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Subject: 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

COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of ...

**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,

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 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 Council Implementing decision of 8 December 2023³.
- (2) On 16 April 2025, 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.

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

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

- (3) The REPowerEU chapter includes three new reforms and two new investments. Reform 1 (Governance framework for energy poverty and preparation of retail market liberalisation) aims to establish a coordination unit to address energy poverty and protect energy vulnerable consumers, and to implement preparatory actions for the liberalisation of the electricity retail market. Reform 2 (Transparency of connection procedures for new renewable and storage capacities) has the objective of increasing the transparency of connection procedures for new renewable capacities by creating a publicly accessible online grid capacity hosting map. Reform 3 (Improving the functioning of the balancing market and enabling demand-response) aims to improve the functioning of the balancing market in Bulgaria through the accession of the Transmission System Operator ESO EAD to the Platform for the International Coordination of Automated Frequency Restoration and Stable System Operation (PICASSO) and the adoption of an analysis and recommendations on the facilitation of demand-response measures. Under Investment 1, an information system will be created to facilitate the identification of energy poor and vulnerable households and to certify their status. Investment 3 covers the deployment of renewable energy and electric vehicles in the provision of social services.

- (4) The REPowerEU chapter also includes a scaled-up measure, namely Investment 2 (Scaled-up measure: National infrastructure for storage of electricity (RESTORE)) affecting Investment 8 (National infrastructure for storage of electricity from renewables (RESTORE)) under component 4 (Low-carbon economy), aiming to deploy grid-scale electricity storage facilities. The scaled-up measure included in the REPowerEU chapter introduces a substantive improvement in the level of ambition of the measure already included in the RRP.
- (5) Considering the decrease in the maximum financial contribution of EUR 578 533 524 in accordance with Article 11(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, and following the amendment of the Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 by the Council Implementing Decision of 8 December 2023, Bulgaria has included Investment 4 (Support for new capacities for electricity generation from renewable sources and electricity storage) which was already contained in the initial RRP approved by the Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 in the REPowerEU chapter. That measure was reflected in the initial RRP as Investment 6 (Support for new capacities for electricity generation from renewable sources and electricity storage) under component 4 (Low carbon economy).

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

- (6) The amendments to the RRP submitted by Bulgaria because of objective circumstances concern 82 measures.

- (7) Bulgaria has explained that eight measures are no longer achievable because of a considerable increase of the cost of implementation of the measures due to inflation. This concerns the following measures: Investment 2 (Modernisation of educational infrastructures); Investment 3 (Provision of digital skills trainings and set-up of a platform for adult learning); Investment 1 (Programme to accelerate economic recovery and transformation through research and innovation); Investment 6 (Sofia metro line 3); Reform 10 (Public procurement); Investment 1 (Modernisation of long-term care); Investment 2 (Provision of assisting devices to persons with permanent disabilities); and Investment 3 (Modernization and development of psychiatric care). On this basis, Bulgaria has requested that those measures be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 should be amended accordingly.
- (8) Bulgaria has explained that six measures are no longer achievable because of unexpected lack of demand. This concerns: Investment 7 (Pilot project on combined heat and power from geothermal sources); Reform 1 (Updating the strategic framework of the agricultural sector); Investment 2 (European Train Control System on-board equipment); Investment 5 (Road safety); Investment 4 (Improving the quality and sustainability of the security services); and Investment 6 (Improving the 112 national emergency communication system). On this basis, Bulgaria has requested that those measures be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 should be amended accordingly.

- (9) Bulgaria has explained that five measures are no longer achievable because of unexpected legal challenges. This concerns: Investment 1 (Integrating the ecosystem approach and applying nature-based solutions into the protection of Natura 2000 sites); Investment 1 (Railways rolling stock); Investment 1 (Program for the construction/completion/reconstruction of water supply and sewerage systems, including waste water treatment plants for agglomerations between 5 000 and 10 000 PE); Investment 3 (Development of the social economy); and Investment 4 (Modernisation of the Social Assistance Agency). On this basis, Bulgaria has requested that those measures be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 should be amended accordingly.
- (10) Bulgaria has explained that six measures are no longer achievable because of unexpected delays in implementation. This concerns: Investment 2 (Support for renewable energy for households); Investment 3 (Support for energy-efficient street lighting systems); Investment 5 (Pilot projects for the production of green hydrogen); Reform 1 (Accessible, effective and predictable justice); Investment 8 (Spatial monitoring, control and management through upgrading the Aerospace Monitoring Centre (AMC)); and Investment 9 (Digitising data in the administration containing paper registries). On this basis, Bulgaria has requested that those measures be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 should be amended accordingly.

