



2023/0397(COD)

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AMENDMENTS 141 - 552

Draft report

Tonino Picula, Karlo Ressler
(PE758.888v01-00)

Establishing the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans

Proposal for a regulation

(COM(2023)0692 – C9-0408/2023 – 2023/0397(COD))

Amendment 141

Vladimír Bilčík

Proposal for a regulation

Recital -1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

-1 The enlargement process is built on established Copenhagen criteria and fair and rigorous conditionality. Each beneficiary is assessed on its own merits. For the prospect of enlargement to become a reality, a firm commitment to ‘fundamentals first’ remains essential. The ‘fundamentals first’ approach links the rule of law and fundamental rights with the two other crucial areas of the accession process: economic governance – strengthened focus on economic development and improved competitiveness – and the strengthening of democratic institutions and public administration reform. Progress towards accession depends on each applicant’s respect for the Union’s values and its capacity to undertake and implement the necessary reforms to align its political, institutional, legal, administrative and economic systems with the rules, standards, policies and practices of the Union, while promoting good neighbourly relations.

Or. en

Amendment 142

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1) It is in the common interest of the Union and its Western Balkans partners¹ to

(1) It is in the common interest of the Union and its Western Balkans partners¹ to

advance the efforts to reform political, legal and economic systems *of the latter with a view to their future Union membership. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic and societal change.*

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

advance the efforts to reform political, legal and economic systems.

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Or. en

Amendment 143

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) It is in the common interest of the Union and its Western Balkans *partners*¹ to advance the efforts to reform political, legal and economic systems of the latter with a view to their future Union membership. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic and societal change.

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.* *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of*

Amendment

(1) It is in the common interest of the Union and its Western Balkans *partner countries*¹ to advance the efforts to reform political, legal and economic systems of the latter with a view to their future Union membership. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic, *environmental* and societal change.

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Amendment 144
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) It is in the common interest of the Union and its Western Balkans partners¹ to advance the efforts to reform political, legal and economic systems of the latter with a view to their future Union membership. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic and societal change.

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Amendment

(1) It is in the common interest of the Union and its Western Balkans partners¹ to advance the efforts to reform political, legal and economic systems of the latter with a view to their future Union membership. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic and societal change. ***Recalls that Union membership is not merely a symbolic act but requires serious commitments to Union values and standards.***

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Amendment 145
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1) It is in the common interest of the Union and its Western Balkans partners¹ to advance the efforts to reform political, legal and economic systems of the latter with a view to their future Union membership. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic and societal change.

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

(1) It is in the common interest of the Union and its Western Balkans partners¹ to advance the efforts to reform political, legal and economic systems of the latter with a view to their future Union membership. The prospect of Union membership has a powerful transformative effect, embedding positive democratic, political, economic and societal change. ***A fundamental prerequisite for the membership in the Union is compliance with the Copenhagen criteria, which are based on the values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights.***

¹ Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Or. en

Amendment 146

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 1 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) Accession to the EU must always be a merit-based procedure and each enlargement country must be assessed on its own merits in fulfilling the Copenhagen criteria, particularly in ensuring full respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law and respect for and the protection of minorities. While Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has given a new meaning and impetus to enlargement, the path of the Western Balkan countries towards EU

membership needs to be firmly anchored in the tangible and concrete progress and reforms undertaken by the accession countries. To guarantee the success of enlargement as an effective EU foreign policy instrument, genuine political will is needed both in the Member States and in the enlargement countries.

Or. en

Amendment 147

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) Progress in the enlargement process can only be merit based and established on clear criteria with a focus on fundamental rights and values, as well as willingness to implement the necessary reforms to align its political, institutional, legal, administrative and economic systems with the rules, standards, policies and practices of the Union, while promoting good neighbourly relations.

Or. en

Amendment 148

Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1a) Taking into account that more than 20 years after Thessaloniki summit, Western Balkan states are in different stages of accession process, upholding different dynamics in their efforts in

fulfilling obligatory negotiating chapters.

Or. en

Amendment 149

Georgios Kyrtzos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1b) Having regard to geostrategic importance of enlargement strategy towards Western Balkans for security, peace and stability of EU Member States in the light of dynamic changes in international environment, specifically with Russia's aggressive invasion on Ukraine.

Or. en

Amendment 150

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2) There is a need to bring forward some of the advantages of Union membership before accession. Economic convergence is at the heart of these benefits. Currently, the convergence of Western Balkans in terms of GDP per capita expressed in purchasing power standards remains low at between 30% and 50% of the Union average and is not progressing fast enough.

(2) There is a need to ***work towards the adoption and implementation of the EU acquis as soon as possible, as well as*** bring forward some of the advantages of Union membership before accession. ***Alongside democratic transition and respect for fundamental rights and values,*** economic convergence is at the heart of these benefits. Currently, the convergence of Western Balkans in terms of GDP per capita expressed in purchasing power standards remains low at between 30% and 50% of the Union average and is not

progressing fast enough.

Or. en

Amendment 151

Vladimír Bilčík

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) There is a need to bring forward some of the advantages of Union membership before accession. Economic convergence is at the heart of these benefits. Currently, the convergence of Western Balkans in terms of GDP per capita expressed in purchasing power standards remains low at between 30% and 50% of the Union average and is not progressing fast enough.

Amendment

(2) There is a need to bring forward some of the advantages of Union membership before accession. ***Alongside democratic transition and respect for fundamental rights and values, including rule of law,*** economic convergence is at the heart of these benefits. Currently, the convergence of Western Balkans in terms of GDP per capita expressed in purchasing power standards remains low at between 30% and 50% of the Union average and is not progressing fast enough.

Or. en

Amendment 152

Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) There is a need to bring forward some of the advantages of Union membership before accession. Economic convergence is at the heart of these benefits. Currently, the convergence of Western Balkans in terms of GDP per capita expressed in purchasing power standards remains low ***at between 30% and 50% of the Union average*** and is not progressing fast enough.

Amendment

(2) There is a need to bring forward some of the advantages of Union membership before accession. Economic convergence is at the heart of these benefits. Currently, the convergence of Western Balkans in terms of GDP per capita expressed in purchasing power standards remains low and is not progressing fast enough.

Amendment 153
Victor Negrescu

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(2a) Considers that support for the Western Balkan countries in view of EU enlargement remains important for the implementation of the necessary accession-related reforms and investments;

Amendment 154
Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(3) To reduce this disparity, the European Commission adopted a Communication on a Growth Plan for the Western Balkans based on four pillars: (a) increasing integration with the EU's Single Market; (b) boosting regional economic integration, based on EU rules and standards, by fully implementing the existing Common Regional Market Action Plan; (c) deepening reforms aiming at accelerating **growth** in the region, promoting economic convergence and strengthening regional stability; and (d) establishing a new Financing Instrument: the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans.

(3) To reduce this disparity, the European Commission adopted a Communication on a Growth Plan for the Western Balkans based on four pillars: (a) increasing integration with the EU's Single Market; (b) boosting regional economic integration, based on EU rules and standards, by fully implementing the existing Common Regional Market Action Plan; (c) deepening reforms aiming at accelerating **economic development** in the region, promoting **inclusive and sustainable** economic convergence and strengthening regional stability; and (d) establishing a new Financing Instrument: the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans.

Amendment 155

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) To reduce this disparity, the European Commission adopted a Communication on a Growth Plan for the Western Balkans based on four pillars: (a) increasing integration with the EU's Single Market; (b) boosting regional economic integration, based on EU rules and standards, by fully implementing the existing Common Regional Market Action Plan; (c) deepening reforms aiming at accelerating **growth** in the region, promoting economic convergence and strengthening regional stability; and (d) establishing a new Financing Instrument: the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans.

Amendment

(3) To reduce this disparity, the European Commission adopted a Communication on a Growth Plan for the Western Balkans based on four pillars: (a) increasing integration with the EU's Single Market; (b) boosting regional economic integration, based on EU rules and standards, by fully implementing the existing Common Regional Market Action Plan; (c) deepening reforms aiming at accelerating **sustainable development** in the region, promoting economic convergence and strengthening regional stability; and (d) establishing a new Financing Instrument: the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans.

Amendment 156

Sunčana Glavak

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) To reduce this disparity, the European Commission adopted a Communication on a Growth Plan for the Western Balkans based on four pillars: (a) increasing integration with the EU's Single Market; (b) boosting regional economic integration, based on EU rules and

Amendment

(3) To reduce this disparity, the European Commission adopted a Communication on a Growth Plan for the Western Balkans based on four pillars: (a) increasing integration with the EU's Single Market; (b) boosting regional economic integration, based on EU rules and

standards, by fully implementing the existing Common Regional Market Action Plan; (c) deepening reforms aiming at accelerating growth in the region, promoting economic convergence and strengthening regional stability; and (d) establishing a new Financing Instrument: the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans.

standards, by fully implementing the existing Common Regional Market Action Plan; (c) deepening reforms aiming at accelerating growth in the region, promoting economic ***growth based on green and digital transition, economic*** convergence and strengthening regional stability; and (d) establishing a new Financing Instrument: the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans.

