



Brussels, 6.5.2021
C(2021) 3046 final

ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

**on the financing of the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises,
including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics and the adoption
of the work programme for 2021-2024**

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ANNEX I
SMP BUNDLE: INTERNAL MARKET, STANDARDISATION, CONSUMERS AND OTHER
FINANCIAL SERVICES END-USERS

1. SMP BUNDLE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This part of the SMP Work Programme, referred to as the “*SMP Bundle*”, brings together predecessor programmes and former prerogative budget lines from different policy areas concerning the internal market and its governance tools, covering in particular market surveillance, company law, contract and extra-contractual law, standardisation, support for competition policy, customs and taxation, consumer and end-users of financial services, financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards, financial services, financial stability, the capital markets union and anti-money laundering.

This part implements the specific objectives of making the internal market more effective, company law, contract and extra-contractual law, standardisation and support for competition policy, customs and taxation, and customers and end-users in financial services. The work programme is not subject to comitology procedures.

The SMP Bundle is structured by objective and means of financing, notably:

- Article 3.2. (a): making the internal market more effective, inter alia in the light of the digital transformation, by
 - (i) *facilitating the prevention and removal of discriminatory, unjustified or disproportionate obstacles and supporting the development, implementation and enforcement of Union law in the areas of the internal market for goods and services, including by improving the application of the mutual recognition principle, of public procurement, of company law and contract and extra-contractual law, of anti-money laundering, of free movement of capital, of financial services and of competition, including by the development of user-centric governance tools;*
 - (ii) *supporting effective market surveillance throughout the Union, with a view to ensuring that only safe and compliant products that offer a high level of protection of consumers and other end-users are made available on the Union market, including products sold online, as well as to greater homogeneity and capacity of the market surveillance authorities across the Union.*
- Article 3.2.(c): ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market through standardisation processes that
 - (i) *enable the financing of European standardisation and the participation of all relevant stakeholders in setting up European standards;*
 - (ii) *support the development of high-quality international financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards, facilitate their integration into the Union law and promote the innovation and development of best practices in corporate reporting.*
- Article 3.2. (d) promoting the interests of consumers and ensuring a high level of consumer protection and product safety by (ii): *enhancing the participation of consumers, other financial services end-users and civil society in financial services policy-making; promoting a better understanding of the financial sector*

and of the different categories of commercialised financial products and ensuring the interests of consumers in the area of retail financial services.

The SMP Bundle is executed through annual or multiannual work programmes and through support measures that will help achieve its objectives. The work programme for 2021 is the first to be implemented in this seven-years period, with a total budget of EUR 113 263 034. The proposed Programme will be implemented by direct management, using in particular grants and procurement. While overall responsibility for the SMP remains with the Commission, some implementing tasks are delegated to the European Innovation Council and SMES Executive Agency (EISMEA).

The work programme is coordinated by GROW with internal governance arrangements set out within a Memorandum of Understanding¹ signed by the Directorate Generals participating in the SMP: COMP, ESTAT, FISMA, GROW, JUST, SANTE and TAXUD.

On the basis of the objectives mentioned above in Article 3(2) of the Regulation (EU) No xx/20xx of the European Parliament and of the Council of xx this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2021, as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management): EUR 37 610 135
- for procurement (implemented under direct management): EUR 68 776 054
- for other actions or expenditure: EUR 6 876 845

1.1. Budget lines

Under budget Chapter 03 02 Single Market Programme:

- Article 03 02 01 - Making the Internal Market more effective
- Article 03 02 03 - European standardisation and international financial reporting and auditing standards
- Item 03 02 04 02 - The participation of end users in financial services policy making

1.2. Legal basis

REGULATION (XXXX/XXXX) OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of DD MMMM YYYY establishing the Programme for single market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, and European statistics and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014, (EU) No 258/2014, (EU) No 652/2014 and (EU) 2017/826.

Article 8 of Regulation (EU) XX [*ref basic act SMP*]

Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation

1.3. Objectives pursued

This part of the Programme has the following specific objectives laid down in Article 3(2)(a)(c) and (d)ii of Regulation (EU) XX[*Single Market Programme*]

¹ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Single Market Governance, 29 January 2020.

To contribute to the making the internal market more effective or to the completion of **the internal market**, its operation and development, and in particular to:

- ensure that citizens and businesses can enjoy the benefits of the internal market without borders and are able to exercise those rights and take advantage of those opportunities in full;
- promote and support conformity assessment, accreditation, market surveillance, mutual recognition and policies to eliminate barriers for products in the single market;
- monitor and evaluate the measures relating to the practical exercise by citizens and businesses of their rights and opportunities with a view to identifying and facilitating the removal of any obstacles which may be preventing them from exercising those rights in full;
- make the internal market more effective, facilitate the prevention and removal of obstacles, support the development, implementation and enforcement of the Union law in the areas of anti-money laundering, free movement of capital and financial services including the development of governance tools;
- protect consumers, the interests of businesses and the environment by preventing the circulation of non-compliant or dangerous products on the single market
- contribute to the Union's competition policy, including by allowing to tackle implications for competition and functioning of the internal market resulting from the green and digital transition of the economy and business environment, supporting networks and a wider and deeper cooperation with Member States and their authorities and courts, supporting cooperation with third country authorities and widening outreach activities.

Through the **internal market governance tools** (the Your Europe portal, hub to the single digital gateway, Your Europe Advice, SOLVIT, the Internal Market Information system and the Single Market Scoreboard)

- contribute to building trust in a better functioning Single Market and improving citizens' daily lives and businesses' ability to cross-border² trade.;
- inform, raise awareness, provide tailor-made advice on citizens' and businesses' personal EU rights, increase networking and training activities, promote knowledge and monitor and assess Member State's performance under the Single Market;
- provide support and guidance to businesses, ensure proper performance measurement via an upgraded Single Market Scoreboard, improve the provision of information to businesses on their access to finance (Your Europe), and through SOLVIT, contribute to the Single Market Enforcement Action plan;
- a range of new activities can be foreseen for more targeted support to **ecosystems**, as announced in the Commission's Industrial Strategy for Europe.

Ensuring the effective functioning of the internal market through **standardisation processes** that enable the financing of European standardisation and stakeholder participation in setting up European standards, in particular by:

- supporting the functioning of the European standardisation organisations;
- development of high-quality standards and standardisation deliverables;
- verifying the quality of the harmonised standards, which provide for the legal effect of presumption of conformity;

² For the purposes of these Annexes, "cross-border" covers both: issues involving several Member States throughout Europe and issues in neighbouring regions on both sides of a shared border. The impact of the well-functioning Single market, but also where it is not yet completed are in particularly felt in the border regions, which account for 150 million people (some 30% of the EU population) and for 30% of the EU's GDP; see Communication "Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions", see footnote 2, p. 2.

- enhancing the involvement of stakeholders representing SMEs, consumers, environmental interests and trade unions in the standardisation process (referred to as the Annex³ III organisations);
- promoting the international dimension of European standardisation;
- making standards accessible in all EU languages

Empowering consumer and civil society and ensuring **high level of consumer protection and product safety** through:

- studies, analyses, data collection in the area of customs and in the area of direct and indirect taxation policies;
- communication campaigns; databases access and data collection; support services and data collection in the scope of the Customs Laboratories European Network (CLEN);
- development of information systems in support of the Customs and Taxation policy; the provision of publications, tools, library services and other supporting services related to the supply of tax and customs information.

The actions related to the objective of '**International financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards**' will

- support the development of high-quality international financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards, facilitate their integration into the Union law and promote the innovation and development of best practices in corporate reporting;

The action related to the objective of promoting the interests of **consumers and end-users of financial services** and the promotion of consumer protection and product safety in the area of **financial services** will contribute to:

- enhancing the participation of consumers, other financial services end-users and civil society in financial services policy-making;
- promoting a better understanding of the financial sector and of the different categories of commercialised financial products;
- ensuring that the interests of consumers in the area of retail financial services are protected.

1.4. Expected results

- Better functioning of the Single Market on the ground for citizens and businesses;
- Better consumer protection, improved level-playing field for EU businesses, increased environmental protection;
- Increased access to and use of information, advice and problem-solving services by citizens and business as a result of increased activity on Your Europe portal, SOLVIT, Your Europe Advice, IMI, SMS, SDG) ;
- Improved administrative cooperation between Member State administrations (e.g. the number of administrative exchanges through the IMI tool and the number of cases recorded in ICSMS);
- Effective and up-to-date competition policy enforcement and rules, enhanced cooperation with authorities in- and outside the EU, and increased stakeholder awareness of EU competition policy;
- Improved support to the Commission's customs and taxation regulatory work to foster the implementation of the internal market;

³ Annex III of the European Standardisation Regulation (EU) 1025/2012.