- (11) Bulgaria has explained that 17 measures have been amended to implement better alternatives in order to achieve the original ambition of those measures. This concerns: Investment 1 (STEM centres and innovation in education); Investment 4 (Youth centres); Reform 4 (Boosting energy efficiency and renewable energy projects through the energy bills); Reform 8 (Liberalisation of the electricity market); Reform 9 (Roadmap to Climate Neutrality); Investment 1 (Support for the renovation of building stock); Investment 2 (Digitalisation of processes from farm to fork); Reform 1 (Strategic transport framework); Reform 2 (Road safety); Reform 5 (Electric mobility); Investment 7 (Green mobility); Reform 2 (Continuation of the water sector reform); Reform 2 (Anti-corruption); Reform 3 (Introduction of mandatory judicial mediation); Investment 2 (Improving the conditions for interventional diagnosis and endovascular treatment of cerebrovascular diseases and creating conditions for postgraduate training of specialists in the field of endovascular treatment of cerebrovascular diseases in Bulgaria); Investment 5 (Modernisation of the Employment Agency); and Investment 7 (Development of outpatient care). On this basis, Bulgaria has requested that those measures be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 should be amended accordingly.

- (12) Bulgaria has explained that 35 measures have been amended in order to implement better alternatives that allow for the reduction of the administrative burden while still achieving the objectives of those measures. This concerns: Reform 1 (Reform in preschool and school education and lifelong learning); Reform 1 (Common policy for the development of research and innovation); Investment 2 (Enhancing the innovation capacity of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences); Investment 1 (AttractInvestBG); Investment 2 (Economic transformation programme); Reform 6 (Boosting electricity generation from renewable sources); Reform 7 (Unleashing the potential of hydrogen technologies and hydrogen production and supply); Reform 10 (Decarbonisation of the energy sector); Reform 11 (Improving corporate governance of state-owned companies in the energy sector); Investment 4 (Digital transformation of the electricity transmission grid); Investment 8 (National infrastructure for storage of electricity from RES (RESTORE)); Investment 1 (Fund to promote the technological and ecological transition of agriculture); Reform 1 (Developing and implementing an effective policy and regulatory framework); Reform 2 (Efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum); Investment 1 (Large-scale deployment of digital infrastructure); Investment 2 (Construction, development and optimisation of the digital TETRA system and radio relay network); Reform 3 (Sustainable urban mobility); Reform 4 (Integrated public transport); Reform 4 (Strengthening insolvency procedures); Reform 5 (Digital reform of the Bulgarian construction sector); Reform 6 (Registry reform to unlock the potential of eGovernment); Reform 7 (Improving the governance framework for state-owned enterprises);

Reform 8 (Strengthening the anti-money laundering framework); Investment 1 (Strengthening, further developing and building on the Unified Information System of Courts); Investment 2 (Digitalisation of key litigation processes in administrative justice); Investment 3 (Transformation of the information and communication infrastructure at the Public Prosecutor's Office); Investment 6 (Supporting a pilot phase for the introduction of building information modelling); Investment 11 (Ensuring an adequate information and administrative environment for the implementation of the recovery and resilience plan); Reform 1 (Reform of the minimum income scheme); Reform 2 (Reform of social services); Investment 6 (Development of the cultural and creative sectors); Investment 7 (Digitisation of collections of museums, libraries, and archives); Reform 1 (Upgrading the strategic framework of the healthcare sector); Reform 3 (Improving the attractiveness of healthcare professions and promoting a more balanced distribution of healthcare professionals across the territory); and Investment 4 (Support for new capacities for electricity generation from renewable sources and electricity storage) of component 13 (REPowerEU Chapter). On this basis, Bulgaria has requested that those measures be amended. The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 should be amended accordingly.

