

Brussels, 25.11.2024 C(2024) 8011 final

# **COMMISSION DECISION**

of 25.11.2024

on the financing of actions under the Innovation Fund, serving as a financing decision for 2024-2030 and a decision launching calls for proposals in 2024

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on the financing of actions under the Innovation Fund, serving as a financing decision for 2024-2030 and a decision launching calls for proposals in 2024

### 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 <sup>1</sup> (the 'Financial Regulation'), and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856 of 26 February 2019 supplementing Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the operation of the Innovation Fund<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Articles 9, 13b, 14 and 16 thereof.

### Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Innovation Fund, it is necessary to adopt this multiannual financing decision for the years 2024-2030, in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ('the Financial Regulation').
- (2) In order to launch calls for proposals in 2024, it is necessary to adopt a decision in accordance with Article 9 and 13b of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/8565.
- (3) In order to specify the type of contribution to blending operations, it is necessary to adopt a decision in accordance with Article 14 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/8565.
- (4) In order to disburse support from the Innovation Fund in any form under the Financial Regulation other than grants, it is necessary to adopt a Decision in accordance with Article 15 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856<sup>3</sup>.
- (5) The activities should contribute to climate mainstreaming in line with the Commission Communication 'The European Green Deal' and the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> OJ L 140, 28.5.2019, p. 6.

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856 of 26 February 2019 supplementing Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the operation of the Innovation Fund (OJ L 140, 28.5.2019, p. 6)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> COM (2019) 640 final of 11 December 2019.

Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the

- (6) Pursuant to Article 62(1), first subparagraph, point (c), of the Financial Regulation, indirect management is to be used for the actions specified in the work programme.
- (7) The Commission should ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management, as provided for in Article 157(3) of the Financial Regulation. To this end, such entities and persons should be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 157(4) of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 157(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (8) It is necessary to allow the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (9) The financing of the activities under the Innovation Fund should comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty.
- (10) In order to allow the flexibility in the implementation of the activities related to the Innovation Fund, it is appropriate to allow changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (11) Member States have been consulted on this decision, in accordance with Articles 9(1), 13b(2) and 21(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/856,

### HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

### Article 1

### Scope

The decision, constituting a multiannual financing decision for 2024-2030 and a decision launching 2024 calls for proposals, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

## Article 2

## **Union contribution**

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the Innovation Fund 2024 calls for proposals for the years 2024-2030 is set at EUR 4 950 500 000, and shall be financed by the revenues from the auctioning of the allowances destined for the Innovation Fund and by any non-disbursed revenues from the NER300 programme, entered as external assigned revenue in the general budget of the Union:

 $Budget\ line\ 16.03.01\ \hbox{- Innovation}\ Fund\ (IF)\ \hbox{- Operational expenditure:}\ EUR\ 4\ 950\ 500\ 000.$ 

Indicative annual instalments of the budgetary commitments:

2024	EUR	220 000 000
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introduction of new own resources (OJ L 433I , 22.12.2020, p. 28, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree interinstit/2020/1222/oj).

2025	EUR	430 500 000
2026	EUR	850 000 000
2027	EUR	300 000 000
2028	EUR	850 000 000
2029	EUR	600 000 000
2030	EUR	1 700 000 000

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

### Article 3

## Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific activities, as set out in the Annex, that do not exceed 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the activities and the objectives of the Innovation Fund.

The maximum Union contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, may be adjusted in line with the amount of appropriations received from the auctioning of the Innovation Fund allowances prior to the adoption of the award decision, provided that the change does not exceed 20%.

The responsible authorising officer may apply the changes referred to in the first and second paragraphs. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

### Article 4

## Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the persons or entities referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down the Annex.

## Article 5

#### **Financial instruments**

The provision of repayable financial support by means of contributions to blending operations for the amount set in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities referred to in the Annex.

For the Commission Wopke HOEKSTRA Member of the Commission