Or. en

Amendment 157

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) The implementation of that Growth Plan requires increased funding under a dedicated new Financing Instrument, the Reform and Growth Facility, to assist the region in implementing ***the growth-promoting*** reforms, regional integration and Common Regional Market.

Amendment

(4) The implementation of that Growth Plan requires increased funding under a dedicated new Financing Instrument, the Reform and Growth Facility, to assist the region in implementing ***inclusive and sustainable development promoting reforms contributing to reaching climate neutrality by 2050 the latest and decarbonisation of the economy, as well as to strengthening democracy, the rule of law, including the independence of the judiciary, the protection of human rights, the fight against corruption as well as any kind of nepotism, favouritism, money laundering, tax avoidance, tax evasion, tax fraud and organised crime, and by promoting just and digital transitions boosting the green and digital transition in the region in a socially inclusive way as well as the*** regional integration and Common Regional Market.

Or. en

Amendment 158
Sunčana Glavak

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) The implementation of that Growth Plan requires increased funding under a dedicated new Financing Instrument, the Reform and Growth Facility, to assist the region in implementing the growth-promoting reforms, regional integration and Common Regional Market.

Amendment

(4) The implementation of that Growth Plan requires increased funding under a dedicated new Financing Instrument, the Reform and Growth Facility, to assist the region in implementing the growth-promoting reforms, regional integration and Common Regional Market, ***supported through a comprehensive efficiency evaluation to ensure investments truly contribute to regional growth.***

Or. en

Amendment 159
Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) The implementation of that Growth Plan requires increased funding under a dedicated new Financing Instrument, the Reform and Growth Facility, to assist the region in implementing the growth-promoting reforms, regional integration and Common Regional Market.

Amendment

(4) The implementation of that Growth Plan requires increased funding under a dedicated new Financing Instrument, the Reform and Growth Facility, to assist the region in implementing the growth-promoting reforms, ***forming a stable investment environment,*** regional integration and Common Regional Market.

Or. en

Amendment 160
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) According to the 2020 revised methodology “Enhancing the accession process - A credible EU perspective for the Western Balkans”, progress on the fundamentals determines the overall pace of accession negotiations. To this end, this Facility is based on strict conditionality and access to funding depends on the delivery of tangible results and the implementation of reforms in the area of the fundamentals. Furthermore, to access the funding envisaged in this Facility, the Beneficiaries need to be fully aligned with the EU’s strategic goals, values and interests, including with the EU’s common foreign and security policy.

Or. en

Amendment 161

Georgios Kyrtosos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4a) The support under the Facility should be made available under the precondition that Beneficiaries continues to respect parliamentary democracy, effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including appropriate checks and balances, a multi-party parliamentary system, good governance at all levels, free and fair elections in line with EU's values, the rule of law including an independent judiciary and public prosecutor, continued advances in fighting corruption. Western Balkans should also continue to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and work

*towards increased women's participation
in decision-making.*

Or. en

Amendment 162

Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4b) The general objectives of the Reform and Growth Facility should be inter alia to assist Beneficiaries fostering democratic social, economic, environmental and territorial cohesion and resilience, and a progressive integration into the Union and global economy and markets as well as an upward economic, social and environmental convergence towards Union standards. Such objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner and with a regular monitoring of the evolving social and economic circumstances in Western Balkans. Beneficiaries should guarantee public access to the information on funding opportunities under this Facility, as well as free and fair competition during tendering process and grant allocation under the Facility.

Or. en

Amendment 163

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, education and skills development.

Amendment

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development ***and decarbonisation of economies:*** connectivity, including ***sustainable*** transport, energy, green and digital transitions, ***including promotion of the highest energy efficiency standards with emphasis on decentralised renewable energy networks, climate neutrality and circular economy including by prioritizing renewables and energy efficiency and the use of materials ethically sourced locally,*** education and skills development. ***The Facility and all investments should be fully aligned and respect the EU climate acquis and especially the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ Principle.***

Or. en

Amendment 164

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, education and skills development.

Amendment

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development ***and in order to reduce strategic dependencies:*** connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, ***research and innovation,*** education and skills development, ***with particular attention to youth.***

Or. en

Amendment 165
Vladimír Bilčík

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key **multipliers** for social and economic development: connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, education and skills development.

Amendment

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors **and human capital** that are likely to function as key **drivers** for social and economic development: **SMEs**, connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, **research and innovation**, education and skills development.

Or. en

Amendment 166
Victor Negrescu

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, education and skills development.

Amendment

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, education and skills development, **health services, anti-corruption, democracy, media freedom.**

Or. en

Amendment 167
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, education and skills development.

Amendment

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, education and skills development, ***and investing in human capital.***

Or. en

Amendment 168
Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, education and skills development.

Amendment

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, ***research and innovation,*** education and skills development.

Or. en

Amendment 169
David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, education and skills development.

Amendment

(5) To achieve these goals, special emphasis with respect to investment areas should be placed on sectors that are likely to function as key multipliers for social and economic development: **health**, connectivity, including transport, energy, green and digital transitions, education and skills development.

Or. en

Amendment 170

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(5a) The Facility should comply with the highest climate and environmental standards and the Reform Agendas should be subject to Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment procedures in order to identify and properly mitigate potential negative environmental and social impacts. The right for public access to information for civil society organisations and individuals including the right to access environmental information should be ensured as well as the full compliance with the Aarhus Convention.

Or. en

Amendment 171

Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) Transport infrastructure is essential to improve connectivity between the Western Balkan partners and with the EU. It should contribute to **integrate** the region in the Union. In its proposal revising the trans-European transport framework (TEN-T), the Commission included a new Corridor crossing the Western Balkan region (Western-East Mediterranean corridor). The TEN-T network should be the reference for funding transport infrastructure in the region.

Amendment

(6) Transport infrastructure is essential to improve connectivity between the Western Balkan partners and with the EU **Member States, especially neighbouring ones with direct border**. It should contribute to **effectively integrating** the region in the Union **in a realistic manner considering regional specificities and geopolitical challenges specific to those countries**. In its proposal revising the trans-European transport framework (TEN-T), the Commission included a new Corridor crossing the Western Balkan region (Western-East Mediterranean corridor). The TEN-T network should be the reference for funding transport infrastructure in the region, **especially those already in or having started the process of building the necessary infrastructures. Funding for these projects from different Union programs should be avoided. Completing existing projects before starting new ones should be a priority**.

Or. en

Amendment 172

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) Transport infrastructure is essential to improve connectivity between the Western Balkan partners and with the EU. It should contribute to integrate the region in the Union. In its proposal revising the trans-European transport framework (TEN-T), the Commission included a new Corridor crossing the Western Balkan region (Western-East Mediterranean

Amendment

(6) **Sustainable** transport infrastructure is essential to improve connectivity between the Western Balkan partners and with the EU. It should contribute to integrate the region in the Union. In its proposal revising the trans-European transport framework (TEN-T), the Commission included a new Corridor crossing the Western Balkan region

corridor). The TEN-T network should be the reference for funding transport infrastructure in the region.

(Western-East Mediterranean corridor). The TEN-T network should be the reference for funding transport infrastructure in the region. ***Priority should be given to environmentally-friendly means of transportation such as railways and decarbonisation of transport.***

Or. en

Amendment 173 **Sunčana Glavak**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 7**

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) The Facility should support investment and reforms that promote the beneficiaries' path to the digital transformation of the economy and society in line with the EU vision for 2030 presented in the Commission communication '2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade'². ***It should strive to facilitate their achievement of the general objectives and digital targets with regard to the Union. As outlined by the Commission in its communication of 15 June 2023³, the 5G cybersecurity Toolbox should be the reference for EU funding to ensure security, resilience and protection of integrity of digital infrastructure in the region.***

² COM(2021)118 final.

³ ***'Implementation of the 5G cybersecurity Toolbox', COM(2023)4049 final.***

Amendment

(7) The Facility should support investment and reforms that promote the beneficiaries' path to the digital transformation of the economy and society in line with the EU vision for 2030 presented in the Commission communication '2030 Digital Compass: the European way for the Digital Decade'². ***The Facility should prioritize investments and reforms that not only advance the digital transformation but also ensure these efforts are rooted in the principles of security, resilience, and integrity. It is essential that all investments align with the '2030 Digital Compass' objectives, fostering an inclusive digital economy that benefits all citizens and adheres to the highest standards of cybersecurity, including the implementation of the 5G cybersecurity Toolbox as a foundational element of digital infrastructure projects.***

² COM(2021)118 final.

