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C(2022) 7393 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 13.10.2022**

**amending the Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 5791 on the financing of the energy sector under the Connecting Europe Facility and the adoption of the multiannual work programme for the period 2021-2027**

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**amending the Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 5791 on the financing of the energy sector under the Connecting Europe Facility and the adoption of the multiannual work programme for the period 2021-2027**

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and of the Council, establishing the Connecting Europe Facility and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 20(1) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 347/2013<sup>2</sup> of European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2013 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Decision No 1364/2006/EC and amending Regulations (EC) No 713/2009, (EC) No 714/2009 and (EC) No 715/2009 (hereinafter the 'TEN-E Regulation') and in particular Articles 14 and 15 thereof, and Commission delegated Regulation (EU) No2022/564<sup>3</sup> of 19 November 2021 amending Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the Union list of projects of common interest,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 2018/1046<sup>4</sup> 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 966/2012 (hereinafter the 'Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 110, thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) On 6 August 2021, the Commission adopted Implementing Decision C(2021) 5791 on the financing of the energy sector under the Connecting Europe Facility and the adoption of the multiannual work programme for the period 2021-2027. The work programme provides support under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for projects of common interest in the energy sector in the form of grants for studies, works and technical and administrative assistance, as well as procurement.
- (2) The electricity system of the three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) is currently synchronously connected to the IPS/UPS system of Russia and Belarus.
- (3) On 19 November 2021, the Commission adopted Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/564 amending Regulation (EU) No 347/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the Union list of projects of common interest. The list of projects of common interest includes, under no. 4.8, the following item: 'Integration

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 249 of 14.7.2021, p. 38.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 115 of 25.4.2013, p.39

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 109 of 8.4.2022, p. 14.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 298 of 26.10.2012, p.1

and synchronisation of the Baltic States' electricity system with the European networks, including the following PCIs'. The project is about synchronising the electricity system of the Baltic States with the continental European network (CEN) through Poland. The initial target date for the completion of this synchronisation was 2025.

- (4) Russia's unjustified and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has significantly increased the geopolitical risks in the region for the Baltic States, in particular for their security of electricity supply. In order to address these increased risks and pave the way for a potential political decision to accelerate the synchronisation with the CEN, it is necessary and urgent to carry out additional studies with a view to assessing the risks on security of supply, system security and additional costs arising from synchronising earlier than the initial target date.
- (5) In the spirit of solidarity, technical assistance under the CEF should be provided to the Lithuanian electricity transmission system operator Litgrid, the Latvian electricity transmission system operator AS Augstsprieguma tīkls (AST), the Estonian electricity and natural gas transmission system operator Elering and the Polish electricity system operator PSE S.A for the purpose of carrying out these additional studies. For this purpose, the multiannual work programme for the period 2021-2027 should be amended.
- (6) Given that the relevant studies require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence and its administrative powers, the technical assistance should be implemented through a grant awarded without a call for proposals, in accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation.
- (7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the CEF Coordination Committee,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

The Annex to Implementing Decision C(2021) 5791 is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Decision.

#### *Article 2* *Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for the years 2021-2027 is set at EUR 2 758 294 290, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

02 03 02 Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) – Energy

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

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2023-2027 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

*Article 3*  
*Grants*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in point 5.3 of the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 13.10.2022

*For the Commission*  
*Kadri SIMSON*  
*Member of the Commission*