- Production of European Standards and European standardisation deliverables, including translation in other EU languages;
- Appropriate representation and effective participation of SMEs, consumer organisations and environmental and social stakeholders in the standardisation activities;
- Promotion and enhancement of the European standardisation system and of European standards and European standardisation deliverables at international level;
- Ongoing development of high-quality international financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards, their integration into Union law where appropriate and the development of best practices in corporate reporting;
- Assessment of the implementation of Union legislation by Member States, evaluation of whether the existing legislation is fit for purpose and identification of potential areas of action where new risks emerge, with a continuous involvement of stakeholders throughout the policy cycle;
- Implementation and development of the internal market in the area of financial services, financial stability and the Capital Markets Union including sustainable finance;
- Monitoring of financial markets and financial stability;
- Ongoing enhancement of the active participation and involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users, as well as stakeholders representing the interests of consumers and other financial services end-users, in Union and in other relevant multilateral policy-making in the area of financial services. A better understanding of the financial sector and of the different categories of commercialised financial products. Protection of the interests of consumers in the area of retail financial services.

2. INTERNAL MARKET

The appropriations for the activity "Internal market for goods and services" come under the following budget headings:

- 03.02 01 01 Operation and development of the internal market of goods and services – EUR 35 467 156
- 03.02 01 02 Internal Market Governance Tools - EUR 5 560 268
- 03.02 01 03 Taxud regulatory work support – Implementation and development of the internal market - EUR 3 222 507
- 03.02 01 04 Company Law - EUR 973 386
- 03.02 01 05 Competition policy for a stronger union in the digital age - EUR 20 393 275
- 03.02 01 06 Implementation and development of the internal market for financial services – EUR 5 408 806
- 03 02 01 07 Market Surveillance – EUR 10 844 093

These amounts include appropriations arising from the participation of EEA EFTA States to the programme and are therefore subject to the agreement on their participation..

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurements is EUR 67 618 554 and the global budgetary envelope reserved for grants is EUR 7 924 093.

2.1. Budget line 03.020101 - Operation and development of the internal market of goods and services

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities related to the internal market for goods and services, public procurement, mutual recognition and in particular market surveillance.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG GROW and the budget breakdown for year 2021 is as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (2.1.1): EUR 1 300 000
- for procurements (implemented under direct management) (2.1.2): EUR 30 032 156
- for other actions, in particular administrative arrangements (2.1.3): EUR 4 135 000

2.1.1. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 1 300 000.

2.1.1.1. European Organisation Technical Assessment (EOTA) operating grant

Amount

EUR 550.000

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The beneficiary is designated in the basic act (Article 31 of Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴) – Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation⁵.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The action is to allow ensuring that European assessment documents for construction products are efficiently prepared, used consistently in the context of publication of European technical assessments, and made available to the public.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW.

2.1.1.2. European Cooperation for Accreditation and for the operation of the peer evaluation system of National Accreditation Bodies

Amount

EUR 750 000

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Operating grant on an existing Framework Partnership Agreement with the European

⁵ as specified in Article 10 of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme] for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(x)??

Cooperation for Accreditation. The beneficiary is designated by a basic act (Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation⁶, Article 14(6) of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The operating grant is to ensure the functioning of the organisation, which implements the EU's accreditation policy

Implementation

This action will be implemented by DG GROW.

2.1.2. *Procurements*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement in 2021 under this work programme is EUR 30 032 156.

2.1.2.1. Framework Contract for the procurement of economic studies and analysis to Impact Assessments

General description of the contracts envisaged

Policy preparation in the Commission is supported by both retrospective evaluations and forward looking impact assessments, which are key elements of the EU- decision-making process meant to promote more informed political choices and contribute to Better Regulation. Both look at how a problem is, or should be, addressed to achieve the desired objectives taking into account costs and benefits. Both are based on an integrated approach that addresses impacts across the environmental, social and economic pillars, both rely on an in-depth economic analysis. The overall objective of this framework contract is to facilitate the procurement of

economic studies and other supporting services which will feed into the impact assessments and evaluations of the policies of DG GROW. The main reference for this exercise will be Better Regulation Guidelines and Better Regulation Toolbox.

Implementation

DG GROW

2.1.2.2. Data, information and knowledge.

General description of the contracts envisaged

Purchase of necessary data, information (electronic or physical storage), subscriptions (specialised professional reviews, etc.) relevant to the internal market.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General.

⁶ as specified in Article 10(a)(b) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme] for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(a)

2.1.2.3. Impact assessments and evaluations

General description of the contracts envisaged

The impact assessments are to focus on the analysis of possible reviews of existing legislation and impacts they might have on the functioning of the internal market. Recommendations for possible new legislative proposals must be assessed as well with the same objectives.

Evaluations of Union measures are necessary to assess the impact, efficiency and effectiveness of the policy actions put in place as regards the proper functioning of the internal market for goods and services.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General.

2.1.2.4. Technical support

General description of the contracts envisaged

The contracts have as an objective to provide technical support in a series of areas relating to the internal market, including support on European Assessment Documents, support for the application of different legislation (new approach directives and regulations), editorial support (including support to legal text drafting), support in the area of construction, mobile machinery, lower concentration of interest values, fire tests, ecodesign, sound emissions, vehicles, mobile phones, textile, promotion and technical support for the implementation of the European single procurement document.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General.

2.1.2.5. Co-ordination groups of the Notified bodies

General description of the contracts envisaged

Technical secretariats of notified bodies have been set up with the objective to enable close co-operation between the competent bodies to ensure, as a result, consistent technical application of various Directives on goods. Those secretariats must be financed each year to allow ensuring in particular that the implementation of Union directives does not create obstacles to the good functioning of the internal market. Administrative secretariats are necessary for the coordination groups of notified bodies.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General.

2.1.2.6. Support of mutual recognition in the area of goods

General description of the contracts envisaged

The contracts could cover awareness-raising campaigns, education and training, exchange of officials and of best practices, cooperation among Product Contact Points and competent authorities, and the technical and logistic support for this cooperation, and the

collection of data related to the functioning of the principle of mutual recognition and its impact on the Single Market for goods. These activities would be financed in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 2019/515 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the mutual recognition of goods lawfully marketed in another Member State and repealing Regulation (EC) No 764/2008

Implementation

This action will be implemented by EISMEA.

2.1.2.7. Other Policies implementation

General description of the contracts envisaged

The performance of preliminary or ancillary work in connection with conformity assessment, accreditation and market surveillance activities related to the application of Union harmonisation legislation, such as studies, programmes, evaluations, guidelines, comparative analyses, mutual joint visits and visit programmes, exchange of personnel, research work, training activities, laboratory work, proficiency testing, inter-laboratory tests and conformity assessment work

Implementation

DG GROW

2.1.2.8. Workshops, conferences, dissemination, meetings, awareness, compliance activities and information campaigns

General description of the contracts envisaged

Activities and workshops on the "new approach" legislation (concerning notably noise, machinery, radio and telecommunications terminal equipment, construction products, ecodesign), on REACH (notably to evaluate possible overlaps with other existing legislation), on chemicals, cosmetics, fertilising products, on the principle of mutual recognition and any other issues related to the internal market for goods and services.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General.

2.1.2.9. Translations of notified texts

General description of the contracts envisaged

Translations of texts notified by the Member States under Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷ in all Union languages.

Implementation

DG GROW.

2.1.2.10. Management of the pool of harmonised standards consultants

General description of the contracts envisaged

Technical assistance to verify the quality, and conformity to the corresponding Union legislation and policies, of European standards or European standardisation deliverables.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action.

Additional information

Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 stipulates that: Where a harmonised standard satisfies the requirements which it aims to cover and which are set out in the corresponding Union harmonisation legislation, the Commission shall publish a reference of such harmonised standard without delay in the Official Journal of the European Union or by other means in accordance with the conditions laid down in the corresponding act of Union harmonisation legislation.

2.1.2.11. Studies and economic analysis concerning the internal market of goods and services

General description of the contracts envisaged

Studies concerning the internal market for goods in different areas related to the legislation current referenced in the budgetary comments, or under preparation, in particular impact of new technologies and artificial intelligence systems on market surveillance activities and others (e.g. product safety, construction, noise, vehicles, eco-design...).

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General.

2.1.2.12. Information technology

General description of the contracts envisaged

IT development, maintenance, services and work on databases and IT systems. Management of databases on notification procedures and for the implementation of European legislation. Rationalisation of the existing systems in order to make them more interoperable and efficient and move towards a one-stop shop.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General, in particular DIGIT

2.1.3. *Other actions*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for administrative arrangements under this work programme is EUR 4 135 000

2.1.3.1. Market Surveillance and In-Service Conformity of motor vehicles – administrative arrangements with the JRC

Amount

EUR 3 075 000

Description

This Administrative Arrangement will fund the work of the JRC in the field of market surveillance and in-service conformity of motor vehicles. This is a new and unique activity where the role of the Commission is explicitly mentioned in Regulation (EU) 2018/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸.

2.1.3.2. Safety for automated vehicles - administrative arrangements with the JRC

Amount

EUR 450 000

Description

This AA will fund the work of the JRC on technical support for developing a new test method for automated vehicles as part of the implementing rules of Regulation 2019/2144⁹.