Amendment 174
Sunčana Glavak

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) Union support under the Facility should not replace the bilateral and regional support provided under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, focussing on preparing the Beneficiaries for Union membership, but complement it and add to it, while using already existing mechanisms and structures where possible. ***The approach should build on the existing enlargement methodology, notably the 2020 Revised Methodology⁵, and the Economic and Investment Plan⁶ from the same year.***

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>).

⁵ COM (2022) 57 final.

⁶ COM(2020) 641 final.

Amendment

(8) Union support under the Facility should not replace the bilateral and regional support provided under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, focussing on preparing the Beneficiaries for Union membership, but complement it and add to it, while using already existing mechanisms and structures where possible. ***This approach should underline the importance of economic reforms, democratic institutions strengthening, rule of law, and respect for fundamental rights, ensuring a holistic and sustainable path towards EU integration.***

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>).

Amendment 175
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) Union support under the Facility should **not replace the** bilateral and regional support provided under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, focussing on preparing the Beneficiaries for Union membership, but complement it and add to it, while using already existing mechanisms and structures where possible. The approach should build on the existing enlargement methodology, notably the 2020 Revised Methodology⁵, and the Economic and Investment Plan⁶ from the same year.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>).

⁵ COM (2022) 57 final.

⁶ COM(2020) 641 final.

Amendment

(8) Union support under the Facility should **reinforce existing** bilateral and regional support provided under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, focussing on preparing the Beneficiaries for Union membership, but complement it and add to it, while using already existing mechanisms and structures where possible. **The *Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA)* remains the main financial mechanism to assist accession countries in their European integrations.** **The** approach should build on the existing enlargement methodology, notably the 2020 Revised Methodology⁵, and the Economic and Investment Plan⁶ from the same year.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>).

⁵ COM (2022) 57 final.

⁶ COM(2020) 641 final.

Or. en

Amendment 176
David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) Union support under the Facility should not replace the bilateral and regional support provided under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴,

Amendment

(8) Union support under the Facility should not replace the bilateral and regional support provided under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴,

focussing on preparing the Beneficiaries for Union membership, **but** complement it and add to it, while using already existing mechanisms and structures where possible. The approach should build on the existing enlargement methodology, notably the 2020 Revised Methodology⁵, and the Economic and Investment Plan⁶ from the same year.

focussing on preparing the Beneficiaries for Union membership. ***The Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA III) remains the main financial vehicle for merit-based conditional pre-accession assistance. The Facility shall*** complement it and add to it, while using already existing mechanisms and structures where possible. The approach should build on the existing enlargement methodology, notably the 2020 Revised Methodology⁵, and the Economic and Investment Plan⁶ from the same year.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>).

⁵ COM (2022) 57 final.

⁶ COM(2020) 641 final.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>).

⁵ COM (2022) 57 final.

⁶ COM(2020) 641 final.

Or. en

Amendment 177

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) Union support under the Facility should not replace the bilateral and regional support provided under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, focussing on preparing the Beneficiaries for Union membership, but complement it and add to it, while using already existing mechanisms and structures where possible. The approach should build on the existing enlargement methodology, notably the

Amendment

(8) Union support under the Facility should not replace the bilateral and regional support provided under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴, focussing on preparing the Beneficiaries for Union membership, but complement it and add to it, while using already existing mechanisms and structures where possible ***and maximising synergies***. The approach should build on the existing enlargement

2020 Revised Methodology⁵ , and the Economic and Investment Plan⁶ from the same year.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>).

⁵ COM (2022) 57 final.

⁶ COM(2020) 641 final.

methodology, notably the 2020 Revised Methodology⁵ , and the Economic and Investment Plan⁶ from the same year.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>).

⁵ COM (2022) 57 final.

⁶ COM(2020) 641 final.

Or. en

Amendment 178

Andrey Kovatchev

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) Union support under the Facility should not replace the bilateral and regional support provided under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ , focussing on preparing the Beneficiaries for Union membership, but complement it and add to it, while using already existing mechanisms and structures where possible. The approach should build on the existing enlargement methodology, notably the 2020 Revised Methodology⁵ , and the Economic and Investment Plan⁶ from the same year.

Amendment

(8) Union support under the Facility should not replace the bilateral and regional support provided under Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴ , focussing on preparing the Beneficiaries for Union membership, but complement it and add to it, while using already existing mechanisms and structures where possible. The approach should build on the existing enlargement methodology, notably the 2020 Revised Methodology⁵ , and the Economic and Investment Plan⁶ from the same year. ***In this regard, it should accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration into the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and foster regional cooperation, good neighbourly relations, reconciliation and the settlement of disputes in the Western Balkans.***

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>).

⁵ COM (2022) 57 final.

⁶ COM(2020) 641 final.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) (OJ L 330, 20.9.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1529/oj>).

⁵ COM (2022) 57 final.

⁶ COM(2020) 641 final.

Or. en

Amendment 179

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management **and fight against corruption**. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives ***set out in the form of milestones and targets***, based on established criteria and ***timeframes and*** with clear payment conditions ***and conditionalities***. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration ***and social and territorial cohesion, decarbonisation,*** progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should ***in particular accelerate the region's green transition to climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest, in accordance with Paris Agreement and the Green Deal, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as environmental and biodiversity protection.*** ***The Facility should*** also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the

enlargement process, including *the stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities. In particular, the Facility should further promote reforms in the areas of independence of the judiciary, the fight against all kinds of corruption and oligarchic structures, as well as any kind of nepotism or favouritism, money laundering, tax avoidance, tax evasion, tax fraud and organised crime* rule of law, public procurement and State aid control and public finance management. *The Facility should ensure the meaningful participation of regional and local authorities, as well as civil society and experts, in the design of the reforms and its scrutiny and implementations. The Facility should assure the fast implementation of the Interoperability Europe Act so as to speed up the exchange of information between the public sector in the EU and the widespread of an efficient digital transformation of this sector.* These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Or. en

Amendment 180

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established, *impartial and apolitical* criteria, and with clear payment conditions *based on fulfilling key targets. The established conditionality should avoid any political misuse and provide equal*

convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

and fair framework for all beneficiaries to access the funds. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards ***and values***, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner ***and in regular consultation.***

Or. en

Amendment 181
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives ***should*** be

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives- ***both on country and regional levels***, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules ***and values***, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process ***as enshrined in the Copenhagen criteria***, including rule of law ***and non-discrimination***, public

pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives *are to* be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Or. en

Amendment 182

Andor Deli, Lívía Járóka, Kinga Gál

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, **democratic transition, support for national and ethnic minorities**, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption **and organized crime**. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Or. en

Amendment 183

Vladimír Bilčík

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, ***democratic transition***, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption ***and organised crime, as well as fight against disinformation***. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Or. en

Amendment 184
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related

to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption ***and organized crime, including human trafficking***. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Or. en

Amendment 185

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union ***values***, laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to ***future*** Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, ***justice and Fundamental Rights***, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Or. en

Amendment 186

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions ***safeguarded by comprehensive audit frameworks***. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Or. en

Amendment 187
Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans

economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management **and** fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management, fight against corruption **and organized crime**. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Or. en

Amendment 188

David Lega

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, **human rights**, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Or. en

Amendment 189
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner.

Amendment

(9) The support under the Facility should be provided to meet general and specific objectives, based on established criteria and with clear payment conditions. The general objectives of the Facility should be to accelerate regional economic integration, progressive integration with the Union single market, **upward** socio-economic convergence of Western Balkans economies and alignment with Union **values**, laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. The Facility should also help accelerate reforms related to fundamentals of the enlargement process, including rule of law, public procurement and State aid control, public finance management and fight against corruption. These objectives should be pursued in a mutually reinforcing manner

Or. en

Amendment 190
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 9 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(9 a) The Facility should encourage and improve cooperation between the Western Balkan countries and their neighbouring Member States, helping to develop projects of strategic importance in the transport, energy, digital and energy transition sectors.

Amendment 191
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) The Facility should promote ***the development effectiveness principles, respecting*** additionality to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments and striving to avoid duplication between assistance under this Regulation and other assistance provided by the Union, the Member States, third countries, multilateral and regional organisations and entities.

Amendment

(10) The Facility should promote additionality to the support provided under other Union programmes and ***existing enlargement support*** instruments and striving to avoid duplication between assistance under this Regulation and other assistance provided by the Union, the Member States, third countries, multilateral and regional organisations and entities.

Amendment 192
David Lega

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) The Facility should promote the development effectiveness principles, respecting additionality to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments ***and striving to avoid*** duplication between assistance under this Regulation and other assistance provided by the Union, the Member States, third countries, multilateral and regional organisations and entities.

Amendment

(10) The Facility should promote the development effectiveness principles, respecting additionality to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments. ***The Commission will ensure the avoidance of*** duplication between assistance under this Regulation and other assistance provided by the Union, the Member States, third countries, multilateral and regional organisations and entities.

