



Brussels, 12.10.2018
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 12.10.2018

**on the financing of the Connecting Europe Facility - Transport sector and the adoption
of the annual work programme for 2019**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility², amending Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 680/2007 and (EC) No 67/2010, and in particular Article 17(1) and (4) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Connecting Europe Facility in the field of Transport, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2019. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) In accordance with Article 17(1) and (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013, the Commission is to adopt annual work programmes for financial support to projects of common interest which are not included in the multiannual work programmes.
- (4) The development of the trans-European transport network requires the improvement of cross-border sections, the connections to and the development of maritime ports on the TEN-T comprehensive network of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council³.
- (5) Mitigating the impact of noise and vibration caused by railway transport, including by retrofitting existing rolling stock, is a priority for railway infrastructure development in accordance with Article 13(c) of Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 348, 20.12.2013, p.129

³ Regulation (EU) No 1315/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network and repealing Decision No 661/2010/EU (OJ L 348, 20.12.2013, p. 128).

- (6) The present annual work programme established by this Decision provides for the launch of a call for proposals in 2019 for financial assistance through grants for projects of common interest regarding cross-border sections, connections to and the development of maritime ports and mitigation of impact of noise and vibrations.
- (7) In accordance with Article 17(5) of Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013, the annual work programme shall establish the objectives and priorities to be addressed by the call, the results expected, essential eligibility criteria, selection and award criteria, the maximum co-funding rates, the schedule and the indicative amounts available for the call.
- (8) A total indicative amount of EUR 100 000 000 is presently made available for the 2019 call for proposals under the general envelope of the Connecting Europe Facility for the Transport sector.
- (9) The objectives and priorities set out in the annual work programme are in line with the Union priorities, notably those related to 'Jobs, growth and investment', 'Digital single market' and 'Energy Union and climate'.
- (10) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (11) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (12) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the CEF Coordination Committee for the Transport sector established by Article 25 of the Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The work programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the Connecting Europe Facility – Transport sector for 2019, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2019 is set at EUR 100 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 06020101: Removing bottlenecks, enhancing rail interoperability, bridging missing links and improving cross-border sections: EUR 65 000 000;
- (b) budget line 06020102: Ensuring sustainable and efficient transport systems: EUR 35 000 000.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2019, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

A maximum amount of 0,125% and no more than EUR 1 250 000 of each of the budget lines shall be earmarked for costs of the external experts and translations involved in the evaluation of the proposals in accordance with Article 237 of the Financial Regulation.

Article 3

Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to the specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 12.10.2018

For the Commission

Violeta Bulc

Member of the Commission