2.1.3.3. Biodegradability criteria for polymers in coating agents for a product - administrative arrangements with the JRC

Amount

EUR 300 000

Description

The Commission has a legal obligation under the Fertilising Products Regulation to assess biodegradability of polymers used as coating agents (and some other limited functionalities) in fertilising products. The assessment must be done by 16 July 2024. By 16 July 2026, the Commission must have decided whether to adopt biodegradability criteria based on that assessment. In the absence of criteria, fertilising products containing such polymers will be banned from the harmonised market.

2.1.3.4. Development of technical specifications for rechargeable batteries

Amount

EUR 200 000

Description

Technical specifications on the performance, safety and diagnostics of rechargeable batteries to support related EU legislation.

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2018/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2007 and (EC) No 595/2009 and repealing Directive 2007/46/EC (OJ L 151, 14.6.2018, p. 1).

⁹ Regulation (EU) 2019/2144 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on type-approval requirements for motor vehicles and their trailers, and systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles, as regards their general safety and the protection of vehicle occupants and vulnerable road users (OJ L 325, 16.12.2019, p. 1)

This Administrative arrangement will fund the work of the JRC required for the development of the technical specifications to determine the performance, safety and diagnostics of rechargeable batteries. These specifications will be required to manufacturers of these products and made used by all economic market operators, including public authorities for the implementation and verification of compliance of batteries within the framework of the new Regulation on Batteries to be adopted in 2020.

2.1.3.5. Reimbursements to experts/meeting members for standardisation

Amount

EUR 55 000

Description

Reimbursement of expenses incurred by people from outside the Commission invited to attend meetings in an expert capacity. These meetings concern in particular the works of the Committee for Standards foreseen in Article 22 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 and of the Multi Stakeholder Platform established by the Commission Decision 2011/C 349/04 of 28 November 2011.

2.1.3.6. Reimbursements to experts in accordance with Article 77(4)(c) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

Amount

EUR 10 000

Description

Programme for exchange of REACH and CLP inspectors. Art 77.4.c of REACH requires the Forum to coordinate the exchange of inspectors. This is an extension of a programme which proved to be useful (2017-2020). Supports harmonisation and strengthening of REACH enforcement in Member States.

2.1.3.7. Reimbursements to experts/committee members

Amount

EUR 15 000

Description

DG GROW Economic Seminars Program in cooperation with academic institutions, a series of leading economists are invited to present their research in a seminar or a workshop. Top researchers in the field participate in the events in order to provide DG GROW staff a critical overview of the most recent research in microeconomics.

2.1.3.8. Reimbursements to experts/committee members: Workshop with Creative & Cultural industry stakeholders.

Amount

EUR 30 000

Description

The New European Agenda for Culture recognised the role of cultural and creative sectors (CCIs) in "generating innovative solutions that impact positively in other sectors and help boosting the competitiveness of our economy". Among the new actions in this Communication, the Commission proposed to "organise a dialogue with CCIs in the context of the renewed Industrial Policy Strategy, to identify policy needs and underpin a comprehensive policy framework at EU level".

In this context, DG GROW is organising a series of meetings with various CCIs stakeholders to build a shared understanding about: (a) the challenges and opportunities of the creative economy in the EU, (b) conditions for the global competitiveness of the European CCIs, and (c) conditions for cross-sectoral cooperation and the role of CCIs as innovation triggers in other industrial sectors and value chains

2.2. Budget line 03.020102 Internal Market Governance Tools

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities related to the internal market governance tools such as awareness raising, promotion, networking, training activities, knowledge sharing, content sharing, usability improvements, management of the YEA network, outreach activities and IT support for actions.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG GROW.

2.2.1. *Procurements*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement (implemented under direct management) in 2021 under this work programme is EUR 5 560 268.

2.2.1.1. Communication activities: awareness raising, promotion, networking, training activities, knowledge sharing, content sharing, usability improvements.

General description of the contracts envisaged

Increasing the awareness about Your Europe, Your Europe Advice and the SOLVIT network through targeted promotion activities towards the different user groups (such as workers, consumers, students, seniors) and their roof organisations, with a focus on on-line activities and social media.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action

2.2.1.2. Single Market Scoreboard 2.0. (SMS)

General description of the contracts envisaged

The Scoreboard illustrates Member State performance under the Single Market based on a range of indicators, many from the Single Market governance tools. Performance is presented according to measurable indicators and summarised using a "traffic light" system. It is updated on a yearly basis to monitor developments. The objective of this initiative is to upgrade the IT system of the Scoreboard into a 2.0 version for monitoring the Single Market policies that encompass the use of data analytics and data mining tools, to help identify barriers within the Single Market across sectors, by bringing together different sources of information within EU institutions and potentially beyond. The information should be presented in a more user-friendly way to reach a

broader audience than the current (mostly administrations, universities and think tanks).

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to DIGIT.

Additional information

For the expansion of the scope, DG GROW will work in close collaboration with DGs (e.g. REGIO Border Focal Point, ENV, etc) to identify possible area where synergies can be exploited, adding new thematic areas to the Single Market Scoreboard. Monitoring a broader range of policy areas and indicators within the Single Market would support closer evaluation of the functioning of ecosystems and their recovery, by better understanding the effectiveness of devised policy measures and by highlighting obstacles that businesses and citizens face on the ground.

2.2.1.3. IT activities for the Single Digital Gateway (SDG)

General description of the contracts envisaged

IT development; translation; communication

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action and through sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General, in particular DIGIT

Additional information

The action consists of continuing implementation, running, maintenance and further development of the single digital gateway (Regulation (EU) 2018/1724). The translation of the web pages of the Member States will continue. The initial investment costs in 2021 will cover:

- IT development (procurement using a framework contract);
- translation (service-level agreement with the Translation Centre in Luxembourg).

As the information and assistance service as well as feedback parts of the gateway will be running as from 12/12/2020, the running costs will cover:

- licencing costs for the search facility (existing contract);
- maintenance and new needs (procurement);
- communication (procurement).

The action indicators will be the quality feedback from the users, the number of users.

2.2.1.4. Your Europe (YE Webmaster and Editor)

General description of the contracts envisaged

Your Europe (YE) and Your Europe supporting tool (YEST): Cost for maintenance, technical development, support of the content management tool and addition of functionalities. Editorial work to further develop the on-line portal, in line with the requirements for iterative improvements of the Single Digital Gateway Regulation. Day-

to-day management of content and web functionalities. Usability and accessibility improvements. Rationalisation and integration.

Implementation

DG GROW through use of framework contracts for external resources

Additional information

The on-line portal provides citizens and businesses with information, and refers them directly to services such as Your Europe Advice and SOLVIT. Your Europe is the hub of the Single Digital Gateway established by Regulation 2018/1724.

The costs relate to the further development of the website, support tasks as well as training sessions and material for the users of the tool. It includes organisation of two annual meetings of the SDG coordination group as well as promotion activities.

2.2.1.5. Management of the Your Europe Advice (YEA) network and outreach activities

General description of the contracts envisaged

Hosting, maintenance, rationalisation, integration and further development of the YEA-database. The budget will cover the costs for the provision of the service, outreach activities and further developing cohesion with other services e.g. SOLVIT, Your Europe.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action

Additional information

Your Europe Advice offers citizens tailored information and advice on their personal EU rights in the internal market, free of charge and in all 24 EU languages. Citizens receive comprehensive advice within max. a week and are directed when appropriate, to the authority or other body best placed to solve their problem. It is run by an external contractor (ECAS, European Citizens' Action Service) who has network of around 60 legal experts in all Member States; it is financed by DG GROW.

2.2.1.6. Codelegated Credits for IMI:

General description of the contracts envisaged

Hosting, maintenance, rationalisation, integration, further development and support of the **Internal Market Information System**.

IMI Memorandum of understanding & DIGIT Hosting and Services for Internal Market Tools Information Systems in DIGIT Data Center. The cost of maintenance and developments of SOLVIT are also covered by the IMI budget, as SOLVIT is a module of IMI.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to DIGIT.

Additional information

IMI is a multilingual online application offered as a free service to Member States. It allows authorities to ask each other questions, notify of developments and store information to share. It makes it easy for authorities to: identify their counterpart in another Member State; manage the exchange of information, including personal data, on the basis of simple and unified procedures.

Specific objectives include, improvements to IMI for existing and new user communities, development required for expansion to new policy areas, upgrades to ensure IMI is based on up to date technology and implementation of corporate solutions (e.g. EU Login).

Expected results include strengthening administrative cooperation between Member States, contributing to enforcement of Single Market legislation and to the rationalisation of IT systems provided by the Commission.

The **SOLVIT** network is one of the most effective out-of-court dispute settlement mechanisms, dealing with cross-border problems faced by citizens or businesses, and arising as a result of the misapplication of internal market legislation by a public administration in another Member State. The system uses an online database, accessible to all national coordination centres to which citizens and businesses can directly submit their problems.

SOLVIT Workshops and Newcomers trainings are essential for the good functioning and success of the network. These are organised in order to monitor the performance of the case processing and compliance with common quality standards; to inform on developments concerning SOLVIT at European and national level; to coordinate and develop outreach activities; to provide legal education and to strengthen the team spirit within the network.