- (13) Following the removal of measures in accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, Bulgaria has requested to use the resources freed up by the removal of measures and decrease in the level of their implementation to add four new measures and increase the level of implementation of nine measures. This concerns: Investment 9 (Subsidy scheme – Renovation of residential buildings); Investment 8 (Equipment for monitoring and maintenance of railway tracks and overhead lines); Investment 9 (Renovation of railway infrastructure); Investment 10 (New rolling stock for the Sofia Metro); Investment 2 (Economic transformation programme); Investment 1 (Railways rolling stock); Investment 6 (Sofia metro line 3); Investment 7 (Green mobility); Reform 10 (Public procurement); Investment 4 (Improving the quality and sustainability of the security services); Investment 2 (Improving the conditions for interventional diagnosis and endovascular treatment of cerebrovascular diseases and creating conditions for postgraduate training of specialists in the field of endovascular treatment of cerebrovascular diseases in Bulgaria); Investment 3 (Modernization and development of psychiatric care); and Investment 4 (Building an air emergency medical system). On this basis, Bulgaria has requested that the level of implementation of nine measures be increased and that four new measures be added. The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 should be amended accordingly.

Distribution of milestones and targets

- (14) 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.

- (15) The original RRP should undergo an overall restructuring which should lead to a consolidation of payment requests.

Commission's assessment

- (16) The Commission has assessed the amended RRP against the assessment criteria laid down in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.
- (17) 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), points (a), (c), (g) and (h), of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.

Addressing all or a significant subset of challenges identified in country-specific recommendations

- (18) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (b), of and Annex V, criterion 2.2, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the amended RRP is expected to contribute to effectively addressing all or a significant subset of challenges (rating A) identified in the relevant country-specific recommendations addressed to Bulgaria, including fiscal aspects thereof, or challenges identified in other relevant documents officially adopted by the Commission in the context of the European Semester.

- (19) Having assessed progress in the implementation of all relevant country-specific recommendations as part of the 2025 European Semester, the Commission finds that there is no substantial progress in areas covered by country-specific recommendations such as the energy transition, sustainable transport, healthcare, education and skills, digital transition and parts of the area of business environment.
- (20) The amended RRP includes an extensive set of mutually reinforcing reforms and investments that contribute to effectively addressing all or a significant subset of the economic and social challenges outlined in the country-specific recommendations addressed to Bulgaria by the Council in the context of the European Semester, in particular in areas such as social inclusion, education and skills, decarbonisation, digital transition and business environment, and healthcare.

- (21) The REPowerEU chapter is expected to reinforce the ambition of the RRP with regard to the relevant country-specific recommendations in the field of energy and the green transition, in particular 2020 recommendations 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 on focusing investment on the green and digital transition, in particular on clean and efficient production and use of energy and resources, environmental infrastructure and sustainable transport, contributing to a progressive decarbonisation of the economy, including in the coal regions, and 2024 recommendation 4 on reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and accelerating the green transition, ensuring sufficient storage capacity and enhancing the electricity grid infrastructure. The REPowerEU chapter also contributes to 2023 recommendation 3.5 on increasing energy efficiency and 2024 recommendation 4.2 on addressing energy poverty.

Do no significant harm

- (22) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (d), of and Annex V, criterion 2.4, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the amended RRP is expected to ensure that no measure (rating A) for the implementation of reforms and investments projects included in the RRP does significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ (the principle of ‘do no significant harm’).

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/852/oj>).

- (23) The changes introduced by the amended RRP, do not affect the positive assessment carried out for the original RRP regarding this assessment criterion.
- (24) As regards the new reforms and investments introduced in the REPowerEU chapter, Bulgaria provided a systematic assessment of each measure against the principle of ‘do no significant harm’ in line with the technical guidance provided in the Commission Notice entitled ‘Technical guidance on the application of “do no significant harm” under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation’⁵. The information provided indicates that no measure included in the amended RRP does significant harm.

Contribution to the REPowerEU objectives

- (25) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (da), of and Annex V, criterion 2.12, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the REPowerEU chapter is expected to effectively contribute to a large extent (rating A) to energy security, the diversification of the Union’s energy supply, an increase in the uptake of renewables and in energy efficiency, an increase of energy storage capacities or the necessary reduction of dependence on fossil fuels before 2030.

⁵ OJ C, C/2023/111, 11.10.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/111/oj>.

