

Brussels, 12.8.2020  
C(2020) 5639 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 12.8.2020**

**approving the amendment of the rural development programme of Bulgaria for support  
from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and amending  
Implementing Decision C(2015) 3480 of 26 May 2015**

**CCI 2014BG06RDNP001**

(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 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 11(b) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The rural development programme of Bulgaria for support from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) for the 2014-2020 programming period was approved by Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 3480 on 26 May 2015 and last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 3575 of 27 May 2020.
- (2) On 17 July 2020, Bulgaria submitted to the Commission a request for the approval of an amendment to its rural development programme pursuant to Article 11(b) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013. Bulgaria submitted a revised version of the amendment to the rural development programme on 5 August 2020.
- (3) In accordance with Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013<sup>2</sup>, the Commission has assessed the request to amend the rural development programme and has not made any observations.
- (4) The competent authorities of Bulgaria have duly substantiated and justified the request for amendment in accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and Article 4(1) of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 487.

<sup>2</sup> 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 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320).

<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014 of 17 July 2014 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (OJ L 227, 31.7.2014, p. 18).

- (5) The Commission has concluded that the proposed amendment of the rural development programme complies with Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and with Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013.
- (6) The amendment to the rural development programme should therefore be approved.
- (7) Point (a) of third subparagraph of Article 4(2) of Implementing Regulation (EU) No 808/2014 provides that the maximum number of amendments referred to in the first and second subparagraphs of Article 4(2) does not apply in case of emergency measures which need to be taken due to the specific conditions listed in that point. Further, it provides that where an amendment of the rural development programme in response to the COVID-19 crisis is combined with amendments not linked to the crisis, this rule applies to all combined amendments, provided that the proposal to amend the rural development programme is submitted to the Commission by 30 June 2021. This request for amendment relates to such measures and fulfils the above mentioned conditions.
- (8) This Decision does not cover State aid within the meaning of Articles 107, 108 and 109 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ('the Treaty'), falling outside the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty, in cases where the State aid has not yet been approved,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

The amendment to the rural development programme of Bulgaria submitted to the Commission in its final version on 5 August 2020 is hereby approved.

#### *Article 2*

The Annex to Implementing Decision C(2015) 3480 of 26 May 2015 is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

#### *Article 3*

Expenditure that becomes eligible as a result of the amendment of the programme shall be eligible from 17 July 2020.

*Article 4*

This Decision is addressed to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Done at Brussels, 12.8.2020

*For the Commission*  
*Wolfgang BURTSCHER*  
*Director-General*  
*Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development*