2.2.1.7. IMI - External resources - business analyst & IT support

General description of the contracts envisaged

Engagement of external resources to perform analysis and support activities, reinforcing the IMI team in DG GROW responsible for the provision of the tool, operational support, coordinating the IMI network and expanding IMI to new areas.

Implementation

DG GROW through use of a framework contract for external resources

Additional information

Analysis and documentation for new expansion areas to be supported by IMI and provision of second line user support.

2.2.1.8. IT related activities for Internal Market governance tools and projects

General description of the contracts envisaged

Management of legislation and of initiatives/implementation/reports and IT management
System Administration and Database management activities: Security, Operation and maintenance of Information systems, Application support, Project Management, Data Management for policy, Technical and corrective Maintenance for Administrative Information Systems, Application Support (Basic), LSA services.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General, in particular DIGIT.

Additional information

This includes DG GROW R3 supporting services guaranteeing the coherence and efficient management of the activities deployed in the unit. (Application Support, Enterprise Project Management Office, Architecture Office, Program & project management support, Business Process Modelling, Security management, DEVOPS, System Administration, technical evolutions, technical migrations, coordination with DIGIT, hardware & software and general support) as well as tasks for the inception phase of projects (Proof of Concept, Problem Statement, Business case). All tasks for the maintenance and development of Information Systems are also covered. Most of those activities are undertaken by external personnel hired mainly through DIGIT or other DG's Framework Contracts

2.3. Budget line 03.020103: Taxud regulatory work support – Implementation and development of the internal market

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities related to customs and taxations regulatory work to foster the implementation of the internal market.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG TAXUD.

2.3.1. Procurements

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement (implemented under direct management) in 2021 under this work programme is EUR 3 322 507.

2.3.1.1. Studies, impact assessments, communication campaigns, databases, tools and supporting services, information systems

General description of the contracts envisaged

A series of studies, consultations, communication actions and acquisition of data sources are envisaged, such as :

- study on the EU Single Window environment for customs Business-to-Government ;
- study on the interoperability of customs, security and border management systems;
- Study on E-Commerce – Modernising & safeguarding revenue collection for e-commerce goods imported from 3rd countries;
- study on the VAT on Passenger transport (update the results of the previous studies and prepare a proposal / impact assessment for 2022;

- follow-up to the study on VAT in the digital age (in case further estimates are needed), to prepare a proposal / impact assessment for 2022;
- survey of the use of data analytics/artificial intelligence and big data within Member State tax administrations and beyond, including an analysis of their impact in fighting fraud;
- study on Dispute Resolution in VAT;
- Eurofisc 2.0: study including stock-taking interview with Heads of tax administrations on their priorities in the fight against VAT fraud in the coming years (future development of the Eurofisc network);
- towards VIES 2.0 and a central repository for VAT data: a study of the impact of data sharing paradigms among antifraud authorities;
- access to external databases such as ORBIS, IBFD databases;
- annual study on the provision of effective tax rates - update for year 2021;
- maintenance of the EUROMOD tool;
- communication campaign of the EU Cooperative compliance programme / SME programme;
- communication campaign for e-commerce, covering outreach event and missions – to prepare the entry into force of the package on 01.07.2021;
- preparation of a Data summit event;
- Green Deal tax initiatives conference;
- communication campaign on Green Deal tax initiatives;
- study (pre-inception and inception activities) related to product safety and compliance and their impact on TAXUD systems
- development of a centralised system for the acceptance of electronically issued statements of origin;
- acquisition of SAS licenses for the Surveillance system;
- further developments of the EU Single Window;
- consultancy on the transposition of tax directives;
- other actions targetting the implementation of the internal market.

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG TAXUD by signing specific contracts under existing or new multi-annual framework contracts or administrative arrangements with JRC.

2.3.1.2. Scientific Customs

General description of the contracts envisaged

Acquisition of support services and services for data collection for the Customs Laboratories European Network (CLEN) :

- scientific and technical support to DG TAXUD for establishing a more efficient control by the European Customs Laboratories on the products entering the Community market in agreement with Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, including

collection of data for the ECICS (European Customs Inventory of Chemical Substances) products (identity cards of the chemicals);

- revision and translation of chemical names in the ECICS system;
- improvement of Customs sampling procedures and enrichment of the Sampling Manual for Customs and Tax Authorities (SAMANCTA);
- the Coordination of the Customs Laboratories European Network
- scientific and technical support in the area of Designer drugs and other illicit products
- access to the FIZ-CAS database.

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG TAXUD by signing specific contracts under existing or new multi-annual framework contracts or administrative arrangements (with JRC notably).

2.3.1.3. Information on new tender procedures

General description of the contracts envisaged

The following new tender procedures are expected to be launched in 2021. Two procedures in view of concluding a multi-annual framework contract:

- Provision of tax and customs information services: estimated publication of the procurement procedure: 3rd quarter of 2021. The indicative amount of the framework contract will be EUR 12 000 000 with a maximum duration of 4 years. The budgetary impact expected for the year 2021 is included in the EUR 3 222 507 envelop defined in section 2.
- Provision of effective tax rates and related supporting services: estimated publication of the procurement procedure: 1st quarter of 2021. The estimated value of the framework contract will be EUR 1 300 000 with a maximum duration of 4 years. The budgetary impact expected for the year 2021 is included in the EUR 3 222 507 envelop defined in section 2.
- Acquisition of data on financial accounts of companies: estimation of publication of the procurement procedure : fourth quarter of 2021. The estimated value of the framework contract will be EUR 5 000 000 with a maximum duration of 4 years. There is no budgetary impact for the year 2021.

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG TAXUD.

2.4. Budget line 03.020104 Company law

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities in the areas of company law, contract and extracontractual law, including anti-money laundering.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG JUST and DG FISMA, the budget breakdown for year 2021 is as follows:

- for procurements (implemented under direct management) (2.4.1): EUR 808 041
- for other actions, (2.4.2): EUR 165 345

2.4.1. *Procurements*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement in 2021 under this work programme is EUR 808 041.

2.4.1.1. Company law (including contract law and anti-money laundering)

In total, around 5 to 10 direct contracts shall be signed. The contracts shall be awarded following procurement procedures or as specific contracts under framework contracts to which DG FISMA and/or DG JUST have access. The procurement procedures may be launched during the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarter of 2021.

Implementation

The action shall be implemented directly by DG FISMA and JUST

Additional information

Studies/reports/compliance assessments and IT developments in the field of company law, contract and extra-contractual law and anti-money laundering.
Expert meetings in the field of company law, contract law and anti-money laundering

2.4.2. *Other actions or expenditure*

Contributions paid by the Union as subscriptions to bodies of which it is a member.

Amount:

EUR 165 345

Description

The Commission is a founding member since 1989 of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) which is an intergovernmental body defining international standards on anti-money laundering, countering terrorism financing and countering proliferation financing. The fight against money laundering has been a top political priority of the EU for a number of years, based on the need to protect the financial system from misuse.

2.5. Budget line 03.020105: Competition policy for a stronger union in the digital age

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities for support to competition policy in the digital age.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG COMP, the budget breakdown for year 2021 is as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (2.5.1): EUR 300 000
- for procurements (implemented under direct management) (2.5.2): EUR 19 686 775
- for other actions, in particular administrative arrangements (2.5.3): EUR 406 500

2.5.1. *Grants*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grant actions under this work programme is EUR 300 000

2.5.1.1. Training of competition and/or non-competition national enforcers

Amount

EUR 300 000

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Competition and/or non-competition national enforcers specialised in economic and financial investigations.

The grants will awarded be in accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals based on Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

Maximum co-financing rate: 90%

The action is aimed at training competition and/or non-competition national enforcers to raise competition awareness and develop investigative cooperation. The expected results is to promote proactive enforcement by facilitating cooperation inside EU and increase awareness of EU competition rules among various enforcers specialised in economic and financial investigations

Indicative implementation timetable: Over the year 2021.

Qualitative and quantitative indicators for the action:

- number of national competition and/or non-competition enforcers reached by the training and awareness raising activities.

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG COMP

2.5.2. *Procurements*

2.5.2.1. Competition policy for a stronger union in the digital age

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts under this work programme is EUR 19 686 775.

General description of what the envisaged contracts will cover:

- expertise, studies, evaluations, impact assessments, surveys, consultations, legal or economic analysis, market data gathering, market intelligence and other types of support;
- acquisition of data and other information sources;
- capacity building activities and trainings in the field of competition;
- support for exchange of best practices and expertise;
- organisation of meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences which support the development and strengthening of cooperation and cooperation structures with and between enforcement bodies, national courts and other relevant Member State authorities, third country authorities or international organisations;
- communication and advocacy activities including support tools; development, improvement, maintenance, acquisition and modernisation of digital tools, big

data and artificial intelligence solutions, forensic IT, and related equipment and services.

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG COMP by signing direct contracts, specific contracts under existing or new multi-annual framework contracts or administrative arrangements.

