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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

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 decision² ('Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021'). Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 was amended by Council Implementing Decisions of 8 December 2023³, 10 December 2024⁴, 18 February 2025⁵, 11 March 2025⁶, 20 June 2025⁷, 8 July 2025⁸ and 13 November 2025⁹.
- (2) On 20 March 2026, Belgium 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, 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 39 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>.

⁷ See documents ST 9584/25 and ST 9584/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁸ See documents ST 10529/25 and ST 10529/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

⁹ See documents ST 14449/25 and ST 14449/25 ADD 1 at <http://register.consilium.europa.eu>.

- (4) Belgium has explained that one measure is partially no longer achievable due to the fact that the renovation of dwellings in the Brussels region has already been carried out in the context of the overachievement of target 5 of investment I-1A (Renovations of private housing). As a result, the actions initially envisaged under target 6 of that investment have been effectively completed and accounted for under target 5, rendering target 6 redundant. On this basis, Belgium has requested that that measure be removed. Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.
- (5) Belgium has explained that one measure is partially no longer achievable due to a risk of overlap with other measures. This concerns target 71 of investment I-2.10 ('Regional data exchange platform' of the Brussels-Capital Region). On this basis, Belgium has requested that that measure be removed. Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

- (6) Belgium has explained that nine measures have been amended to implement better alternatives in order to achieve their original ambition. This concerns the description of milestone 52 of investment I-2.04 (Digitalisation IPSS/OISZ, sub-measure 1), the description of milestone 53 of investment I-2.04 (Digitalisation IPSS/OISZ, sub-measure 3), the description of milestone 55b of investment I-2.05bis (Digitalisation FPS), the description of milestone 65 of investment I-2.07 (Digitalisation of ONE), the description of target 73 of investment I-2.11 ('Digitalisation of citizen-business processes' of the Brussels-Capital Region), the description of targets 115 and 115b of investment I-3G (Greening the bus fleet), the description of target 152 of investment I-4.12 ('Development of public utility housing and housing for vulnerable persons' of the Walloon Region), the description of investment I-5.10 ('R&D: Minimization of waste during dismantling' of the Federal State) and milestone 185 of that investment, the description of targets 190 and 191 of investment I-5.12 ('Relocation of food and development of logistics platforms' of the Walloon Region) and the description of investment I-5.13 (Digitisation of the Walloon tourism sector) and target 192 of that investment. On this basis, Belgium has requested that those measures be amended. Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

- (7) Belgium has explained that 25 measures have been amended to implement better alternatives that allow the administrative burden to be reduced and to simplify Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 while still achieving the objectives of those measures. This concerns the description of investment I-1.02 ('Renovation of social housing' of the Brussels-Capital Region) and target 7 of that investment, the description of investment I-1B (Building renovation), the description of investment I-1.05 ('Renovation of buildings' in the Flemish Region) and target 13 of that investment, the description of investment I-1.07 ('Renovation of buildings - local authorities & sport' in the Walloon Region) and target 14bis of that investment, the description of investment I-1.08 ('Renovation of buildings' in the Brussels-Capital Region) and target 14bis of that investment, the description of investment I-1.09 (Renovation of buildings in the French Community in the education, sport, youth and culture domains) and target 14 of that investment, the description of milestone 20 of investment I-1.15 ('An industrial value chain for hydrogen transition' of the Federal State), the description of targets 37 and 39 of investment I-1.22 ('Biodiversity and adaptation to climate change' in the Walloon Region), the description of target 252 of investment I-1.25 (Marine Nature Restoration Programme), the description of investment I-2.03 ('Cybersecurity: NTSU/CTIF interception registry' of the Federal State) and milestone 50 of that investment, the description of investment I-2.05 ('Digitalisation FPS' of the Federal State) and milestones 55, 58 and 60 of that investment, the description of milestone 69 of investment I-2.09 ('Digitalisation of the Flemish Government' of the Flemish Region),

the description 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) and target 83 of that investment, the description of target 100 of investment I-3B (Enhancing public transport in Wallonia), the description of investment I-3D (Storage, analysis and visualization of mobility data on a digital platform) and target 108 of that investment, the description of reform R-3.07 (Enhancing the Flemish vehicle emission monitoring framework), the description of investment I-3.10 ('Rail – efficient network' of the Federal State), the description of reform R-4.03 (Legal acts to reduce early school leaving and absenteeism and address permanent exclusions of the French Community) and milestone 129 of that reform, the description of reform R-4.07 ('End of career and pensions' of the Federal State), the description of investment I-5.02 ('EU Biotech Campus' of the Walloon Region) and milestone 161 of that investment, the description of targets 160 and 163 of investment I-5.03 ('Upgrading of advanced training infrastructure' of the Walloon Region), the description of investment I-5.07 ('Digital lifelong learning' of the Walloon Region) and description of target 171 of that investment, the description of investment I-5.10 ('R&D: Minimization of waste during dismantling' of the Federal State) and milestone 185 of that investment, the description of reform R-7.01 ('Revision of the code on air, climate and energy' of the Brussels-Capital Region) and milestone 211 of that reform and milestone 220 of investment I-7.11 ('Research platform for energy transition' of the French Community). On this basis, Belgium has requested that those measures be amended. Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.

