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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 Slovakia

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 Slovakia

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 Slovakia on 29 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 decision² ('Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021'). Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 was amended by Council Implementing Decisions of 14 July 2023³, 13 May 2025⁴ and 13 November 2025⁵.
- (2) On 30 April 2026, Slovakia made a reasoned request to the Commission to make a proposal to amend 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, Slovakia has submitted an amended RRP.

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

- (3) The amendments to the RRP submitted by Slovakia because of objective circumstances concern 41 measures.

² See documents ST 10156/21, ST 10156/21 ADD 1 and ST 10156/21 ADD 1 COR 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

³ See documents ST 11205/23, ST 11205/23 ADD 1 and ST 11205/23 ADD 1 COR 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁴ See documents ST 8054/25 and ST 8054/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁵ See documents ST 14450/25 and ST 14450/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

- (4) Slovakia has explained that five measures are partially no longer achievable because beneficiaries withdrew from contracts, there was a lack of interest among potential applicants and there were delays in implementation. This concerns Investment 1 (Construction of new renewable electricity sources), Investment 3 (Development of intermodal freight transport), Investment 4 (Support for the construction of alternative propulsion infrastructure), Investment 4 (Support for projects aiming at the development of digital technologies and infrastructure) and Reform 3 (Creation of a database and data exchange system on the energy performance of buildings). On this basis, Slovakia has requested that those measures be amended. Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

- (5) Slovakia has explained that 16 measures have been amended to implement better alternatives in order to achieve their original ambition. This concerns Reform 1 (Reform of the content and form of education), Investment 2 (Completion of the school infrastructure), Reform 5 (Concentration of excellent educational and research capacities), Investment 4 (Promoting internationalisation in the academic environment), Investment 7 (Humanisation of institutional psychiatric care), Investment 2 (Extension and restoration of after-care and nursing capacities), Reform 2 (Fighting corruption and strengthening the integrity and independence of the judiciary), Investment 1 (Better services for citizens and businesses), Investment 2 (Digital transformation of public service delivery), Investment 3 (Engaging in European multi-country projects related to the digital economy), Investment 4 (Support for projects aiming at the development of digital technologies and infrastructure), Investment 5 (Hackathons), Investment 6 (Preventive measures, speed of incident detection and resolution (ITVS – Information technologies for public administration)), Investment 7 (Digital skills of seniors or disadvantaged people), Reform 4 (Standardisation of technical and procedural cybersecurity solutions (ITVS – Information technologies for public administration)) and Reform 5 (Cybersecurity training and skills (ITVS – Information technologies for public administration)). On this basis, Slovakia has requested that those measures be amended. Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

- (6) Slovakia has explained that 13 measures have been amended to implement a better alternative that allow the administrative burden to be reduced and simplify Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021, while still achieving the objectives of those measures. This concerns Investment 1 (Digital Infrastructure in schools), Investment 6 (Financial instruments to support innovation), Investment 2 (Strengthening relations with the diaspora), Investment 3 (Digitalisation in health), Investment 4 (Construction and rehabilitation of ambulance stations), Reform 1 (Optimisation of the hospital network), Investment 3 (Building community-based mental healthcare centres), Reform 1 (Promoting sustainable energy), Reform 4 (Management of central government buildings), Investment 1 (Increasing energy efficiency of family houses), Investment 2 (Renovation of historical and listed buildings), Investment 8 (Coordination capacities and communication support) and Investment 4 (Supporting the renovation of households at risk of energy poverty). On this basis, Slovakia has requested that those measures be amended. Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

- (7) Following the decrease in the level of implementation of measures in accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, Slovakia has requested to increase the level of implementation of seven measures. This concerns Investment 2 (Modernising the existing renewable energy sources (repowering)), Investment 3 (Increasing flexibility of electricity systems for greater renewables integration), Investment 1 (The development of low-carbon infrastructure), Investment 2 (New hospital network – construction, reconstruction and equipment), Investment 4 (Streamlining, optimizing and strengthening administrative capacity at different levels of government), Investment 2 (Digital transformation of public service delivery) and Investment 3 (Renovation of public historical and listed buildings). On this basis, Slovakia has requested that the level of implementation of eight measures be increased. Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

Distribution of milestones and targets

- (8) 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 Slovakia.

Commission's assessment

- (9) The Commission has assessed the amended RRP against the assessment criteria laid down in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.