Amendment 193

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) The Facility should promote the development effectiveness principles, respecting additionality to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments and ***striving to avoid*** duplication between assistance under this Regulation and other assistance provided by the Union, the Member States, third countries, multilateral and regional organisations and entities.

Amendment

(10) The Facility should promote the development effectiveness principles, respecting additionality to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments and ***preventing*** duplication between assistance under this Regulation and other assistance provided by the Union, the Member States, third countries, multilateral and regional organisations and entities.

Or. en

Amendment 194

David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) The Facility should promote the development effectiveness principles, respecting ***additionality to the*** support provided under other Union programmes and instruments and striving to avoid duplication between assistance under this Regulation and other assistance provided by the Union, the Member States, third countries, multilateral and regional organisations and entities.

Amendment

(10) The Facility should promote the development effectiveness principles, respecting ***additional*** support provided under other Union programmes and instruments and striving to avoid duplication between assistance under this Regulation and other assistance provided by the Union, the Member States, third countries, multilateral and regional organisations and entities.

Or. en

Amendment 195

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) The Facility should ensure consistency with, and support to the general objectives of Union external action as laid down in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, including the respect for fundamental rights as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will notably ensure the protection and promotion of human rights, and the rule of law.

Amendment

(11) The Facility should ensure consistency with, and support to the general objectives of Union external action as laid down in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, including the respect for fundamental rights as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will notably ensure the protection and promotion of human rights ***including but not limited to the rights of minorities such as LGBTQ communities***, and the rule of law.

Or. en

Amendment 196
Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) The Facility should ensure consistency with, and support to the general objectives of Union external action as laid down in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, including the respect for fundamental rights as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will notably ensure the protection and promotion of human rights, and the rule of law.

Amendment

(11) The Facility should ensure consistency with, and support to the general objectives of Union external action as laid down in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, including the respect for fundamental rights as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will notably ensure the protection and promotion of human rights, and the rule of law ***which are the fundamental political prerequisites of the EU accession process.***

Or. en

Amendment 197

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) The Facility should ensure consistency with, and support to the general objectives of Union external action as laid down in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, including the respect for fundamental rights as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will notably ensure the protection and promotion of human rights, and the rule of law.

Amendment

(11) The Facility should ensure consistency with, and support to the general objectives of Union external action as laid down in Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union, including the respect for fundamental rights as enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. It will notably ensure the protection and promotion of human rights, **democracy** and the rule of law.

Or. en

Amendment 198
David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11a) The Facility and the funding dispersed therewith should place a special emphasis on locally based small and medium enterprises to ensure that sustainable development is directly interlinked with local businesses and entrepreneurs;

Or. en

Amendment 199
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 11 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11a) This Facility shall not support any activities or measures of those beneficiaries who act contrary to the aims of strengthening regional security and stability.

Or. en

Amendment 200

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch, Nathalie Loiseau

Proposal for a regulation Recital 11 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(11a) Activities under the Facility should not question the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia-and-Herzegovina.

Or. en

Amendment 201

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12) Activities under the Facility should support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and should not contribute to environmental degradation or cause harm to the

(12) Activities under the Facility should support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals **and contribute to achieve the national contributions under** the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change **in line with the commitments taken in the National Climate and Energy Plans**, the United Nations Convention on Biological

environment or climate. Measures funded under the Facility should be in line with the Beneficiaries' National Energy and Climate Plans, their Nationally Determined Contribution and ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050. ***The Facility should contribute to the mitigation action and to the ability to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, and foster climate resilience.***

Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and should not contribute to environmental degradation or cause harm to the environment or climate. ***In particular, funding allocated in the context of the Facility should be coherent with the long-term goal of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1,5°C. It should also be coherent with the objective to increase the ability to mitigation action and the ability to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and foster climate resilience, and with the support of biodiversity conservation, circular economy, sustainable water management and zero-pollution.*** Measures funded under the Facility should be in line with the Beneficiaries' National Energy and Climate Plans, their Nationally Determined Contribution and ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050.

Or. en

Amendment 202
Andor Deli, Lívía Járóka, Kinga Gál

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12a) Activities under the Facility should support children and their families with particular attentions to children living in marginalised communities and in the outermost regions. Activities under the Facility should, where possible, support efforts such as tax benefits and pension funds for large families, equal access to early childhood development by setting up networks of nurses and children's homes and cheap access to compulsory

kindergartens from the age of 3, equal access to primary and secondary education with the possibility of learning a languages and digital skills, a targeted strategy to prevent disadvantaged children from dropping out of school by encouraging them to stay in education via as the creation of scholarships, the creation of national talent centres, apprenticeship and traineeship programmes and participation in opportunities to study abroad.

Or. en

Amendment 203

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 12 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(12a) Activities under the Facility should also help the Beneficiaries to address social challenges, foster upward social cohesion and convergence towards the Union standards and support progress towards the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Or. en

Amendment 204

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the

principles of equality and non-discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance.

principles of equality and non-discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should ***ensure women's meaningful participation in the decision-making process***, promote ***and advance*** gender equality ***and mainstreaming*** and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. ***It should also promote the rights of the Roma and LGBTQI+ community as well as of minorities and vulnerable groups.*** The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ***its protocol, ratified by the EU and its Member States, and ensure the involvement of the relevant stakeholders in particular organisations representing people with disabilities in the decision-making processes, as well as*** ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance. ***The Facility shall also support the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and be included, and accelerate the transition from residential institutions to community-based support and independent living (de-institutionalisation) for children, adults and older persons with disabilities, and shall ensure that resources under the Facility are not used to perpetuate segregation of persons with disabilities. The Facility should support a comprehensive reform of the child protection and care system, including through the transition from institutional to family and community-based care for all children. Furthermore, the Regulation should be implemented in full respect of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Commission's Communication on decent work worldwide for a global just transition and a sustainable recovery and the 1998 International Labour***

***Organisation (ILO) Declaration on
Fundamental Principles and Rights at
Work.***

Or. en

Justification

We included the additional elements concerning the issues regarding persons with disabilities and respect to European Pillar of Social Rights and the International Labour Organisation based on the recommendations received from the European Disability Forum and from the International Labour Organisation respectively.

**Amendment 205
Angel Dzhambazki**

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 13**

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance.

Amendment

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ***its protocol, ratified by the EU and its Member States*** and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance. ***Measures funded under the Facility should also take into consideration accessibility for persons with disabilities in line with the Union legal framework, in particular with Directive (EU) 2019/882, such as accessible housing, transportation and public spaces, including public infrastructure both in urban and rural areas.***

Amendment 206
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance.

Amendment

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. The implementation of the Facility should ***also*** be in line ***with the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM), UNESCO's Declaration on Cultural Diversity, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)'s reports and*** with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance.

Amendment 207
Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the principles of equality and non-

Amendment

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the principles of equality and non-

discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance.

discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote **and advance** gender equality and **mainstreaming**, the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights, **as well as prevent and combat violence against women and domestic violence**, in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance.

Or. en

Amendment 208
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance.

Amendment

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. **Furthermore, the Regulation should be implemented in full respect of the European Pillar of Social Rights.** The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance

Amendment 209
Victor Negrescu

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 13

Text proposed by the Commission

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the principles of equality and non-discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance.

Amendment

(13) The implementation of this Regulation should be guided by the principles of equality, ***inclusiveness, fairness*** and non-discrimination, as elaborated in the Union of Equality strategies. It should promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seek to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions. The implementation of the Facility should be in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and ensure accessibility in its investments and technical assistance.

Amendment 210
Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 13 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13a) This regulation should promote the European code of conduct on partnership and the multi-level governance principle in order to prepare the Beneficiaries for the future implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Amendment 211**Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation**Recital 14***Text proposed by the Commission*

(14) This Regulation should ***promote*** the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans⁷ by reinforcing environmental protection, contributing to the mitigation of climate change and increasing resilience to climate change, and accelerating the shift towards a ***low-carbon*** economy.

⁷ SWD(2020)223 final, 6.10.2020.

Amendment

(14) This Regulation should ***contribute to the implementation of*** the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans⁷ ***in particular*** by reinforcing environmental protection, ***including nature and environmental restoration***, contributing to the mitigation of climate change and increasing resilience to climate change, and accelerating the shift towards a ***climate neutral, green, biodiverse and sustainable*** economy.

⁷ SWD(2020)223 final, 6.10.2020.

Amendment 212**Angel Dzhambazki****Proposal for a regulation****Recital 14***Text proposed by the Commission*

(14) This Regulation should promote the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans⁷ by reinforcing environmental protection, contributing to the mitigation of climate change and increasing resilience to climate change, and accelerating the shift towards a low-carbon economy.

Amendment

(14) This Regulation should promote the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans⁷ by reinforcing environmental protection, contributing to the mitigation of climate change and increasing resilience to climate change, and accelerating the shift towards a low-carbon economy, ***without bringing unnecessary harm to sectors such as agriculture, transport, etc.***

⁷ SWD(2020)223 final, 6.10.2020.