Additional information

The actions will specifically focus on:

- ensuring effective and up-to-date enforcement of EU competition policy and policy actions;
- enhancing cooperation and partnerships with public administrations in the EU and contributing to a stronger global cooperation and partnerships with third country authorities;
- raising awareness of EU competition policy.

Expected results: Ensure effective, efficient, up-to-date enforcement and rules/guidance, support major objectives of competition policy and policy actions, facilitate cooperation in- and outside EU and increase awareness of EU competition rules among various stakeholders.

Indicative implementation timetable and payment timetable: The launch of new procedures will be spread over the year 2021.

Qualitative and quantitative result indicators for the action:

- estimate of customer benefits resulting from cartel prohibition decisions;
- estimate of customer benefits resulting from merger interventions;
- total State aid expenditure for environmental protection, renewables and energy savings as a percentage of total State aid in the EU;
- total State aid expenditure for broadband as a percentage of total State aid in the EU;
- total State aid expenditure falling under the General Block Exemption Regulation as a percentage of total State aid in the EU;
- error rate of the compliance check for State aid transparency measures;
- degree of implementation of the digital solutions modernisation plan: case management solutions, exchanges with external stakeholders and data analytics/artificial intelligence.

2.5.3. *Other actions or expenditure*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for other expenditure under this work programme is EUR 406 500.

Description

- Membership contributions

Financial contribution to the International Competition Network. The Commission is a member of the network, which is a network of established and newer competition agencies with the common aim of addressing practical antitrust and merger enforcement and policy issues. By enhancing convergence and cooperation, the ICN promotes more efficient and effective antitrust enforcement worldwide for the benefit of consumers and businesses: Estimated budget: EUR 6 500

- Reimbursements to experts in accordance with Commission Decision C(2007)5858
The Commission and the competent Member State authorities as well as other advisors form together networks, developing and applying the Community competition rules in close cooperation. Estimated budget: EUR 400 000

2.6. Budget line 03.020106 Implementation and development of the internal market for financial services

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities fostering the development of the Single Market for financial services. The actions to be financed are managed by DG FISMA and the budget breakdown for year 2021 as follows:

- for procurements (implemented under direct management) (2.6.1): EUR 4 738 806
- for other actions, in particular administrative arrangements (2.6.2): EUR 670 000

2.6.1. Procurements

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts for Implementation and development of the Single Market for financial services in 2021 is EUR 4 738 806.

2.6.1.1. Implementation and development of the internal market for financial services

In total, around 15 to 30 direct contracts shall be awarded and around 25 to 40 specific contracts shall be signed under existing framework contracts. Most of the procurement procedures may be launched during the 1st, 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2021. The activities covered could include:

- Studies, surveys and evaluations in line with DG FISMA priorities and supporting policy making;
- Conformity assessments of national measures transposing directives / assessment of the implementation of regulations (including background analyses and studies);
- Development, maintenance and hosting of local administrative and policy supporting information technology (IT) systems, purchase of licenses, external IT assessments/analyses or contributions for the use of (corporate) IT systems if relevant (e.g. AGM, eProcurement, SUMMA, etc.);
- Subscription to financial markets databases to timely and reliably assess market changes;
- Implementation of DG FISMA communication strategy (e.g. publications, social media campaigns, video production, Eurobarometer surveys, awareness-raising activities, workshops, conferences, meetings, etc.)
- Other activities required to achieve the objective set out in Article 3.2(a) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme].

Implementation

The activities shall be implemented either directly by DG FISMA (direct management)

or by co-delegation or cross-sub delegation with DIGIT, DG BUDG, PMO, OLAF or other Directorates-General or Commission services as appropriate.

2.6.2. *Administrative arrangements and other expenditure*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for administrative arrangements and other expenditure under this work programme is EUR 670 000.

2.6.2.1. Contributions paid by the Union as subscriptions to bodies of which it is a member.

Amount

EUR 120 000

Description

Contributions paid by the Union as subscriptions to bodies of which it is a member and on which the Commission is represented by DG FISMA such as:

- The Commission's annual membership fee for participation in the International Organisation of Securities Commission (IOSCO), which is an association of securities regulatory organisations and the recognised body for securities' standard setting (IOSCO membership regulates more than 90% of the world's securities markets). Participation in IOSCO is vital to influence the international standard setting in the field of securities markets.
- The annual membership contribution to the International Financial Consumer Protection Network (FINCONET), which promotes and develops international standards in relation to financial consumer protection and on regulatory and supervisory matters related to financial market conduct, with an emphasis on banking and credit issues.
- The annual contribution to the International Association for Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) which is the international body that sets international standards on insurance supervision.

2.6.2.2. Administrative Arrangements with JRC

Amount

EUR 550 000

Description

One or more Administrative Arrangements with JRC for the provision of specialist technical assistance in the field of financial services.

2.7. **Budget line 03.020107 Market Surveillance**

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities implementing measures in the field of product market surveillance and mutual recognition. The actions to be financed are managed by DG GROW and the budget breakdown for year 2021 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (2.7.1): EUR 6 324 093
- for procurements (implemented under direct management) (2.7.2): EUR 3 570 000

- for other actions, in particular administrative arrangements (2.7.3): EUR 950 000

2.7.1. Grants

2.7.1.1. Union market surveillance campaigns and associated activities, including resources and equipment, IT tools and training

Amount

EUR 1 324 093

Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals

The targeted beneficiaries are market surveillance authorities, organisations representing the market surveillance authorities and Union testing facilities referred to in Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020.

Description of the activities to be funded

The objective of the proposed activities is to strengthen the operational market surveillance capacities of authorities of Member States and/or EFTA countries which are members of the EEA and to address the needs identified in the national market surveillance strategies. The proposed activities will take place in the context of Articles 31 and 33 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and in accordance with the financing provisions referred to in Article 36 of that Regulation, and will address more specifically market surveillance campaigns and associated activities, including resources and equipment, IT tools and training.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by EISMEA

2.7.1.2. Establishment and functioning of Union testing facilities, the development of instruments of international cooperation and technical or scientific expertise

Amount

EUR 1 000 000

Type of applicants targeted by the calls for proposals

The targeted beneficiaries are market surveillance authorities, organisations representing the market surveillance authorities and Union testing facilities referred to in Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020.

Description of the activities to be funded

The objective is to support the establishment and functioning of Union testing facilities referred to in Article 21, the development of instruments of international cooperation referred to in Article 35 and the making available to the Commission of technical or scientific expertise for the purpose of assisting the Commission in its implementation of market surveillance administrative cooperation.

The objective of the proposed activities is to support the functioning of the EU Product Compliance Network, to strengthen the operational market surveillance capacities of

authorities of Member States and/or EFTA countries which are members of the EEA and to address the needs identified in the national market surveillance strategies. The proposed activities will take place in the context of Articles 31 and 33 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 and in accordance with the financing provisions referred to in Article 36 of that Regulation, and will address more specifically the establishment and functioning of Union testing facilities.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by EISMEA

2.7.1.3. Support to joint enforcement actions

Amount

EUR 4 000 000

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Target beneficiaries are market surveillance authorities and organisations representing market surveillance and customs authorities.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The objective of the proposed activities is to enhance cooperation and coordination among Member States and/or European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries which are members of the European Economic Area (EEA) with regard to market surveillance activities and to contribute to the strengthening of operational market surveillance capacities of authorities of Member States and/or EFTA countries which are members of the EEA. In particular, the proposed activities should be based on and take into account the expertise of the relevant Administrative cooperation groups. It includes the performance of preliminary or ancillary work in connection with market surveillance activities related to the application of Union harmonisation legislation, such as studies, programmes, evaluations, guidelines, comparative analyses, mutual joint visits and visit programmes, peer reviews, exchange of personnel, research work, training activities, laboratory work, proficiency testing, inter-laboratory tests and conformity assessment work. It could also cover activities carried out under programmes providing technical assistance, cooperation with third countries and the promotion and enhancement of Union market surveillance policies and systems amongst interested parties at Union and international level.

The activities should take place in the context of Articles 31 and 33 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council and the financing provisions referred to in Article 36 of that Regulation, and will address more specifically joint actions and capacity building actions.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by EISMEA

2.7.2. Procurement

2.7.2.1. Market Surveillance: Administrative and technical secretariats for ADCOS

General description of the contracts envisaged

An administrative secretariat has been set up necessary for the organisation and coordination of meetings the ADCOs (Administrative cooperation groups) in the area of market surveillance. Technical secretariats of ADCOs (Administrative cooperation groups) will be set up with the objective to enable close co-operation between Market Surveillance Authorities across the EU to ensure, as a result, consistent technical application of various Directives on goods. Those secretariats must be financed each year to allow ensuring in particular that the implementation of Union directives does not create obstacles to the good functioning of the internal market. In particular, procurement involving contracting entities from different Member States¹⁰ may be impacted negatively by differing national rules transposing Union directives. Administrative and technical secretariats are necessary for the coordination groups of the ADCOs in the area of market surveillance.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General.