- (8) Belgium has explained that one measure has been amended due to unforeseen technical difficulties. Owing to shortages on the labour market and high demand for the services of subcontractors to install fibre networks, the contractor was unable to mobilise a sufficient number of workers to complete the works on time. This concerns description of target 84 of investment I-2.15 ('Improving the connectivity of 35 business parks in Wallonia' of the Walloon Region). On this basis, Belgium has requested that that measure be amended. Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 should be amended accordingly.
- (9) Following the removal of target 71 of investment I-2.10 ('Regional data exchange platform' of the Brussels-Capital Region) and target 6 of investment I-1A (Renovations of private housing) in accordance with Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241, the level of implementation of two measures has been increased. This concerns target 261 of investment I-7.01 ('Improved energy subsidy scheme' of the Brussels-Capital Region) and target 262 of investment I-1.02 ('Renovation of social housing' of the Brussels-Capital Region). On this basis, Belgium has requested that the level of implementation of those two measures be increased. 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 amended to take into account the amendments to the RRP and the indicative timeline presented by Belgium.

Corrections of clerical errors

- (11) 14 clerical errors have been identified in the text of Council Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021, affecting seven milestones, five targets and 15 measures. 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 the description of milestone 26 of investment I-1.17 ('An industrial value chain for hydrogen transition' of the Walloon Region), the description of target 40 of investment I-1.23 ('Ecological defragmentation' in the Flemish Region), the description of target 43 of investment I-1.24 ('Blue Deal' in the Flemish Region), the description of investment I-3F (Charging stations), the description of milestone 106 and target 107 of investment I-3.11 ('Canal Albert and Trilogiport' of the Walloon Region), the description of milestone 139 of reform R-4.05 ('Re-qualification strategy' of the Brussels-Capital Region), the description of target 166 of investment I-5.05 ('Strategy for relaunching the labour market' of the Brussels-Capital Region), the description of investment I-5.19 (Equity injection into Participatiemaatschappij Vlaanderen (PMV) to support companies active in the field of biotechnology), the description of milestones 257 and 258 of investment I-5.20 (Capital injection into SFPIM Defence), the description of milestone 259 of investment I-5.21 (Scaled-up measure: Capital injection into SFPIM Defence), the description of investment I-7.04 (Renovation of social housing of the Walloon Region), the description of target 216 of investment I-7.05 ('Energy-climate measures in public buildings' of the Federal state) and the description of milestone 234 of investment I-7.17 (Optimization of energy distribution). 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 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), (i), (j), and (k), of Regulation (EU) 2021/241.

Contribution to the green transition including biodiversity

- (14) 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 45,60 % of the amended RRP's total allocation and 70,32 % 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.
- (15) The measures in the amended RRP continue to significantly contribute to the green transition. The green contribution of the amended RRP has increased from 45,41 % to 45,60 % compared to the amended assessment of 13 November 2025.

- (16) The increase was the result of the increased level of ambition of two measures, namely investment I-1.02 ('Renovation of social housing' of the Brussels-Capital Region) and investment I-7.01 ('Improved energy subsidy scheme' of the Brussels-Capital Region).

Contribution to the digital transition

- (17) 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 26,96 % of the amended RRP's total allocation calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in Annex VII to that Regulation.
- (18) The measures in the amended RRP continue to significantly contribute to the digital transition. The digital contribution of the amended RRP has decreased from 27,47 % to 26,96 % compared to the amended assessment of 13 November 2025.
- (19) The decrease was the result of the decreased level of ambition of one measure, namely investment I-2.10 ('Regional data exchange platform' of the Brussels-Capital Region).

Positive assessment

- (20) 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

- (21) The estimated total cost of Belgium's amended RRP is EUR 5 265 406 908. 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 Council¹⁰, 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

- (22) The loan support made available to Belgium amounting to EUR 230 100 000 remains unchanged.

¹⁰ 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>).

- (23) 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.
- (24) 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 Belgium 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 Belgium is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 3

Addressee

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President