Contribution to the green transition including biodiversity

- (10) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (e), of, and criterion 2.5 of Annex V 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 40,0 % of the amended RRP's total allocation and 81,7 % of the estimated total cost 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.
- (11) The amendment of the RRP does not materially impact its ambition towards the green transition despite a decrease of 0,19 percentage points in the share of the total allocation to measures supporting climate objectives. This decrease mainly results from the decrease in the level of implementation of Investment 1 (Construction of new renewable electricity sources) under Component 1 and Investment 2 (Completion of the school infrastructure) under Component 7. The amended RRP still significantly supports green transition objectives, the enhancement of biodiversity and environmental protection. In particular, the REPowerEU chapter continues to support the green transition, as its reforms and investments contribute to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels, reduce energy demand and increase energy efficiency.

Contribution to the digital transition

- (12) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (f), of, and criterion 2.6 of Annex V 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 21,2 % of the amended RRP's total allocation calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in Annex VII to that Regulation.
- (13) The amendment of the RRP does not materially impact ambition towards the digital transition despite a decrease of 0,57 percentage points in the share of the total allocation to measures supporting digital objectives. This decrease mainly results from the decrease in the amount of costs which are tagged digitally and related to Investment 2 (Digital transformation of public service delivery) and Investment 3 (Engaging in European multi-country projects related to the digital economy) under Component 17.

Costing

- (14) In accordance with Article 19(3), point (i), of, and criterion 2.9 of Annex V 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 with the expected national economic and social impact.

- (15) The outcome of the costing assessment in Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 therefore remains unchanged. Slovakia's justification on the amount of the estimates of total costs of the RRP were reasonable and plausible to a medium extent, in line with the principle of cost efficiency, and was commensurate with the expected national and economic impact. For a limited number of measures, cost benchmarks were less clear, based on little comparable information. Demarcation with other financing sources for projects was also not always clearly indicated, but safeguards were put in place to prevent double funding.
- (16) The assessment of the cost estimates for the amended measures shows that most of the costs are reasonable and plausible, according to the information provided. For some amended measures, information on the reasonability and plausibility of cost estimates is limited or missing. This precludes an A rating under the given assessment criterion. Changes in the cost estimates for amended measures were justified and proportional where possible and as such the reasonability and plausibility of those cost estimates were not altered compared to the original RRP. Details on the methodology and the assumptions used to make the cost estimates were justified and proportional throughout most of the amended RRP. Finally, the amount of the estimated total cost of the RRP is in line with the principle of cost efficiency and commensurate with the expected national economic and social impact.

Any other assessment criteria

- (17) The Commission considers that the amendments put forward by Slovakia do not affect the positive assessment of the RRP set out in 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), points (a), (b), (c), (d), (da), (db), (g), (h), (j) and (k), of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.

Measures supporting investment operations contributing to the objectives of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

- (18) In accordance with Article 4(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶, Slovakia considered as priority projects those projects that have been awarded a Sovereignty Seal pursuant to Article 4(1) of that Regulation. However, Slovakia considered that no such projects were to be included in the amended RRP because of insufficient time to complete such projects before the end date of the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP), and amending Directive 2003/87/EC and Regulations (EU) 2021/1058, (EU) 2021/1056, (EU) 2021/1057, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) 2021/1060, (EU) 2021/523, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697 and (EU) 2021/241 (OJ L, 2024/795, 29.2.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/795/oj>).

Positive assessment

- (19) 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

- (20) The estimated total cost of Slovakia's amended RRP is EUR 6 408 465 020. As the amount of the estimated total cost of the amended RRP is higher than the updated maximum financial contribution available for Slovakia, 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 Slovakia's amended RRP should be equal to EUR 6 408 465 019. Therefore, the financial contribution made available to Slovakia remains unchanged.

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>).

- (21) The amount of the financial contribution for Slovakia should be determined in accordance with Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241. However, pursuant to Commission Implementing Decision of 8 May 2025 on the reduction of the amount of the fifth instalment of the non-repayable support for Slovakia, adopted in accordance with Article 24(8) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the financial contribution has been reduced by EUR 1 225 000 and Slovakia cannot request its disbursement from the Commission.
- (22) Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should therefore be amended accordingly. For the sake of clarity, the Annex to Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be replaced entirely.
- (23) This Decision is without prejudice to the outcome of any procedures relating to the award of Union funds under any Union programme other than the Recovery and Resilience Facility or to procedures relating to distortions of the operation of the internal market that may be undertaken, in particular under Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty. It does not override the requirement for Member States to notify instances of potential State aid to the Commission under Article 108 of the Treaty,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Approval of the assessment of the amended recovery and resilience plan

The assessment of the amended recovery and resilience plan for Slovakia on the basis of the criteria provided for in Article 19(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/241 is approved.

Article 2

Amendments

The Annex to Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Slovakia is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 3

Addressee

This Decision is addressed to the Slovak Republic.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President
