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Subject: COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION amending the Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Belgium

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of ...

**amending the Implementing Decision 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 Facility¹, 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 Belgium on 30 April 2021, the Commission proposed its positive assessment to the Council. On 13 July 2021, the Council approved the positive assessment by means of an implementing decision ('the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021')². The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 was amended by Council implementing decisions of 8 December 2023³, 10 December 2024⁴, 18 February 2025⁵ and 11 March 2025⁶.
- (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.

² See documents ST 10161/21 and ST 10161/21 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

³ See documents ST 15570/23 and ST 15570/23 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁴ See documents ST 15974/24 and ST 15974/24 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁵ See documents ST 5654/25 and ST 5654/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁶ See documents ST 6545/25 and ST 6545/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

- (4) Belgium has explained that eight measures have been amended to implement better alternatives in order to achieve the original ambition of those measures. This concerns the description of reform R-1.05 ('Regulatory framework for the transport of carbon dioxide (CO₂) through pipelines in Flanders' of the Flemish Region) and milestone 15bis of reform R-1.05 under component 1.2 (Emerging Energy Technologies); targets 36 and 37 of investment I-1.22 ('Biodiversity and adaptation to climate change' of the Walloon Region) under component 1.3 (Climate and Environment); description of investment I-2.01 ('Cybersecure and resilient digital society' of the Federal State), target 44 of investment I-2.01 and milestone 47 of investment I-2.01 under component 2.1 (Cybersecurity); milestone 58 of investment I-2.05 ('Digitalisation SPF' of the Federal State) and 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' of the Brussels-Capital Region) and target 113 of investment I-3.14 under component 3.2 (Modal Shift); description of reform R-4.06 ('An inclusive labour market' of Flemish Community) and milestones 141 and 142 of reform R-4.06 under component 4.2 (Training and employment of Vulnerable Groups); description of reform 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); and milestones 184 and 185 of investment I-5.10 ('R&D: Minimization of waste during dismantling' of the Federal State) under component 5.2 (Supporting Economic Activity). On this basis, Belgium has requested that the aforementioned milestones, targets and measure descriptions be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

- (5) Belgium has explained that eight measures have been amended to implement better alternatives that allow the administrative burden to be reduced while still achieving the objectives of those measures. This concerns targets 5, 6 and 7 of investment I-1A (Renovations of private and social housing) under component 1.1 (Renovation); targets 12 and 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) and milestone 140 of reform R-4.04 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); and milestone 228 of reform R-7.02 ('Reform of the appeal procedures of the Council of State' of the Federal State) under component 7.3 (Renewable energy).

On this basis, Belgium has requested that unnecessary background information or procedural elements that do not contribute to the objectives or the context of the measures be removed. Furthermore, Belgium has requested that descriptions of measures or milestones and targets that cause unjustified administrative burden with regard to the achievement of the objectives of the respective measures be simplified. 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' of the Walloon Region) and milestone 155 of investment I-4.13 under component 4.3 (Social Infrastructure). On this basis, Belgium has requested that the aforementioned measure description and milestone be amended. 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 in order to align the wording of the qualitative indicator and the milestone description. This concerns milestone 159 of investment I-5.01 ('A6K/E6K Digital and Technological Innovation and Training Hub' of the Walloon Region) under component 5.1 (Training and Labour Market). On this basis, Belgium has requested that the aforementioned measure be amended. 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 milestones 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 that the aforementioned milestones and measure description be amended. Furthermore, Belgium has requested that 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) be extended and that the description of that investment be amended. Furthermore, Belgium has requested that milestone 79 of reform R-2.02 ('E-government: Tendering procedure' of the Federal State) and description of reform R-2.02 under component 2.2 (Public administration); and milestones 207 and 208 of reform R-6 (Spending reviews) under component 6.1 (Spending reviews) be amended. 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 amendments pursuant to Article 21(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241. 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 RRP and the indicative timeline presented by Belgium.

Correction of clerical errors

- (11) 10 clerical errors have been identified in the text of the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021, affecting one milestone and four targets and five measures under six components. The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended to correct those clerical errors, which do not reflect the content of the RRP submitted to the Commission on 30 April 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' of the Walloon Region) under component 1.3 (Climate and Environment); target 71 of investment I-2.10 ('Regional data exchange platform' of the Brussels-Capital Region) 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' of the Brussels-Capital Region) under component 4.1 (Education 2.0); target 146 of investment I-4.08 ('E-inclusion for Belgium' of the Federal State) under component 4.2 (Training and Employment of Vulnerable Groups); the description of investment I-2.15 ('Improving the connectivity of the 35 business parks in Wallonia' of the Walloon Region) under component 2.3 (Optical fibre, 5G and new technologies); investment I-3H ('Smart Mobility tools' of Brussels Capital Region), investment I-3.07 ('Metro extension' of the Walloon Region) and investment I-3.08 ('Smart road signals' of the Walloon Region) under component 3.2 (Modal Shift); and reform R-4.03 ('Global action plan against early school leaving' of the French Community) 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 of 13 July 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

- (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 cost of Belgium's amended RRP is EUR 5 279 567 854. As the amount of the estimated total cost 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 Council⁷ and with Article 20(4) and Article 21a(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 that is 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) The Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should therefore be amended accordingly. For the sake of clarity, the Annex to the Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be replaced entirely,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

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, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1755/oj>).

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 amended 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 set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President