2.7.2.2. IT related activity

General description of the contracts envisaged

IT development, maintenance, services and work on databases and IT systems, including ICSMS. Management of databases on notification procedures (e.g. NANDO). Rationalisation of the existing systems in order to make them more interoperable and efficient and move towards a one-stop shop.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General, in particular DIGIT

2.7.2.3. Awareness raising campaigns

General description of the contracts envisaged

Communication campaigns aimed at raising the awareness of stakeholders and consumers, in the context of product compliance and product safety.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by EISMEA

2.7.2.4. New Framework Contract for supporting joint enforcement actions

General description of the contracts envisaged

¹⁰ Article 39 of Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC, OJ L 94 of 28.3.2014, p. 65, and Article 57 of Directive 2014/25/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors and repealing Directive 2004/17/EC, OJ L 94 of 28.3.2014, p. 243.

In order to support joint actions with the MS in the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council on market surveillance and compliance of products, a call for tenders should be published in Q3/2021.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by EISMEA or by DG GROW

2.7.2.5. Study on measuring product non-compliance for the sectors covered by Regulation 2019/1020

General description of the contracts envisaged

Study on measuring product non-compliance for the sectors covered by Regulation 2019/1020, including the collection of product market data in the Single Market and the setup of data collection circuits.

Implementation

This action will be implemented by EISMEA

2.7.2.6. Electronic interfaces

General description of the contracts envisaged

Electronic interfaces between the national IT systems of Member States and ICSMS, enabling the exchange of data between the information and communication system as referred to in Article 34 and the national market surveillance systems (Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No 305/2011)

Implementation

DG GROW

2.7.3. *Administrative arrangements and other expenditure*

2.7.3.1. Administrative arrangement with JRC

Amount

EUR 400 000

Description

This administrative arrangement will fund JRC technical support to product market surveillance activities, including EU testing capacity, market surveillance indicators and peer reviews.

2.7.3.2. Support to Customs Union – Cooperation market surveillance/customs, including Single Window interface

Amount

EUR 550.000

Description

This administrative arrangement will fund the Support to Customs Union, and more specifically the cooperation between Market Surveillance Authorities and Customs Authorities, including the Single Window interface.

Internal administrative arrangement (MoU) signed by DG GROW and DG TAXUD on the cooperation framework between both DGs for the interface between the "Information and communication system for market surveillance (ICSMS)" and national customs systems via the "European Union Customs Single Window for Certificates exchanges system (EU CSW-CERTEX). The initiative requires complex changes and new functionalities to be added to ICSMS and EU CSW-CERTEX, and collaboration on the design and development of this important data exchange mechanism between the two. This is a first step in the bilateral cooperation for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1020.

Financial transfers are foreseen from DG GROW to DG TAXUD for the period 2021-2025, followed by maintenance fees thereafter.

3. STANDARDISATION

This budget contains the appropriations for activities increasing the efficiency of the single market through standardisation.

The actions to be financed are managed by DG GROW and DG FISMA. The appropriations come under the budget headings:

03.020301 European standardisation: EUR 21 458 109.

03.020302 International financial reporting and accounting standards: EUR 8 439 058

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurements is EUR 1 157 500 and the global budgetary envelope reserved for grants is EUR 28 189 667.

3.1. Budget line 03.020301 European standardisation

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities managed by DG GROW and the budget breakdown for year 2021 as follows:

- for grants (3.1.1): EUR 19 750 609
- for procurements (3.1.2): EUR 1 157 500
- for other actions, in particular administrative arrangements (3.1.3): EUR 550 000

3.1.1. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 19 750 609.

- 3.1.1.1. Support to standardisation activities performed by CEN, Cenelec and ETSI

Amount

EUR 15.000.609

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European standardisation organisations listed in annex I to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012:

1. CEN— European Committee for Standardisation;
2. Cenelec — European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation;
3. ETSI— European Telecommunications Standards Institute.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

Operating grant to the European Committee for Standardisation(CEN) under framework partnership agreement to carry out the activities of its central secretariat, including policy development, the coordination of standardisation activities, the processing of technical work and the provision of information to interested parties referred to in Article 15(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.¹¹ For proposals under this topic, started in 2021, exceptionally cost incurred as from 01/01/2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

Action grants to the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) under framework partnership agreement to carry out the development and revision of European standards or deliverables and the associated activities referred to in Article 15(1)(a),(c),(e),(f) and (g) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.¹² For proposals under this topic, started in 2021, exceptionally cost incurred as from 01/01/2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission. This will assure business continuity and will not stop the standardisation work in support of EU policies considering that the incurred costs could be included in the future proposals for action grants.

Operating grant to the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (Cenelec) under framework partnership agreement to carry out the activities of its central secretariat, including policy development, the coordination of standardisation activities, the processing of technical work and the provision of information to interested parties as referred to in Article 15(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.¹³ For proposals under this topic, started in 2021, exceptionally cost incurred as from 01/01/2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

¹¹ as specified in Article 10(c) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme] for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(c)(i),

¹² as specified in Article 10(c) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme] for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(c)(i),

¹³ as specified in Article 10(c) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme] for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(c)(i),

Action grants to the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (Cenelec) under framework partnership agreement to carry out the development and revision of European standards or deliverables and the associated activities referred to in referred to in Article 15(1)(a),(c),(e),(f) and (g) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.¹⁴ For proposals under this topic, started in 2021, exceptionally cost incurred as from 01/01/2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission. This will assure business continuity and will not stop the standardisation work in support of EU policies considering that the incurred costs could be included in the future proposals for action grants.

Operating grant to the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) under framework partnership agreement to carry out the activities of its central secretariat, including policy development, the coordination of standardisation activities, the processing of technical work and the provision of information to interested parties as referred to in Article 15(1)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.¹⁵ For proposals under this topic, started in 2021, exceptionally cost incurred as from 01/01/2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

Action grants to the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) under framework partnership agreement to carry out the development and revision of European standards or deliverables and the associated activities referred to in referred to in Article 15(1)(a),(c),(e),(f) and (g) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012. For proposals under this topic, started in 2021, exceptionally cost incurred as from 01/01/2021 are eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission. This will assure business continuity and will not stop the standardisation work in support of EU policies considering that the incurred costs could be included in the future proposals for action grants.

Implementation

DG GROW and EISMEA

3.1.1.2. Support to organisations representing small and middle-sized enterprises (SMEs) and societal stakeholders in standardisation activities

Amount

EUR 4 750 000

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

¹⁴ as specified in Article 10(c) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme] for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(c)(i),

¹⁵ as specified in Article 10(c) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme] for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(c)(i),

The European organisations selected following a call for proposals to the European stakeholder organisations meeting the criteria set out in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16:

1. The ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE POUR LA COORDINATION DE LA REPRESENTATION DES CONSOMMATEURS POUR LA NORMALISATION (ANEC) representing consumer interests in European standardisation activities ;
2. The European Environmental Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS) representing environmental interests in European standardisation activities ;
3. The European Trade Union Confederation (CES ETUC) representing social interests in European standardisation activities

The European organisations representing representing SMEs in European standardisation activities which will be selected following a call for proposals for a European stakeholder organisations meeting the criteria set out in Article 1 of the Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific grant(s) directly awarded under framework partnership(s) agreements. FPA to be signed during 2021 with organisations representing small and middle-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Operating and action grants to the European stakeholder organisations meeting the criteria set out in Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 under framework partnership agreements to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16 of that Regulation.

Operating grant to the ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE POUR LA COORDINATION DE LA REPRESENTATION DES CONSOMMATEURS POUR LA NORMALISATION (ANEC) representing consumer interests in European standardisation activities under framework partnership agreements to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.

Operating grant to the European Environmental Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS) representing environmental interests in European standardisation activities under framework partnership agreements to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.

Action grants to the European Environmental Organisation for Standardisation (ECOS) representing environmental interests in European standardisation activities under framework partnership agreements to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012.

Operating grant to the European Trade Union Confederation (CES ETUC) representing social interests in European standardisation activities under framework partnership agreements to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No

1025/2012.

Operating grant to the European organisations representing representing SMEs in European standardisation activities which will be selected following a call for proposals for a European stakeholder organisations meeting the criteria set out in Article 1 of the Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 and after framework partnership agreement to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16.

Action grants to the European organisations representing representing SMEs in European standardisation activities which will be selected following a call for proposals for a European stakeholder organisations meeting the criteria set out in Article 1 of the Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 and after framework partnership agreement to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16.

Implementation

EISMEA

3.1.1.3. Framework Partnership agreement – SME's interests in standardisation

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award and description of the activities

SMEs interests are integral part of the Annex III organisations representing SMEs, workers, consumers and environmental interests in standardisation are in block under the Regulation. The European organisations representing representing SMEs in European standardisation activities will be selected following a call for proposals for a European stakeholder organisations meeting the criteria set out in Article 1 of the Annex III to Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 to carry out the activities referred to in Article 16.

Implementation

DG GROW

3.1.2. *Procurement*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement in 2021 under this work programme is EUR 1 157 500.

