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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 22.10.2020

amending Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163 approving the "Regional Operational Programme of Alentejo 2014-2020" for support from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region Alentejo in Portugal

CCI 2014PT16M2OP003

(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) 10163, as last amended by Commission Implementing Decision C(2020) 1855, certain elements of the "Regional Operational Programme of Alentejo 2014-2020" 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 Alentejo in Portugal were approved.
- (2) On 30 September 2020 Portugal 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 Portugal proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in points (a), (b)(i) to (v), and (d) of the first subparagraph of Article 96(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 all subject to Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 25a(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Portugal requests to apply a co-financing rate of 100% to expenditure declared in payment applications during the accounting year starting on 1 July 2020 and ending on 30 June 2021 for all priority axes of this operational programme.
- (4) Pursuant to Article 25a(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Portugal requests the transfer of EUR 39 879 133 of the resources available for programming for the year

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320.

2020 from the ESF to the ERDF within this operational programme from priority axes 2 "Education and qualification of human capital", 5 "Employment and economic enhancement of endogenous resources" and 6 "Social cohesion and inclusion" to priority axes 1 "Competitiveness and SME internationalisation", 2, 5 and 6. The transfer of resources does not include a change in the allocation by category of regions.

- (5) The amendment to the operational programme includes a transfer of ERDF resources amounting to EUR 90 757 022 from priority axes 1, 3 "Research, technological development and innovation", 6, 7 "Energy efficiency and mobility" and 10 "Technical assistance" to ERDF priority axes 4 "Sustainable urban development", 5, 8 "Environment and sustainability" and 9 "Institutional capacity building and administrative modernisation". It includes, furthermore, a transfer of ESF resources amounting to EUR 18 448 789 from priority axes 2 and 5 to the ESF priority axes 2, 5, 6 and 9.
- (6) In addition, the amendment to the operational programme consists in the introduction of new COVID-19 related output indicators in priority axes 1, 2, 3 and 6; in the introduction of new types of actions to be supported under investments priorities 8a, 8i and 10i; in the introduction of a new type of beneficiary under investment priority 8i; in the introduction of the new investment priority 9iv supporting COVID-related tests and EPI; in the modification of some financial and output indicators to be used as targets in the performance framework for all priority axes; in the modification of the description of the type of actions under investment priorities 10a, 4c and 6e; in the modification of some guiding principles for the selection of operations under investment priorities 4c and 6e; as well as in some minor corrections and clarifications in the text of the operational programme.
- (7) 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 need to provide an effective and immediate response to the current public health and economic crisis related to the COVID-19 outbreak and to temporarily alleviate the burden on public budgets responding to the crisis situation. The request to transfer resources from the ESF to the ERDF is duly justified by the need to support the extraordinary measures to address serious socio-economic consequences of the pandemic that cannot be financed under the scope of intervention of the ESF. The request for amendment 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.
- (8) In accordance with point (e) of Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee by written procedure finalised on 25 September 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.

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).

- (9) 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.
- (10) 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.
- (11) Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision C(2014) 10163 is amended as follows:

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

"The following elements of the "Regional Operational Programme of Alentejo 2014-2020" for joint support from the ERDF and the ESF under the Investment for growth and jobs goal for the region of Alentejo in Portugal for the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 12 December 2014, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 30 September 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 1 082 944 371, 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 60: EUR 903 118 506 (ERDF – Less developed regions);
04 02 60: EUR 179 825 865 (ESF – Less developed 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 Portuguese Republic.

Done at Brussels, 22.10.2020

For the Commission

Elisa FERREIRA

Member of the Commission

