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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 9.7.2020

amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 10164 approving certain elements of the operational programme "North Aegean" for support from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region North Aegean in Greece

CCI 2014GR16M2OP10

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006¹, and in particular Article 96(10) thereof,

Having consulted the ESF Committee,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 10164, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 88, certain elements of the operational programme "North Aegean" for support from the European Regional Development Fund ('ERDF') and the European Social Fund ('ESF') under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region of North Aegean in Greece were approved.
- (2) On 23 June 2020 Greece submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to the operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which Greece proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (b)(iv) and (v), and (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, all subject to Implementing Decision C(2014) 10164.
- (3) Greece requests the transfer of the ERDF resources available for programming for the year 2020 from the operational programme "North Aegean" to the operational programme "Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation" (CCI 2014GR16M2OP001). The transfer of resources does not include a change in the allocation by category of regions.
- (4) The amendment to the operational programme consists, in addition, in modifications of several programme indicators under priority axes 1 "Halting the fall of the

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

productive/entrepreneurial activity, reinforcement of the attractiveness, competitiveness and export-orientation of the islands, in particular of the SMEs and increase of the regional added value, with innovation as spearhead", 3 "Environmental protection and transition to an environmentally friendly economy, with sufficient resources for development, employment and climate change mitigation" and 4 "Completion of sustainable infrastructures necessary for growth and employment" and of several indicators of the performance framework.

- (5) In accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the request for the amendment to the operational programme is duly justified by the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, and in particular, the need to allocate additional resources to the operational programme "Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation" in order to finance the business support measures within the frame of the dedicated, national support programme. The programme indicators are also modified to reflect the transfer of funds. The amendment to the operational programme sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme, taking account of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Regulations (EU) No 1301/2013² and (EU) No 1304/2013³ of the European Parliament and of the Council, as well as of the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (6) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee by written procedure on 22 June 2020 examined and approved the proposal for the amendment to the operational programme, taking into account the text of the revised operational programme and its financing plan.
- (7) The Commission assessed the revised operational programme and did not make observations pursuant to the second sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (8) The amended elements of the revised operational programme subject to the Commission's approval under Article 96(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 should therefore be approved.
- (9) Implementing Decision C(2014) 10164 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2014) 10164 is amended as follows:

1. in Article 1, the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

"The following elements of the operational programme "North Aegean" for joint support from the ERDF and the ESF under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region North Aegean in Greece for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 13 December 2014, as last amended

² Regulation (EU) No 1301/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Regional Development Fund and on specific provisions concerning the Investment for growth and jobs goal and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1080/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 289).

³ Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Social Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1081/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 470).

by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 23 June 2020, are hereby approved:";

2. in Article 4, paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

"2. The total financial appropriation for the operational programme is set at EUR 215 473 020, to be financed from the following specific budget lines in accordance with the nomenclature of the General Budget of the European Union for 2014:

13 03 61: EUR 182 606 461 (ERDF – Transition regions);

04 02 61: EUR 32 866 559 (ESF – Transition regions).";

3. Annex I is replaced by the text set out in Annex I to this Decision;

4. Annex II is replaced by the text set out in Annex II to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Hellenic Republic.

Done at Brussels, 9.7.2020

For the Commission
Elisa FERREIRA
Member of the Commission