- (26) The implementation of the scaled-up and new measures is to directly contribute to the REPowerEU objectives that are set out in Article 21c(3), points (b), (c) and (e), of Regulation (EU) 2021/241. Reform 1 concerning the establishment of a governance framework for energy poverty and preparation for retail market liberalisation, and investment 1 concerning a national information system for energy poor and vulnerable households contribute to addressing energy poverty pursuant to Article 21c(3), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2021/241. By increasing the transparency of grid connection procedures, reform 2 is expected to facilitate and accelerate the deployment of renewables and hence it contributes to the objective set out in Article 21c(3), point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2021/241. Reform 3 on improving the functioning of the balancing market and enabling demand-response contributes to the objective set out in Article 21c(3), point (e), of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 to address internal and cross-border energy transmission and distribution bottlenecks. By supporting investments in electricity storage, investments 2 and 4 contribute to the objective to support electricity storage and accelerate the integration of renewable energy sources, as set out in Article 21c(3), point (e), of Regulation (EU) 2021/241. Investment 3 concerning the installation of photovoltaic systems and provision of electric vehicles for social service facilities contributes both to supporting zero-emission transport, as set out in Article 21c(3), point (e), of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, and to accelerating the deployment of renewable energy, as set out in Article 21c(3), point (b), of that Regulation.

Measures having a cross-border or multi-country dimension or effect

- (27) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (db), of and Annex V, criterion 2.13, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the measures included in the REPowerEU chapter are expected to a large extent (rating A) to have a cross-border or multi-country dimension or effect.
- (28) Most measures included in the REPowerEU chapter have a cross-border or multi-country dimension or effect.
- (29) The investments with a multi-country and cross-border dimension consist in support for electrification, the promotion of renewable energy production and the integration of renewable energy sources into the network, hence reducing the country's demand for fossil fuels. The total costs of those measures account for a total of EUR 495 753 906, representing more than 30 % of the estimated costs of the REPowerEU chapter.
- (30) The measures included in the REPowerEU chapter reduce dependence on fossil fuels at both Union and national levels, which justifies the assessment that those measures are expected to a large extent (rating A) to have a cross-border or multi-country dimension or effect.

Contribution to the green transition, including biodiversity

- (31) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (e), of and Annex V, criterion 2.5, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the amended RRP contains measures that contribute to a large extent (rating A) to the green transition, including biodiversity, or to addressing the challenges resulting therefrom. The measures supporting climate objectives account for an amount which represents 49,9 % of the amended RRP's total allocation and 99,5 % of the total estimated costs of measures in the REPowerEU chapter calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in Annex VI to Regulation (EU) 2021/241. In accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the amended RRP is consistent with the information included in the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030.
- (32) The measures removed or reduced with respect to the level of required implementation do not impact the overall ambition of the RRP regarding the green transition while the REPowerEU chapter contributes significantly to further supporting the green transition of Bulgaria, since all the reforms and investments contribute to reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and facilitate the integration of renewables.
- (33) The amended RRP, including the REPowerEU chapter, continues to significantly contribute to the green transition, as well as to the achievement of the Union 2030 climate targets while complying with the objective of EU climate neutrality by 2050. The REPowerEU measures are expected to contribute to the green transition by promoting the integration of renewable energy into the system and contributing to addressing energy poverty.

Contribution to the digital transition

- (34) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (f), of and Annex V, criterion 2.6, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the amended RRP contains measures that contribute to a large extent (rating A) to the digital transition or to addressing the challenges resulting from it. The measures supporting digital objectives account for an amount which represents 20,6 % of the amended RRP's total allocation calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in Annex VII to that Regulation.
- (35) The positive assessment of the contribution to the digital transition provided in the Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 remains valid. The amended RRP entails amendments to nineteen measures regarding the digital transition, the removal of two measures regarding the digital transition, and it does not include any new measures that contribute to the digital transition.

Costing

- (36) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (i), of and Annex V, criterion 2.9, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the justification provided in the amended RRP on the amount of the estimated total cost of the RRP is to a medium extent (rating B) reasonable and plausible, is in line with the principle of cost efficiency and is commensurate to the expected national economic and social impact.

