



Brussels, 20.1.2017
C(2017) 164 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 20.1.2017

amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2014)1921 establishing a Multi-Annual Work Programme 2014-2020 for financial assistance in the field of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - Transport sector

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amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2014)1921 establishing a Multi-Annual Work Programme 2014-2020 for financial assistance in the field of Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - Transport sector

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, amending Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 and repealing Regulations (EC) No 680/2007 and (EC) No 67/2010¹, and in particular Article 17(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002², and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Commission adopted Implementing Decision C(2014)1921 of 26 March 2014 establishing a Multi-Annual Work Programme 2014-2020 which provides for support under the Connecting Europe Facility to projects of common interest in the transport sector in the form of grants and for Programme Support Actions³. That Decision has been amended to include additional funding priorities and budget resources, most recently by Commission Implementing Decision C(2016)6388 of 7 October 2016.
- (2) Given the relative difficulty in the transport sector to attract additional resources from private investors and to ensure that economically sound projects become financially viable, it is appropriate to support eligible projects of common interest with an EU grant from the Connecting Europe Facility – Transport sector (General envelope), thus bridging the projects' funding gap and, at the same time, attracting private finance, whenever possible via the European Fund for Strategic Investments established by Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ and managed by the European Investment Bank for financially viable projects.

¹ OJ L 348, 20.12.2013, p. 129.

² OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

³ Implementing Decision C(2014)1921 of 26 March 2014 establishing a Multi-Annual Work Programme 2014-2020 for financial assistance in the field of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) – Transport sector.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2015 on the European Fund for Strategic Investments, the European Investment Advisory Hub and the European Investment Project Portal and amending Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 and (EU) No 1316/2013 – the European Fund for Strategic Investments, OJ L 169, 1.7.2015, p. 1.

- (3) In this respect, the objective of this Multi-Annual Work Programme is to enable a coordinated selection and award process for projects of common interest receiving EU grants from the Connecting Europe Facility – Transport Sector (General envelope) combined with financing from the European Fund for Strategic Investments, or the European Investment Bank, or National Promotional Banks, or private sector investors, in order to maximise the leverage of private sector involvement and capital in the delivery of projects, while respecting the principle of non-cumulative award.
- (4) One Programme Support Action in the meaning of Article 5(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) N°1316/2013 concerning a grant to the European Investment Bank amounting to a maximum of EUR 4 000 000 in view of enhancing technical and financial preparation of projects in the transport sector should be added to the Multi-Annual Work Programme.
- (5) An indicative maximum amount of EUR 1 000 000 000 from multi-annual appropriations 2017-2020 should be made available to support the objectives of this Multi-Annual Work Programme.
- (6) This amended Multi-Annual Work Programme should be implemented on the one hand by calls for proposals to be published by the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency ("the Agency") in January 2017 setting out the practical modalities for the submission, evaluation and award of grants to projects of common interest in accordance with Article 128 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and, on the other hand, with a grant for the above-mentioned Programme Support Action managed by the European Commission.
- (7) The objectives and priorities set out in the Multi-Annual Work Programme for 2017 calls for proposals are in line with the Union priorities, notably those related to 'Jobs, growth and investment', 'Digital single market' and 'Energy Union and climate'.
- (8) In order to ensure consolidation of all budgetary commitments of the Connecting Europe Facility – Transport sector from 2014 onwards, budgetary Annexes III and IV of the latest amending Decision C(2016)6388 should be replaced by updated Annexes.
- (9) Commission Implementing Decision C(2014)1921 as last amended by Decision C(2016)6388 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (10) This Implementing Decision should be considered a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.
- (11) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee referred to in Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2014)1921 is amended as follows:

- (1) Article 2 is replaced by the following:

"Article 2

The total amount covered by this Decision shall be a maximum of EUR 22 000 308 592.

This Decision shall be a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 for 2014 - 2020 for the following budget lines:

- 06.020101 - Removing bottlenecks, enhancing rail interoperability, bridging missing links and improving cross-border sections: EUR 8 164 640 984

out of which, for Programme Support Actions: EUR 83 765 579

- 06.020102 - Ensuring sustainable and efficient transport systems: EUR 451 933 968

out of which, for Programme Support Actions: EUR 12 070 000

- 06.020103 - Optimising the integration and interconnection of transport modes and enhancing interoperability: EUR 2 356 213 604

out of which, for Programme Support Actions: EUR 123 966 150

- 06.020104 - Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) — Cohesion Fund allocation: EUR 11 027 520 036

out of which, for Programme Support Actions: EUR 16 416 970

The total amount shall include recommitted appropriations constituting internal assigned revenue within the meaning of Article 21 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 from the TEN-T and Marco Polo Programmes under the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2007-2013, insofar as the general objectives of these past programmes correspond to those of the Connecting Europe Facility – Transport sector, and which shall be added to the amounts available for the calls for proposals to be launched under the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2014-2020.

A maximum amount of 0,125% of each budget line and no more than EUR 1 250 000 shall be earmarked for costs of the external experts involved in the evaluation of the proposals in accordance with Article 204 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

Those appropriations may also cover interest due for late payment.

(2) An Annex IIbis entitled "Objectives and priorities of the CEF-Transport sector to be implemented by calls for proposals under the Multi-Annual Work Programme 2014-2020 in 2017 and by one Programme Support Action" set out in Part I of the Annex to this Decision is added to Implementing Decision C(2014)1921.

(3) Annexes III and IV to Implementing Decision C(2014)1921 are replaced by the text in Part II of the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 20.1.2017

For the Commission

Violeta BULC

Member of the Commission

