435 final and its annex (work programme for Bulgaria for 2018)
- Amended Cooperation and Support Plan with Bulgaria