3.1.2.1. IT projects related to standardisation

General description of the contracts envisaged

Information Technology: management of the standardisation mandates and publication of references of harmonised standards including: SIGNIFERI, HAS and CEN/CENELEC Standards database, CESIP.

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate

General, in particular DIGIT.

Additional information

By principle of good administrative practice implementation of the Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 the Commission keeps the public informed at all stages of a harmonised standard from the standardisation request up to the expiration of its legal effect on an EU legislation.

3.1.2.2. IT related activities for Standardisation projects and Information Systems

General description of the contracts envisaged

System Administration and Database management activities, Security, Operation and maintenance of Information systems, Application support, Project Management, Data Management for policy, Technical and corrective Maintenance for Administrative Information Systems, Application Support (Basic), LSA services, Supporting services for the management of Information Systems for Standardisation (DG GROW R3). This includes R3 supporting services guaranteeing the coherence and efficient management of the activities deployed in the unit (Application Support, Enterprise Project Management Office, Architecture Office, Program & project management support, Business Process Modelling, Security management, DEVOPS, System Administration, technical evolutions, technical migrations, coordination with DIGIT, hardware & software and general support) as well as tasks for the inception phase of projects (Proof of Concept, Problem Statement, Business case). All tasks for the maintenance and development of Information Systems are also covered. Most of those activities are undertaken by external personnel hired mainly through DIGIT or other DG's Framework Contracts

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate General, in particular DIGIT.

Additional information

By principle of good administrative practice implementation of the Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 the Commission keeps the public informed at all stages of a harmonised standard from the standardisation request up to the expiration of its legal effect on an EU legislation.

3.1.2.3. Standardisation consultant

General description of the contracts envisaged

Technical consultancy contract, in order to assist the work related to web-publishing of standards related information, the re-design of the site structure and the review of the standardisation data-model at the basis of a re-design of the ICT tools architecture supporting standardisation activities to verify the quality, and conformity to the corresponding Union legislation and policies, of European standards or European standardisation deliverables

Implementation

DG GROW and through cross sub-delegation and co-delegation to another Directorate

General, in particular DIGIT.

Additional information required by the basic act for the work programme]

By principle of good administrative practice in implementation of the Article 10(6) of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 the Commission keeps the public informed at all stages of a harmonised standard from the standardisation request up to the expiration of its legal effect on an EU legislation.

3.1.2.4. Communication/promotion of European standardisation system

General description of the contracts envisaged

Communication services. Communication on standardisation strategy, evaluation of European Standardisation System, hosting and services for Sectorial Information Systems in DIGIT Data Center, promotion of evaluation studies throughout events, conferences, meetings.

Implementation

DG GROW will implement this action.

Additional information

By principle of good administration in implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 the Commission keeps the stakeholders informed at all changes and events that may affect the European standardisation system.

3.1.3. *Administrative arrangements and other expenditure*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for administrative arrangements under this work programme is EUR 550 000.

3.1.3.1. Empirical support for the development of Eurocodes

Amount

EUR 350 000

Description

Support and steer the development of a set of standards for structural design which will result in a common approach for safe building and civil engineering works. This will allow for the exchange of experience and the possibilities for civil engineers to offer their services easier within the Union. This action comes under the measures taken by the Commission to eliminate barriers for services provided by civil engineers (Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council) and partially to trade pursuant to Article 3 of Directive 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and the Council.

3.1.3.2. Validation of the standardisation work of CEN Technical Committee (TC) 351

Amount

EUR 200 000

Description

The aim is to provide a robust method for assessing the radiation from construction products under Regulation (EU) No 305/2011. This action involves a round robin test of the radiation assessment method developed by this TC.

3.2. Budget line 03.020302 International financial reporting and auditing standards

This chapter contains the appropriations for activities managed by DG FISMA and the global budgetary envelope reserved for grants for International financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards in 2021 under this work programme is EUR 8 439 058.

3.2.1. *Grants to be awarded for 'International financial and non-financial reporting and auditing standards'*

Amount

EUR 8 439 058

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

In accordance with the provisions of Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation and as specified in Article 10(d) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme] the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation, the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) and the Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB) may be awarded grants under the Programme without a call for proposals for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(c)(ii).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

A financial contribution to the work programme for 2021 of the **International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) Foundation** may be made through the award of an operating grant within the meaning of Article 180(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation.

In this regard, the Foundation pursues objectives which form part of, and support, Union policy as a well-functioning common financial reporting framework that is essential for the internal market, the effective functioning of capital markets and the realisation of the integrated market for financial services in the context of the Capital Markets Union.

The IFRS developed by the Foundation's International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) are incorporated into Union law for use by companies with securities listed on a regulated market in the Union so long as they satisfy the criteria in Regulation (EC) No 1606/2002 including that accounts give a 'true and fair view' and that they are conducive to the European public good. The Union therefore has a direct interest in ensuring that the processes through which IFRS are developed and approved result in high quality standards that are consistent with the requirements of the internal market and with public interests.

An operating grant of indicatively EUR 4 533 058 to the IFRS Foundation would co-finance up to 20% of the eligible costs of the implementation of the Foundation's work

programme for 2021 which could include, amongst others, such activities as:

- the IASB closely monitoring and improving its standard-setting process;
- consultation to define international standard-setting priorities and develop the IASB's project work plan;
- consultation on and conduct of the IASB's research programme;
- implementation of the IASB's standard setting programme and activities and its maintenance programme (which supports implementation and consistent application to ensure the IFRS remain relevant and to promote better communication in financial reporting).

Financial contributions in the form of operating grants were provided to the IFRS Foundation under the Union programme to support specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing for the period of 2014-20 established by Regulation (EU) No 258/2014.¹⁶ A break in Union support for the work of the IFRS Foundation could seriously undermine the achievement of Union policy. Not least, it would jeopardise the objective of ensuring that European interests are well represented in the development and application of IFRS. For these reasons, exceptionally, costs incurred as from 01/01/2021 can be eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

A financial contribution to the work programme for 2021 of the **European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG)** may be made through the award of an operating grant within the meaning of Article 180(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation.

In this respect, EFRAG pursues objectives which form part of, and support, Union policy as its work makes a vital contribution to a well-functioning common financial reporting framework. In particular, EFRAG assesses whether international financial reporting standards (IFRS) comply with the requirements of Union law and policy. It also provides technical advice to the Commission on the endorsement of IFRS.

The Union also has a direct and specific interest in encouraging the development and sharing of best practices in corporate reporting, not least given the potential of improved non-financial reporting to contribute to the transition to a more sustainable and socially responsible economy.

In that light, more recently EFRAG has established a corporate reporting laboratory to promote innovation and the development of best practices in corporate reporting including non-financial reporting.

In addition, as non-financial reporting (also referred to as sustainability reporting) is increasingly important to judging the performance and prospects of companies, particularly as the European and global economies adjust and adapt to climate change and sustainability requirements, European and international standards on non-financial reporting require development and strengthening. Building on its experience in financial reporting and, more recently, wider corporate reporting, as well as its unique European perspective, EFRAG is well positioned to support the development of robust non-financial reporting standards.

As such, the work of EFRAG in 2021 will directly contribute to the achievement of the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(c)(ii) of *Regulation (EU) XX [the Single*

¹⁶ Regulation (EU) No 258/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing a Union programme to support specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing for the period of 2014-20 and repealing Decision No 716/2009/EC, OJ L 105 of 8.4.2014, pp. 1-8.

Market Programme] of supporting the development of high-quality international financial and non-financial reporting standards, facilitating their integration into the Union law, and promoting the innovation and development of best practices in corporate reporting.

An operating grant of indicatively EUR 3 561 000 to EFRAG would co-finance up to 60% of the eligible costs of implementing its work programme for 2021 covering activities, amongst others, in such areas as:

- Research work and activities contributing to the IASB's standard setting activities;
- Provision of advice on the endorsement of International Financial Reporting Standards;
- Provision of advice on corporate reporting, including non-financial reporting.

It could also support other activities undertaken by EFRAG such as: provision of advice to the Commission on corporate and financial and non-financial reporting matters; technical analyses and assessments; outreach activities; field-testing; stakeholder meetings and other events; identification and dissemination of good and innovative reporting practices; and increasing the visibility of EFRAG to a wider public.

Financial contributions in the form of operating grants were provided to EFRAG under the Union programme to support specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing for the period of 2014-20 established by Regulation (EU) No 258/2014.¹⁷ A break in Union support for the work of EFRAG could seriously undermine the achievement of Union policy. Not least, it would jeopardise the objective of ensuring that European interests are well represented in the development and application of IFRS and the provision of advice on the endorsement of IFRS for use in the Union. It could also jeopardise the timely start to preparations for the development of enhanced non-financial reporting by companies established in the Union. For these reasons, exceptionally, costs incurred as from 01/01/2021 can be eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

A financial contribution to the work programme for 2021 of the **Public Interest Oversight Board (PIOB)** may be made through the award of an operating grant within the meaning of Article 180(2)(b) of the Financial Regulation.