⁷ SWD(2020)223 final, 6.10.2020.

Or. en

Amendment 213

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Reflecting the European Green Deal as Europe's sustainable **growth** strategy and the importance of tackling climate and biodiversity objectives in line with the commitments of the Interinstitutional Agreement, the Facility should contribute to the achievement of the overall target of 30% of Union budget expenditure supporting climate objectives and 7.5% in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027 to biodiversity objectives. At least 37% of the non-repayable financial support channelled through the WBIF should account to climate objectives. The Facility should support activities that fully respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the Union and the principle of 'do no significant harm' within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852⁸.

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13.

Amendment

(15) Reflecting the European Green Deal as Europe's sustainable **development** strategy and the importance of tackling climate and biodiversity objectives in line with the commitments of the Interinstitutional Agreement, the Facility should contribute to the achievement of the overall target of 30% of Union budget expenditure supporting climate objectives and 7.5% in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027 to biodiversity objectives. At least 37% of the non-repayable financial support channelled through the WBIF should account to climate objectives. The Facility should support **only** activities that fully respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the Union and the principle of 'do no significant harm' within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852⁸.

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13.

Or. en

Amendment 214
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) Reflecting the European Green Deal as Europe's sustainable growth strategy and the importance of tackling climate and biodiversity objectives in line with the commitments of the Interinstitutional Agreement, the Facility should contribute to the achievement of the overall target of 30% of Union budget expenditure supporting climate objectives and 7.5% in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027 to biodiversity objectives. At least **37%** of the non-repayable financial support channelled through the WBIF should account to climate objectives. The Facility should support activities that fully respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the Union and the principle of 'do no significant harm' within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852⁸.

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13.

Amendment

(15) Reflecting the European Green Deal as Europe's sustainable growth strategy and the importance of tackling climate and biodiversity objectives in line with the commitments of the Interinstitutional Agreement, the Facility should contribute to the achievement of the overall target of 30% of Union budget expenditure supporting climate objectives and 7.5% in 2024 and 10% in 2026 and 2027 to biodiversity objectives. At least **25%** of the non-repayable financial support channelled through the WBIF should account to climate objectives. The Facility should support activities that fully respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the Union and the principle of 'do no significant harm' within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852⁸.

⁸ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13.

Or. en

Amendment 215
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 16

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should ***contribute to*** increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries ***continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and*** institutions, ***including a*** multi-party ***parliamentary*** system, ***and the rule of law, and to guarantee*** respect for human rights, including ***the rights of persons belonging to minorities***. Another ***pre-condition*** should be ***that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.***

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should ***ensure the compliance, coherence, consistency and complementarity,*** increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies ***in order to ensure protection of financial interests of the Union.*** The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries ***upholds and respects the Copenhagen criteria for EU accession, notably the stability of*** institutions ***guaranteeing democracy, rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities.*** ***In particular, the Beneficiaries need to demonstrate their compliance with the values of Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), a multi-party democratic system, including with appropriate checks and balances, good governance at all levels, free and fair elections as appropriate in line with the domestic law of the Beneficiaries and European and international democratic standards, an independent judiciary and public prosecutor,*** respect for human rights, including ***but not limited to freedom of speech and media freedom.*** Another ***precondition for the support under this Facility*** should be ***the full alignment of the Beneficiary with the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy.***

Or. en

Amendment 216

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and **uphold** effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to **guarantee** respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be **that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.**

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and **improves, upholds** effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a **functioning** multi-party parliamentary system, **media freedom** and the rule of law, and to **guarantees** respect for **all** human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities **including but not limited to LGBTQ communities.** Another pre-condition should be **full alignment with the Union's common foreign and security policy, including adoption of restrictive measures against Russia as well as with EU visa requirements for third countries.**

Or. en

Amendment 217
Vangelis Meimarakis

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made

available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries ***continues to respect and uphold*** effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and ***to guarantee*** respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries ***respects and upholds*** effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a ***functioning*** multi-party parliamentary system, ***media freedom*** and the rule of law, and ***guarantees*** respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to ***national minorities and other vulnerable groups and promotes their economic inclusivity in the overall economic convergence pursued by the beneficiary***. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 218

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries ***continues to respect and uphold*** effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries ***respects and upholds*** effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a ***functioning*** multi-party parliamentary system, ***media***

rule of law, and **to guarantee** respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to **minorities**. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

freedom and the rule of law, and **guarantees** respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to **all minorities, such as ethnic, religious, LGBTIQ+, and vulnerable groups and promote their social and economic inclusivity**. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 219 **Vladimír Bilčík**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 16**

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries **continues to respect and uphold** effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and **to guarantee** respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries **respects and upholds** effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a **functioning** multi-party parliamentary system, **media freedom and media independence**, and the rule of law, and **guarantees** respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the

to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 220

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability **in** the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and **strong and continued** accountability **during and after** the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to **ethnic and religious** minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations. **Furthermore,**

Serbia's alignment with Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) should also be taken into account.

Or. en

Amendment 221
Nathalie Loiseau

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, ***the safeguard of free and pluralistic media and fight against disinformation, foreign information manipulation and interference***, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 222

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies ***with enhanced levels of transparency and continuous evaluation by the Commission***. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 223

Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities ***and those in the process of being officially recognized as such***. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 224

Sunčana Glavak

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by

implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations. *Furthermore, it is imperative that the delivery of assistance through the Facility emphasizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and adherence to democratic values. Support should be contingent upon the beneficiaries' commitment to maintaining and enhancing democratic institutions, the rule of law, and human rights protection. This includes ensuring minority rights and advancing the normalization of relations between Serbia and Kosovo, in line with European values and commitments. Strengthening internal control systems and anti-fraud measures will be crucial to safeguarding the integrity of the assistance provided.*

Or. en

Amendment 225

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to ***national, religious, cultural and sexual*** minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 226
Victor Negrescu

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The

support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries continues to respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights ***and cultural diversity***, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 227

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries ***continues to*** respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another

Amendment

(16) The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, should contribute to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by implementing appropriate internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. The support under the Facility should be made available under the preconditions that each of the Beneficiaries respect and uphold effective democratic mechanisms and institutions, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and to guarantee respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition should

pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 228

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 16 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16a) Another pre-condition should be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations

Or. en

Amendment 229

David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 17

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(17) The overall maximum amount for the Union support through the Facility

(17) The overall maximum amount for the Union support through the Facility

should be EUR 6 billion in current prices for the period from 2024 to 2027, of which up to EUR 2 billion in non-repayable support and EUR 4 billion in concessional financial-assistance loans provided by the Union and provisioned from the EUR 2 billion. At least half of the total amount should be allocated through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), including the entire amount of the non-repayable support, less 1.5% of technical assistance and the amounts necessary for provisioning of the loans.

should be EUR 6 billion in current prices for the period from 2024 to 2027, of which up to EUR 2 billion in non-repayable support and EUR 4 billion in concessional financial-assistance loans provided by the Union and provisioned from the EUR 2 billion. At least half of the total amount should be allocated through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), including the entire amount of the non-repayable support, less **than** 1.5% of technical assistance and the amounts necessary for provisioning of the loans.

Or. en

Amendment 230 **Sunčana Glavak**

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 18**

Text proposed by the Commission

(18) ***This Regulation lays down a financial envelope for the entire duration of this Instrument, which is to constitute the prime reference amount, within the meaning of point 18 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources, for the European Parliament and the Council during the annual budgetary procedure.***

Amendment

(18) ***The establishment of a financial envelope as outlined in this Regulation underscores the Union's strategic investment in the future of the Western Balkans. It is a testament to our commitment to fostering stability, prosperity, and closer integration with the EU. The annual budgetary procedure, guided by the Interinstitutional Agreement, will ensure that these investments are aligned with the Union's broader financial discipline and objectives, including the exploration of new own resources to support such vital initiatives..***

Or. en

Amendment 231 **Željana Zovko**

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 19

Text proposed by the Commission

(19) The financial liability from loans under this Facility should not be supported by the External Action Guarantee, by way of derogation from Article 31(3), second sentence of Regulation (EU) 2021/947. Loans type of support under this Facility should constitute financial assistance within the meaning of Article 220(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. An indicative amount of financing for each Beneficiary should be calculated based on the formula laid down in Annex I, combining the population share of a Beneficiary over the overall population of the Western Balkans region and the average GDP per capita for the Western Balkans region over the GDP per capita of the respective Beneficiary, weighing the two factors with 60% and 40% respectively. If the payment conditions for the release of funds are not met, the Commission may redistribute part of or the entire amount to other Beneficiaries.

