EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 9.11.2026
C(2026) 8111 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 9.11.2026

amending Implementing Decision C(2022) 1538 adopting the IPA III Rural Development programme (IPARD III) of the Republic of North Macedonia for the years 2021-2027

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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) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union[1], and in particular Article 110(1) and (5) thereof,

Having regard to 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)[2], and in particular Article 9(1) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The Commission by its Decision C(2022) 1538[3] adopted the IPA III Rural Development programme of the Republic of North Macedonia for the years 2021-2027 (hereinafter referred to as the "IPARD III Programme").

(2) In accordance with Article 114(3), points (a) and (b), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, appropriations for multi-annual programmes that are implemented through split commitments under the IPA III shall be automatically de-committed in accordance with the sector-specific rules.

(3) Article 36(1) of the Sectoral Agreement[4] provides that the Commission shall automatically de-commit any portion of a budgetary commitment for the IPARD III Programme that, by 31 December of the third year following that of the budgetary commitment (n+3), has not been used for the purpose of pre-financing, interim payments or no declaration of expenditure has been presented in relation to it.

(4) Pursuant to the Financing Agreement[5], the budgetary commitment for the financial year 2022 for the IPARD III Programme for North Macedonia amounts to EUR 8 000 000. For the period until 31 December 2025, the Commission has formally received from North Macedonia expenditure declarations amounting to EUR 7 566 413. It is therefore necessary to de-commit an amount of EUR 433 587 from the allocation of the financial year 2022.

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1 OJ L, 26.9.2024, p. 1. ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj.

2 OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1. ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj.

3 Commission Implementing Decision of 9 March 2022 adopting the IPA III Rural Development programme (IPARD III) of the Republic of North Macedonia for the years 2021-2027.

4 The Sectoral Agreement was concluded on 15 February 2023 between Commission and North Macedonia.

5 The Financing Agreement was concluded on 19 November 2023 between Commission and North Macedonia.

(5) To this end, the Commission, by letter of 19 March 2026, notified North Macedonia of its intention to de-commit the amount of EUR 433 587 of the budgetary commitment of the EU for the financial year 2022.

(6) North Macedonia, by letter of 4 May 2026, notified the Commission of its agreement for the amount to be de-committed.

(7) On 11 September 2026 the Monitoring Committee for the IPARD III Programme for North Macedonia considered and approved a proposal to modify the IPARD III Programme.

(8) On 17 September 2026 the national authorities of North Macedonia submitted a proposal to the Commission to modify the IPARD III Programme for North Macedonia.

(9) The proposed modification is of financial nature and related only to the changes of financial breakdowns among the measures in order to consider the amount of EUR 7 566 413 remaining for the financial year 2022, after the automatic de-commitment of the amount of EUR 433 587.

(10) The Commission considers that the proposed modification is duly justified, and consequently it is appropriate for the IPARD III Programme for North Macedonia to be modified accordingly.

(11) Decision C(2022) 1538 should therefore be modified accordingly.

(12) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures[6] adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

(13) The measure provided for in this Decision does not fall within the categories of measures for which the prior opinion of the committee for the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (the "IPA III committee") is required in accordance with Article 25(2), point (d), of Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009[7]. Once adopted, pursuant to Article 25(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/947, the measure should be communicated, within one month, to the European Parliament and to the Member States through the IPA III committee,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

Implementing Decision C(2022) 1538 is amended as follows:

(1) In Article 2, first paragraph, the table is replaced by the following:

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6 See 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.

7 OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1., ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj.

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Year	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027 Indicative amount
Total	7 000 000	7 566 413	12 000 000	15 000 000	17 000 000	18 000 000	20 000 000

”

(2) In Article 2, second paragraph, the table is replaced by the following:

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Measure	EU contribution
Investments in physical assets of agricultural holdings	29 337 365
Investments in physical assets concerning processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products	25 562 580
Agri-environment - climate and organic farming measure	1 100 000
Implementation of local development strategies – LEADER approach	1 650 000
Investments in rural public infrastructure	9 250 000
Farm diversification and business development	26 249 658
Technical Assistance	2 316 810
Advisory services	1 100 000
Total	**96 566 413**

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(3) The Annex is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 9.11.2026

For the Commission
Christophe HANSEN
Member of the Commission