In this respect, the PIOB pursues objectives which form part of, and support, Union policy. In particular, it makes a vital contribution to ensuring that the public interest is appropriately taken into account in the setting of International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) that are used by auditors throughout the world and which are mandated for use by most EU Member States. It also ensures that public interest are taken into account in the setting of international ethics standards for professional accountants, including auditor independence requirements.

It does so by overseeing the whole process applied by the two standard-setting boards:

- the International Audit and Assurance Standards Board (IIAASB) and
- the International Ethics Board for Accountants (IESBA).

The PIOB also oversees the work of the International Federation of Accountants' (IFAC)

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) No 258/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing a Union programme to support specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing for the period of 2014-20 and repealing Decision No 716/2009/EC, OJ L 105 of 8.4.2014, pp. 1-8.

Nominating Committee which is responsible for selecting members to serve on the independent standard-setting boards.

An operating grant indicatively of EUR 345 000 to the PIOB would co-finance up to 30% of the eligible costs of implementing its work programme for 2021 thereby supporting the continued independent oversight of the activities of the global audit standard-setting process.

To promote such independence, in accordance with Article 12(2) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme], if funding of the PIOB by IFAC in 2021 reaches more than two-thirds of the total annual funding the contribution of the Union to the PIOB for 2021 shall be limited to a maximum of EUR 300 000.

Financial contributions in the form of operating grants were provided to the PIOB under the Union programme to support specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing for the period of 2014-20 established by Regulation (EU) No 258/2014.¹⁸ A break in Union support for the work of the PIOB could seriously undermine the achievement of Union policy by limiting the extent of the oversight that the PIOB could conduct. As such, exceptionally, costs incurred as from 01/01/2021 can be eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

Implementation

The actions will be implemented by DG FISMA

4. CONSUMERS

The global budget contains the appropriations for activities managed by DG FISMA on “The participation of end users in financial services policy making”.

4.1. Budget line 03.020402 The participation of end users in financial services policy making

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 1 496 375.

These amounts include appropriations arising from the participation of EEA EFTA States to the programme and are therefore subject to the agreement on their participation.

4.1.1. *Grants to be awarded for ‘The participation of end users in financial services policy making’*

Amount

EUR 1 496 375

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

In accordance with the provisions of Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation and as specified in Article 10(f) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme],

¹⁸ Regulation (EU) No 258/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 establishing a Union programme to support specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing for the period of 2014-20 and repealing Decision No 716/2009/EC, OJ L 105 of 8.4.2014, pp. 1-8.

Finance Watch and 'Better Finance' may be awarded grants under the Programme without a call for proposals for actions implementing the specific objective referred to in Article 3(2)(d)(ii).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

An action grant within the meaning of Article 180(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation may be provided to Finance Watch to pursue the objectives set out in Article (2)(d)(ii) of *Regulation (EU) XX [the Single Market Programme]*.

In this respect, the framework for regulation and supervision of financial services needs not only to promote financial stability and a sustainable economy but also to provide a high-degree of protection to consumers and other end-users of financial service including retail investors, savers, insurance policyholders, pension fund members and beneficiaries, individual shareholders, borrowers and SMEs. For this to be the case, the views of all stakeholders – including those of consumers and other financial services end-users – need to feed into the policy making process, not just the views and opinions of entities and professionals in the financial sector and their representative bodies.

An action grant indicatively of EUR 1 086 375 to Finance Watch would co-finance up to 60% of the eligible costs for the implementation of activities such as:

- (a) research activities, including the production of own research and data and development of expertise;
- (b) engaging with consumers and other end-users of financial services by liaising with existing consumer networks and helplines in Member States in order to identify issues relevant to Union policy-making for the protection of the interests of consumers in the area of financial services;
- (c) activities for raising awareness, dissemination activities, and the provision of financial education and training, directly or through their national members, including to a wide audience of consumers, other end-users of financial services and non-experts;
- (d) activities reinforcing the interactions between the members of the organisations as well as advocacy and policy advice activities fostering the positions of those members at Union level and fostering the public and general interest in Union financial regulation.

Such activities should contribute to better financial services policies, notably thanks to a better public understanding of the issues at stake in financial regulation and enhanced financial literacy.

Indicative grant co-financed activities of Finance Watch (with the support of its members) would relate and respond to ongoing or forthcoming Union financial services policy proposals with the aim of making finance serve society. Activities would mainly relate to the areas of retail financial services, sustainable finance and financial stability, although tangible actions and projects in other related areas within the financial services domain, including debt-advice and financial inclusion could be addressed where appropriate.

Taking into account the potential for the situation and circumstances affecting the provision, regulation and supervision of financial services in the Union to rapidly evolve (for example in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic or other unforeseeable events), precise grant co-financed activities of Finance Watch may differ to some extent from the foreseen indicative activities.

Annual action grants have been awarded to Finance Watch, as a designated beneficiary,

for the conduct of similar activities under the Union programme to support specific activities enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policy-making in the area of financial services for the period of 2017-2020 established by Regulation (EU) 2017/826.¹⁹ A break in Union financial support for such activities would undermine efforts to promote the interests of consumers and other end-users of financial services and jeopardise achievements made to date. As such, exceptionally, costs incurred as from 01/01/2021 can be eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

An application for a grant would be evaluated on the basis of the following award criteria:

- i) Quality and relevance of the proposed descriptions of the actions (types of activities, topics covered timetable) to achieve the objectives provided for in Article 3(2)(d)(ii) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme];
- ii) Cost-efficiency and demonstration that the estimated budget of the action is commensurate with the results to be achieved.

An action grant within the meaning of Article 180(2)(a) of the Financial Regulation may be provided to Better Finance to pursue activities the objectives set out in Article (2)(d)(ii) of *Regulation (EU) XX [the Single Market Programme]*.

In this respect, the framework for regulation and supervision of financial services needs not only to promote financial stability and a sustainable economy but also to provide a high-degree of protection to consumers and other end-users of financial services including retail investors, savers, insurance policyholders, pension fund members and beneficiaries, individual shareholders, borrowers and SMEs. For this to be the case, the views of all stakeholders – including those of consumers and other financial services end-users – need to feed into the policy making process, not just the views and opinions of entities and professionals in the financial sector and their representative bodies.

An action grant indicatively of EUR 410 000 to Better Finance would co-finance up to 60% of the eligible costs for the implementation of activities such as:

- (a) research activities, including the production of own research and data and development of expertise;
- (b) engaging with consumers and other end-users of financial services by liaising with existing consumer networks and helplines in Member States in order to identify issues relevant to Union policy-making for the protection of the interests of consumers in the area of financial services;
- (c) activities for raising awareness, dissemination activities, and the provision of financial education and training, directly or through their national members, including to a wide audience of consumers, other end-users of financial services and non-experts;
- (d) activities reinforcing the interactions between the members of the organisation as well as advocacy and policy advice activities fostering the positions of those members at Union level and fostering the public and general interest in Union financial

¹⁹

Regulation (EU) 2017/826 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on establishing a Union programme to support specific activities enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policy-making in the area of financial services for the period of 2017-2020, OJ L 129 of 19.5.2017, pp. 17-23.

regulation.

Such activities should contribute to better financial services policies, notably thanks to a better public understanding of the issues at stake in financial regulation and enhanced financial literacy.

Indicative grant co-financed activities of Better Finance (with the support of its members) would mainly target the needs of small investors and individual shareholders. Better Finance would intend to continue its three flagship research projects (namely “Real returns of Long term and Pension Savings”, “RoboAdvice” and the series “#BFFundResearch”) as well as other ongoing projects, and would start new ones, mainly in the area of retail investments and on related topics.

Taking into account the potential for the situation and circumstances affecting the provision, regulation and supervision of financial services in the Union to rapidly evolve (for example in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic or other unforeseeable events), precise grant co-financed activities of Better Finance may differ to some extent from the foreseen indicative activities.

Annual action grants have been awarded to Better Finance, as a designated beneficiary, for the conduct of similar activities under the Union programme to support specific activities enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policy-making in the area of financial services for the period of 2017-2020 established by Regulation (EU) 2017/826.²⁰ A break in Union financial support for such activities would undermine efforts to promote the interests of consumers and other end-users of financial services and jeopardise achievements made to date. As such, exceptionally, costs incurred as from 01/01/2021 can be eligible and may be declared even if the related activities have been implemented prior to proposal submission.

An application for a grant would be evaluated on the basis of the following award criteria:

- i) Quality and relevance of the proposed descriptions of the actions (types of activities, topics covered timetable) to achieve the objectives provided for Article 3(2)(d)(ii) of Regulation (EU) XX [Single Market Programme];
- ii) Cost-efficiency and demonstration that the estimated budget of the action is commensurate with the results to be achieved.

Implementation

The actions will be implemented by DG FISMA

²⁰

Regulation (EU) 2017/826 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on establishing a Union programme to support specific activities enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policy-making in the area of financial services for the period of 2017-2020, OJ L 129 of 19.5.2017, pp. 17-23.