Amendment

(19) The financial liability from loans under this Facility should not be supported by the External Action Guarantee, by way of derogation from Article 31(3), second sentence of Regulation (EU) 2021/947. Loans type of support under this Facility should constitute financial assistance within the meaning of Article 220(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. An indicative amount of financing for each Beneficiary should be calculated based on the formula laid down in Annex I, combining the population share of a Beneficiary over the overall population of the Western Balkans region and the average GDP per capita for the Western Balkans region over the GDP per capita of the respective Beneficiary, weighing the two factors with 60% and 40% respectively. If the payment conditions for the release of funds are not met, the Commission may redistribute part of or the entire amount to other Beneficiaries. ***The Facility must preserve geographical balance when allocating funds from the Facility and consider uneven local administrative capacities. Possible relocation of the funds from the Facility could lead to unbalanced distribution of assistance to beneficiaries.***

Or. en

Amendment 232

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 19

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(19) The financial liability from loans under this Facility should not be supported by the External Action Guarantee, by way of derogation from Article 31(3), second sentence of Regulation (EU) 2021/947. Loans type of support under this Facility should constitute financial assistance within the meaning of Article 220(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. An indicative amount of financing for each Beneficiary should be calculated based on the formula laid down in Annex I, combining the population share of a Beneficiary over the overall population of the Western Balkans region and the average GDP per capita for the Western Balkans region over the GDP per capita of the respective Beneficiary, weighing the two factors with 60% and 40% respectively. If the payment conditions for the release of funds are not met, the Commission may redistribute part of or the entire amount to other Beneficiaries.

(19) The financial liability from loans under this Facility should not be supported by the External Action Guarantee, by way of derogation from Article 31(3), second sentence of Regulation (EU) 2021/947. Loans type of support under this Facility should constitute financial assistance within the meaning of Article 220(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. An indicative amount of financing for each Beneficiary should be calculated based on the formula laid down in Annex I, combining the population share of a Beneficiary over the overall population of the Western Balkans region and the average GDP per capita for the Western Balkans region over the GDP per capita of the respective Beneficiary, weighing the two factors with 60% and 40% respectively. If the payment conditions for the release of funds are not met, the Commission may redistribute part of or the entire amount to other Beneficiaries, ***and if not used then the amount shall be returned to the European budget.***

Or. en

Amendment 233

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 21

Text proposed by the Commission

(21) Restrictions of eligibility in award procedures under the Facility should be allowed on account of the specific nature of the activity or when the activity affects security or public order.

Amendment

(21) Restrictions of eligibility in award procedures under the Facility should be allowed on account of the specific nature of the activity or when the activity affects security or public order ***in due process with adequate means of appeal to avoid arbitrary use of these provisions based on political partiality.***

Or. en

Amendment 234

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Nathalie Loiseau

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 22

Text proposed by the Commission

(22) In order to ensure an efficient implementation of the Facility, including the facilitation of the Western Balkans Beneficiaries' integration in European value chains, all supplies and materials financed and procured under this Facility should originate from Member States, Beneficiaries, contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area and countries *covered by Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁰ and Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 and countries* for which reciprocal access to external assistance in Beneficiaries is established by the Commission, unless the supplies and materials cannot be sourced at reasonable conditions in any of those countries.

Amendment

(22) In order to ensure an efficient implementation of the Facility, including the facilitation of the Western Balkans Beneficiaries' integration in European value chains, all supplies and materials financed and procured under this Facility should originate from Member States, Beneficiaries, ***Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, as well as*** contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area and countries ***which provide a level of support to Beneficiaries comparable to the one provided by the European Union in order to develop our autonomic strategy, while taking into account the size of their economy and*** for which reciprocal access to external assistance in Beneficiaries is established by the Commission, unless the supplies and materials cannot be sourced at reasonable conditions in any of those countries.

¹⁰ ***Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/947/oj>).***

Or. en

Amendment 235

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) The implementation of the Facility for Western Balkans should be underpinned by a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms and ***investment priorities*** in each Western Balkans Beneficiary (a Reform Agenda), providing a framework for boosting ***socio-economic growth***, clearly articulated and aligned with Union accession requirements. The Reform Agenda ***will*** serve as an overarching framework to achieve the objectives of this Facility.

Amendment

(24) The implementation of the Facility for Western Balkans should be underpinned by a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms and ***investments*** in each Western Balkans Beneficiary (a Reform Agenda) ***in the form of milestones and targets*** providing a framework for boosting ***inclusive sustainable development and accelerating the just and digital transition in line with the Union's policies, while improving inclusiveness and social and regional cohesion and reducing inequalities***, clearly articulated and aligned with Union accession requirements. The Reform Agenda ***should*** serve as an overarching framework to achieve the objectives of this Facility. ***The Reform Agenda should be developed in a transparent and inclusive way that will ensure meaningful consultation and participation with regional and local authorities, as well as with civil society and experts and should demonstrate how meaningful participation of stakeholders was planned and conducted in a way that it had significant influence on the outcome of the process via consultations, with sufficient timeframes and transparency, and clear follow-up procedures to input given***

Or. en

Amendment 236

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) The implementation of the Facility for Western Balkans should be underpinned by a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms and investment priorities in each Western Balkans Beneficiary (a Reform Agenda), providing a framework for boosting socio-economic growth, clearly articulated and aligned with Union accession requirements. The Reform Agenda will serve as an overarching framework to achieve the objectives of this Facility.

Amendment

(24) The implementation of the Facility for Western Balkans should be underpinned by a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms ***aligned with EU values*** and investment priorities in each Western Balkans Beneficiary (a Reform Agenda), providing a framework for boosting socio-economic growth, clearly articulated and aligned with Union accession requirements. The Reform Agenda will serve as an overarching framework to achieve the objectives of this Facility. ***The Reform Agenda should be prepared in close consultation with relevant stakeholders, including national parliaments, regional and local representative bodies and authorities, social partners and civil society organisations.***

Or. en

Amendment 237
David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) The implementation of the Facility for Western Balkans should be underpinned by a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms and investment priorities in each Western Balkans Beneficiary (a Reform Agenda), providing a framework for boosting socio-economic growth, clearly articulated and aligned with Union accession requirements. The Reform Agenda will serve as an overarching framework to achieve the objectives of this

Amendment

(24) The implementation of the Facility for ***the*** Western Balkans should be underpinned by a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms and investment priorities in each Western Balkans Beneficiary (a Reform Agenda), providing a framework for boosting socio-economic growth, clearly articulated and aligned with Union accession requirements. The Reform Agenda will serve as an overarching framework to achieve the objectives of this

Facility.

Facility. ***The Reform Agenda should be submitted to the European Parliament.***

Or. en

Amendment 238

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) The implementation of the Facility for Western Balkans should be underpinned by a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms and investment priorities in each Western Balkans Beneficiary (a Reform Agenda), providing a framework for boosting socio-economic growth, clearly articulated and aligned with Union accession requirements. The Reform Agenda will serve as an overarching framework to achieve the objectives of this Facility.

Amendment

(24) The implementation of the Facility for Western Balkans should be underpinned by a coherent, ***clear*** and prioritised set of targeted reforms and investment priorities in each Western Balkans Beneficiary (a Reform Agenda), providing a framework for boosting socio-economic growth, clearly articulated and aligned with Union accession requirements. The Reform Agenda will serve as an overarching framework to achieve the objectives of this Facility.

Or. en

Amendment 239

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 24

Text proposed by the Commission

(24) The implementation of the Facility for Western Balkans should be underpinned by a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms and investment priorities in each Western Balkans Beneficiary (a Reform Agenda), providing a framework for boosting socio-economic growth, clearly articulated and aligned with Union accession requirements. The Reform

Amendment

(24) The implementation of the Facility for Western Balkans should be underpinned by a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms and investment priorities in each Western Balkans Beneficiary (a Reform Agenda), providing a framework for boosting ***inclusive*** socio-economic growth, clearly articulated and aligned with Union accession

Agenda will serve as an overarching framework to achieve the objectives of this Facility.

requirements. The Reform Agenda will serve as an overarching framework to achieve the objectives of this Facility

Or. en

Amendment 240
Sunčana Glavak

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) Disbursement of Union support should be conditional on compliance with the payment conditions and on measurable progress in the implementation of reforms set out in the Reform Agendas assessed and formally approved by the Commission. The release of funds should be structured accordingly, ***reflecting the objectives of the Facility.***

Amendment

(25) Disbursement of Union support should be conditional on compliance with the payment conditions and on measurable progress in the implementation of reforms set out in the Reform Agendas assessed and formally approved by the Commission. The release of funds should be structured accordingly, ***to ensure that the disbursement of Union support not only hinges on adherence to payment conditions but also on verifiable and substantial progress in reform implementation, as assessed by the Commission. The financial release must be meticulously aligned with the Facility's goals, facilitating a performance-based approach that directly links funding to the achievement of specific, agreed-upon reform milestones.***

Or. en

Amendment 241
David Lega

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) Disbursement of Union support

Amendment

(25) Disbursement of Union support

should be conditional on compliance with the payment conditions and on measurable progress in the implementation of reforms set out in the Reform Agendas assessed and formally approved by the Commission. The release of funds should be structured accordingly, reflecting the objectives of the Facility.

should be conditional on ***no persistent stagnation***, compliance with the payment conditions and on measurable progress in the implementation of reforms set out in the Reform Agendas assessed and formally approved by the Commission. The release of funds should be structured accordingly, reflecting the objectives of the Facility.

