



Brussels, 3.9.2024
C(2024) 6106 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 3.9.2024

**on adopting an Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2024
and amending Implementing Decision C(2022) 5110 final adopting an Action
Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2022**

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on adopting an Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2024 and amending Implementing Decision C(2022) 5110 final adopting an Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2022

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 389/2006 of 27 February 2006 establishing an instrument of financial support for encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community¹, and in particular Article 3 thereof,

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 966/2012², and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Following the accession of Cyprus, the application of the *acquis* is suspended pursuant to Article 1(1) of Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession 2003³ in the areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control (hereinafter referred to as ‘the areas’).
- (2) Pursuant to Article 3(1) of Protocol No 10, nothing in the Protocol precludes measures with a view to promoting the economic development of the areas.
- (3) Council Regulation (EC) No 389/2006 lays down the rules and conditions for the granting of assistance to facilitate the reunification of Cyprus by encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community with particular emphasis on the economic integration of the island, on improving contacts between the two communities and with the EU, and on preparation for the *acquis* in view of the withdrawal of its suspension in accordance with Article 1 of Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession.
- (4) In order to ensure the implementation of the Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2024 it is necessary to adopt a financing decision. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.

¹ OJ L 65, 7.3.2006, p. 5.

² OJ L 191, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

³ OJ L 236, 23.9.2003, p. 955-955.

- (5) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU⁴.
- (6) The objectives pursued by the annual Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2024 are: development and restructuring of infrastructure; promotion of social and economic development; reconciliation, confidence-building measures, and support to civil society; bringing the Turkish Cypriot community closer to the Union; preparation of legal texts aligned with the EU acquis for the purpose of these being immediately applicable upon the entry into force of a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem and preparation for implementation of the acquis in view of the withdrawal of its suspension in accordance with Article 1 of Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession; and support for needs aimed at facilitating the settlement process.
- (7) In the implementation of actions financed under Regulation (EC) No 389/2006, the rights of natural and legal persons, including the rights to possessions and property, are to be respected.
- (8) All individual legal commitments for this Action Programme should be concluded no later than three years following the date of budgetary commitment according to Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 389/2006.
- (9) By Implementing Decision C(2022) 5110 final⁵, the Commission adopted an Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2022.
- (10) The Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2022 supports, among other measures, the implementation of the Halloumi/Hellim Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) scheme. To strengthen the provision of this support and increase the quantity and quality of small ruminants' milk, which is key to address the shortage of sheep and goat milk available for the scheme, an indicative amount of EUR 2 000 000 should be made available from savings (EUR 700 000) and reallocations (EUR 1 300 000) within Implementing Decision C(2022) 5110 final. The planned cross breeding programme to upgrade the dairy capacity of local sheep and goat populations should be cancelled and the amount of EUR 1 300 000 should be reallocated to the Halloumi/Hellim support package "Increasing the quantity and quality of small ruminants milk" within the Decision.
- (11) The Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2022 supports, among other measures, Turkish Cypriot fishermen in fish resource management, improvement of hygiene, and replacement of old diesel engines. To tackle the issue in a more integrated manner, extending the provision of services to a broader range of recipients while maintaining a strong focus and link to key opportunities, an indicative amount of EUR 2 000 000 should be made available from savings (EUR 200 000) and reallocations (EUR 1 800 000) within Implementing Decision C(2022) 5110 final. The planned grant scheme for fostering the development of sustainable and competitive fisheries should be cancelled and the amount of EUR 1 800 000 should be reallocated

⁴ www.sanctionsmap.eu Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

⁵ Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 5110 of 25 July 2022 adopting an Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2022.

to the ‘Agricultural and rural development advisory services and accompanying pilot support to the measures for fisheries sector’ within the Decision.

- (12) Funds allocated in the Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2022 for the support and settlement facility should be reduced by an indicative total amount of EUR 900 000 and reallocated within Implementing Decision C(2022) 5110 final to the aforementioned actions.
- (13) Implementing Decision C(2022) 5110 final should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (14) The Commission should entrust budget-implementation tasks under indirect management to the entities specified in the Annexes to this Decision, subject to the conclusion of contribution agreements. The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046⁶ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (15) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (16) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (17) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.
- (18) The measures provided for by this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the IPA III Committee referred to in Article 17(7) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Adoption of the programme

The Action Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community for the year 2024, as set out in Annex I, is adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the Programme is set at EUR 39 471 756.30 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line 05.04.0100 of the general budget of the Union for 2024.

⁶ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment.

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1-26.

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

Article 3

Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annexes I and II, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in the respective Annexes.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

Increases or decreases not exceeding 20% of the contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2, or cumulated changes to the allocations of specific actions not exceeding 20% of that contribution, as well as extensions of the implementation period shall not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where these changes do not significantly affect the nature and objectives of the actions.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph, acting in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5

Amendments to Implementing Decision C(2022) 5110 final

The Annex to Implementing Decision C(2022) 5110 final is replaced by the text set out in Annex II to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 3.9.2024

For the Commission

Elisa FERREIRA

Member of the Commission