- (37) According to the information provided, the assessment of the cost estimates for the new REPowerEU measures and for the existing measures whose modifications entailed a new cost assessment shows that most of the costs are reasonable and plausible. Only in a few cases, were details on the methodology and assumptions used to make the cost estimates limited, partly due to the novelty of the measures. This precludes a rating A for this assessment criterion. Furthermore, the changes in the cost estimates for the other modified measures were justified, proportional to the new revised targets and supported by detailed calculations and evidence, and as such the reasonability and plausibility of those cost estimates were not altered compared to the original RRP. Finally, the estimated total cost of the RRP is in line with the principle of cost-efficiency and commensurate to the expected national economic and social impact.

Protection of the financial interests of the Union

- (38) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (j), of and Annex V, criterion 2.10, to Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the arrangements proposed in the amended RRP and the additional measures contained in this Implementing Decision are adequate (rating A) to prevent, detect and correct corruption, fraud and conflicts of interests when using the funds provided under that Regulation, and the arrangements are expected to effectively avoid double funding under that Regulation and other Union programmes. This is without prejudice to the application of other instruments and tools to promote and enforce compliance with Union law, including for preventing, detecting and correcting corruption, fraud and conflicts of interest, and for protecting the Union budget in accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶.
- (39) Since the previous assessment, the Commission has had access to information on the Bulgarian audit and control system's actual implementation. This includes the preliminary findings of the audit on the protection of the financial interests of the Union performed by the Commission in Bulgaria.
- (40) In light of this information, the Commission considers that the internal control system of the Bulgarian RRP is overall adequate.

⁶ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget (OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/2092/oj>).

Equality

- (41) The previous description of the implementation and monitoring aspects of the RRP as well as gender equality remains valid. Also, investment C13I1 (Establishing an information system on energy poor and vulnerable households) and reform C13R1 (Governance framework for energy poverty and preparation of retail market liberalisation) aim to address the specific needs of energy poor and vulnerable consumers, with a view to ensuring their protection through targeted measures.

Positive assessment

- (42) 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

- (43) The estimated total costs of Bulgaria's amended RRP, including a REPowerEU chapter, is EUR 6 174 106 145. As the amount of the estimated total cost of the amended RRP is higher than 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 Council⁷, 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 5 688 778 600.
- (44) Pursuant to Article 21a(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, on 16 April 2025 Bulgaria submitted a request for the allocation of the revenue referred to in Article 21a(1) of that Regulation, shared between Member States on the basis of the indicators set out in the methodology in Annex IVa to Regulation (EU) 2021/241. The estimated total cost of the measures referred to in Article 21c(3), points (b) to (f), of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 included in the REPowerEU chapter is EUR 498 208 098. As this amount is higher than the allocation share available for Bulgaria, the additional non-repayable financial support available for Bulgaria should be equal to the allocation share. This amount is equal to EUR 479 327 545.

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>).

- (45) Additionally, in accordance with Article 4a of Regulation (EU) 2021/1755, on 28 February 2023 Bulgaria submitted a reasoned request to transfer all its remaining provisional allocation from the resources of the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to the Recovery and Resilience Facility, amounting to EUR 6 000 000. That amount should be made available to support the reforms and investments in the REPowerEU chapter as additional non-repayable financial support.
- (46) The total financial contribution available to Bulgaria, including a REPowerEU chapter, should be EUR 6 174 106 145.
- (47) The Council Implementing Decision of 4 May 2022 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,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

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:

- (1) Article 1 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 1

Approval of the assessment of the RRP

The assessment of the modified RRP of Bulgaria 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 non-repayable financial support, 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) in Article 2, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

‘1. The Union shall make available to Bulgaria a financial contribution in the form of non-repayable support amounting to EUR 6 174 106 145*. That contribution includes:

- (a) an amount of EUR 4 636 043 337, which shall be available to be legally committed by 31 December 2022;

- (b) an amount of EUR 1 052 735 263, which shall be available to be legally committed from 1 January 2023 until 31 December 2023;
- (c) an amount of EUR 479 327 545^{**}, in accordance with Article 21a(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, exclusively for measures referred to in Article 21c of that Regulation, with the exception of measures referred to in Article 21c(3), point (a);
- (d) an amount of EUR 6 000 000, transferred from the Brexit Adjustment Reserve to the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

* This amount corresponds to the financial allocation after deduction of Bulgaria's proportional share of the expenses referred to in Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in Article 11 of that Regulation.

** This amount corresponds to the financial allocation after deduction of Bulgaria's proportional share of the expenses referred to in Article 6(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in Annex IVa to that Regulation.';

- (3) the Annex is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President