Or. en

Amendment 242

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 25**

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) Disbursement of Union support should be conditional on compliance with the payment conditions and on measurable progress in the implementation of reforms set out in the Reform Agendas assessed and formally approved by the Commission. The release of funds should be structured accordingly, reflecting the objectives of the Facility.

Amendment

(25) Disbursement of Union support should be conditional on compliance with the payment conditions and on measurable progress ***with corresponding milestones and targets*** in the implementation of reforms set out in the Reform Agendas assessed and formally approved by the Commission. The release of funds should be structured accordingly, reflecting the objectives of the Facility.

Or. en

Amendment 243

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 25**

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) Disbursement of Union support should be conditional on compliance with the payment conditions and on measurable progress in the implementation of reforms

Amendment

(25) Disbursement of Union support should be conditional on compliance with the ***clear and predetermined set of*** payment conditions and on measurable

set out in the Reform Agendas assessed and formally approved by the Commission. The release of funds should be structured accordingly, reflecting the objectives of the Facility.

tangible progress in the implementation of reforms set out in the Reform Agendas assessed and formally approved by the Commission. The release of funds should be structured accordingly, reflecting the objectives of the Facility.

Or. en

Amendment 244

Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 25

Text proposed by the Commission

(25) Disbursement of Union support should be conditional on compliance with the payment conditions and on measurable progress in the implementation of reforms set out in the Reform Agendas assessed and formally approved by the Commission. The release of funds should be structured accordingly, reflecting the objectives of the Facility.

Amendment

(25) Disbursement of Union support should be conditional on compliance with the payment conditions and on measurable progress in the implementation of reforms set out in the Reform Agendas assessed and formally approved by the Commission. The release of funds should be structured accordingly, reflecting the objectives of the Facility. ***The Commission should develop internal guidance for assessing the satisfactory fulfilment of the payment conditions defined in the Reform Agendas, as well as arrangements for partial release of funds. It should also clarify how any potential reversal of the conditions previously fulfilled should be assessed. The Commission should keep the Parliament informed on these proceedings.***

Or. en

Amendment 245

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 26

Text proposed by the Commission

(26) The Reform Agendas should include targeted reform measures and ***priority investment areas***, along with payment conditions in the form of qualitative and quantitative steps that indicate satisfactory progress or completion of those measures, and an indicative timetable for the implementation of those measures. Those steps should be planned for no later than 31 August 2027, although the overall completion of the measures to which such steps refer may extend beyond 2027 but not later than 31 December 2028.

Amendment

(26) The Reform Agendas should include targeted reform measures and ***investments with corresponding milestones and targets***, along with payment conditions in the form of ***measurable*** qualitative and quantitative steps that indicate satisfactory progress or completion of those measures, and an indicative timetable for the implementation of those measures ***via concrete milestones and targets. The Reform Agendas should also include an indicative ex-ante costing of reforms and investments.*** Those steps should be planned for no later than 31 August 2027, although the overall completion of the measures to which such steps refer may extend beyond 2027 but not later than 31 December 2028.

Or. en

Amendment 246

David Lega

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 26

Text proposed by the Commission

(26) The Reform Agendas should include targeted reform measures and priority investment areas, along with payment conditions in the form of qualitative and quantitative steps that indicate satisfactory progress or completion of those measures, and an indicative timetable for the implementation of those measures. Those steps should be planned for no later than 31 August 2027, although the overall completion of the measures to which such steps refer may extend beyond 2027 but not later than 31 December 2028.

Amendment

(26) The Reform Agendas should include ***clear***-targeted reform measures and priority investment areas, along with payment conditions in the form of ***measurable*** qualitative and quantitative steps that indicate satisfactory progress or completion of those measures, and an indicative timetable for the implementation of those measures. Those steps should be planned for no later than 31 August 2027, although the overall completion of the measures to which such steps refer may extend beyond 2027 but not later than 31 December 2028.

Amendment 247

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 26

Text proposed by the Commission

(26) The Reform Agendas should include targeted reform measures and priority investment areas, along with payment conditions in the form of ***qualitative and*** quantitative steps that indicate satisfactory progress or completion of those measures, and an indicative timetable for the implementation of those measures. Those steps should be planned for no later than 31 August 2027, although the overall completion of the measures to which such steps refer may extend beyond 2027 but not later than 31 December 2028.

Amendment

(26) The Reform Agendas should include targeted reform measures and priority investment areas, along with payment conditions in the form of ***precise and measurable*** quantitative steps ***as well as targets*** that indicate satisfactory progress or completion of those measures, and an indicative timetable for the implementation of those measures. Those steps should be planned for no later than 31 August 2027, although the overall completion of the measures to which such steps refer may extend beyond 2027 but not later than 31 December 2028.

Amendment 248

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 27

Text proposed by the Commission

(27) The Reform Agendas should include an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, corruption, fraud and conflicts of interests, when using the funds provided under the Facility, and the arrangements ***that aim*** to avoid double funding from the Facility and other Union programmes as well as other donors.

Amendment

(27) The Reform Agendas should include an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, corruption, fraud and conflicts of interests, when using the funds provided under the Facility, and the arrangements to avoid double funding from the Facility and other Union programmes as well as other donors. ***After the release of funds, a continued financial***

assessment through the established management and control system under the IPA III framework is sufficient in order to avoid overlapping.

Or. en

Amendment 249

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 27

Text proposed by the Commission

(27) The Reform Agendas should include an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, corruption, fraud and conflicts of interests, when using the funds provided under the Facility, and the arrangements that aim to avoid double funding from the Facility and other Union programmes as well as other donors.

Amendment

(27) The Reform Agendas should include an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities ***and any type of corruption, including high level corruption, as well as any kind of nepotism or favouritism and*** fraud and conflicts of interests, when using the funds provided under the Facility, and the arrangements that aim to avoid double funding from the Facility and other Union programmes as well as other donors.

Or. en

Amendment 250

Sunčana Glavak

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 27

Text proposed by the Commission

(27) The Reform Agendas should include an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, corruption, fraud and conflicts of interests, when using the funds provided under the Facility, ***and the***

Amendment

(27) The Reform Agendas should include an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, corruption, fraud and conflicts of interests, when using the funds provided under the Facility. ***It is crucial to***

arrangements that aim to avoid double funding *from the Facility and* other Union programmes as well as other donors.

outline effective measures that prevent double funding *occurrences with* other Union *initiatives or external donor contributions, ensuring the integrity and optimal use of allocated resources.*

Or. en

Amendment 251

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 27

Text proposed by the Commission

(27) The Reform Agendas should include an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, corruption, fraud and conflicts of interests, when using the funds provided under the Facility, and the arrangements that *aim to avoid* double funding from the Facility and other Union programmes as well as other donors.

Amendment

(27) The Reform Agendas should include an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, corruption, fraud and conflicts of interests, when using the funds provided under the Facility, and the arrangements that ***should prevent*** double funding from the Facility and other Union programmes as well as other donors.

Or. en

Amendment 252

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 27 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(27a) The Reform Agendas should include detailed explanations on how they contribute to the just and digital transition in the region and explain how the beneficiaries ensure the application of EU environmental law and standards and, in particular, the application of the 'Do No Significant Harm' principle. The Reform

Agendas should also include explanations on how they ensure a meaningful participation and consultation of regional and local authorities as well as civil society organisations in the design and implementation of the reform agendas. The Reform Agendas should further explain how they assist in improving the public access to information and public participation including access to environmental information.

Or. en

Amendment 253

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 28**

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) Measures under the Reform Agendas should, **where appropriate**, contribute to improving an efficient public finance management and control system, fight against corruption, fraud and organised crime, and to an effective system of State aid control, aiming at ensuring fair conditions for all undertakings. Such measures should be implemented by the Beneficiary by an indicative date which could be set, appropriate for each measure, in the early stage of implementation of the Facility.

Amendment

(28) Measures under the Reform Agendas should contribute to improving an efficient public finance management and control system, fight against **all kinds of corruption, including high level corruption, as well as any kind of nepotism or favouritism, money laundering, tax avoidance, tax evasion, tax fraud**, fraud and organised crime **and conflicts of interests**, and to an effective system of State aid control, aiming at ensuring fair conditions for all undertakings. Such measures should be implemented by the Beneficiary by an indicative date which could be set, appropriate for each measure, in the early stage of implementation of the Facility.

Or. en

Amendment 254 **David Lega**

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 28

Text proposed by the Commission

(28) Measures under the Reform Agendas should, **where appropriate**, contribute to improving an efficient public finance management and control system, fight against corruption, fraud and organised crime, and to an effective system of State aid control, aiming at ensuring fair conditions for all undertakings. Such measures should be implemented by the Beneficiary by an indicative date which could be set, appropriate for each measure, in the early stage of implementation of the Facility.

Amendment

(28) Measures under the Reform Agendas should contribute to improving an efficient public finance management and control system, fight against corruption, fraud and organised crime, and to an effective system of State aid control, aiming at ensuring fair conditions for all undertakings. Such measures should be implemented by the Beneficiary by an indicative date which could be set, appropriate for each measure, in the early stage of implementation of the Facility.

Or. en

Amendment 255
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 29

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) The Commission should assess each Reform Agenda based on the list of criteria set out in this Regulation. ***In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission to approve those Reform Agendas. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹¹***. The Commission will duly take into account Council decision 2010/427/EU and the role of the EEAS where appropriate, and in particular when monitoring the fulfilment of the precondition for Union support.

Amendment

(29) ***The Commission should publish the Reform Agendas when received.*** The Commission should assess each Reform Agenda based on the list of criteria set out in this Regulation, ***after consulting the European Parliament on the submitted plan.*** The Commission ***should be empowered to adopt a delegated act*** to approve those Reform Agendas. The Commission will duly take into account Council decision 2010/427/EU and the role of the EEAS where appropriate, and in particular when monitoring the fulfilment of the precondition for Union support.

¹¹ *Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj>).*

Or. en

Amendment 256
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 29

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) The Commission should assess each Reform Agenda based on the list of criteria set out in this Regulation. In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, ***implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission to approve those Reform Agendas.*** Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹¹. The Commission will duly take into account Council decision 2010/427/EU and the role of the EEAS where appropriate, and in particular when monitoring the fulfilment of the precondition for Union support.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI:

Amendment

(29) The Commission should assess each Reform Agenda based on the list of criteria set out in this Regulation. In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, the Commission ***should adopt a delegated act.*** Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹¹. The Commission will duly take into account Council decision 2010/427/EU and the role of the EEAS where appropriate, and in particular when monitoring the fulfilment of the precondition for Union support.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI:

Amendment 257

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 29

Text proposed by the Commission

(29) The Commission should assess each Reform Agenda based on the list of criteria set out in this Regulation. In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission to approve those Reform Agendas. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹¹. The Commission will duly take into account Council decision 2010/427/EU and the role of the EEAS where appropriate, and in particular when monitoring the fulfilment of the precondition for Union support.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj>).

Amendment

(29) The Commission should assess each Reform Agenda based on the ***clear and impartial*** list of criteria set out in this Regulation. In order to ensure uniform ***and fair*** conditions for the implementation of this Regulation, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission to approve those Reform Agendas. Those powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹¹. The Commission will duly take into account Council decision 2010/427/EU and the role of the EEAS where appropriate, and in particular when monitoring the fulfilment of the precondition for Union support.

¹¹ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2011/182/oj>).

Amendment 258

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 30

Text proposed by the Commission

(30) The ***Commission implementing decision*** referred to in this Regulation should at the same time constitute a work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation in respect of the amount of non-repayable financial support under this Regulation.

Amendment

(30) The ***delegated act*** referred to in this Regulation should at the same time constitute a work programme within the meaning of Article 110(2) of the Financial Regulation in respect of the amount of non-repayable financial support under this Regulation.

Or. en

Amendment 259
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 31

Text proposed by the Commission

(31) ***Given the need for flexibility in the implementation of the Facility, it should be possible for a Beneficiary to make a reasoned request to the Commission to amend the implementing decision, where the Reform Agenda, including relevant payment conditions, is no longer achievable, either partially or totally, because of objective circumstances. A Beneficiary should be able to make a reasoned request to amend the Reform Agenda, including by proposing addenda where relevant.***

Amendment

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 260
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 31

Text proposed by the Commission

(31) Given the need for flexibility in the implementation of the Facility, it should be possible for a Beneficiary to make a reasoned request to the Commission to amend the ***implementing decision***, where the Reform Agenda, including relevant payment conditions, is no longer achievable, either partially or totally, because of objective circumstances. A Beneficiary should be able to make a reasoned request to amend the Reform Agenda, including by proposing addenda where relevant.

Amendment

(31) Given the need for flexibility in the implementation of the Facility, it should be possible for a Beneficiary to make a reasoned request to the Commission to amend the ***delegated act***, where the Reform Agenda, including relevant payment conditions, is no longer achievable, either partially or totally, because of objective circumstances. A Beneficiary should be able to make a reasoned request to amend the Reform Agenda, including by proposing addenda where relevant.

Or. en

Amendment 261
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 32

Text proposed by the Commission

(32) The Commission should be able to amend the implementing decision, in particular to take into account a change of the amounts available.

Amendment

(32) The Commission should be able to amend the implementing decision ***through a delegated act***, in particular to take into account a change of the amounts available.

Or. en

Amendment 262
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 32

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(32) The Commission should be able to amend the ***implementing decision***, in particular to take into account a change of the amounts available.

(32) The Commission should be able ***propose*** to amend the ***delegated act***, in particular to take into account a change of the amounts available.

Or. en

Amendment 263

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 33

Text proposed by the Commission

(33) In case of redistribution of support under this Facility which would lead to additional support to a Beneficiary, this Beneficiary should submit a revised Reform Agenda with additional measures to be achieved.

Amendment

(33) In case of redistribution of support under this Facility which would lead to additional support to a Beneficiary, this Beneficiary should submit a revised Reform Agenda with additional measures to be achieved. ***Clear and impartial criteria need to be applied in case of redistribution of support in order to avoid political misuse of this mechanism that will result in competition, unhealthy neighbourly relations and financially damaging smaller and less influential beneficiaries.***

Or. en

Amendment 264

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 33

Text proposed by the Commission

(33) In case of redistribution of support under this Facility which would lead to additional support to a Beneficiary, this Beneficiary should submit a revised Reform Agenda with additional measures to be achieved.

Amendment

(33) In case of redistribution of support under this Facility which would lead to additional support to a Beneficiary, this Beneficiary should submit ***to the Commission and the Parliament*** a revised Reform Agenda with additional measures

to be achieved.

Or. en

Amendment 265

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 34

Text proposed by the Commission

(34) A Facility Agreement should be concluded with each Beneficiary to set up the principles of the financial cooperation between the Union and the Beneficiary, and to specify the necessary mechanisms related to control, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and audit of Union funding under the Facility, rules on taxes, duties and charges and measures to prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of *interest*. Consequently, a loan agreement should also be concluded with each Beneficiary setting out specific provisions for the management and implementation of funding provided in the forms of loans.

Amendment

(34) A Facility Agreement should be concluded with each Beneficiary to set up the principles of the financial cooperation between the Union and the Beneficiary, and to specify the necessary mechanisms related to control, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and audit of Union funding under the Facility, rules on taxes, duties and charges and measures to prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, *any forms of corruption including high level corruption, any types of nepotism or favouritism* and conflicts of *interests*. Consequently, a loan agreement should also be concluded with each Beneficiary setting out specific provisions for the management and implementation of funding provided in the forms of loans. *The Facility Agreement should provide for obligation of beneficiaries to ensure the collection of, and access to, in compliance with EU data protection principles and with applicable data protection rules, adequate data on persons and entities receiving funding, including beneficial ownership information, for the implementation of measures of the Reform Agendas.*

Or. en

Amendment 266
David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 34

Text proposed by the Commission

(34) A Facility Agreement should be concluded with each Beneficiary to set up the principles of the financial cooperation between the Union and the Beneficiary, and to specify the necessary mechanisms related to control, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and audit of Union funding under the Facility, rules on taxes, duties and charges and measures to prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest. Consequently, a loan agreement should also be concluded with each Beneficiary setting out specific provisions for the management and implementation of funding provided in the forms of loans.

Amendment

(34) A Facility Agreement should be concluded with each Beneficiary to set up the principles of the financial cooperation between the Union and the Beneficiary, and to specify the necessary mechanisms related to control, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and audit of Union funding under the Facility, rules on taxes, duties and charges and measures to prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest. Consequently, a loan agreement should also be concluded with each Beneficiary setting out specific provisions for the management and implementation of funding provided in the forms of loans. ***Both the Facility Agreement and the Loan Agreement shall be shared with the European Parliament.***

Or. en

Amendment 267
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 36

Text proposed by the Commission

(36) It is appropriate to provide loans to the Beneficiaries on highly concessional terms with a maximum duration of **40** years and to not start the repayment of the principal before 2034. It is also appropriate to derogate from Article 220(4), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

Amendment

(36) It is appropriate to provide loans to the Beneficiaries on highly concessional terms with a maximum duration of **35** years and to not start the repayment of the principal before 2034. It is also appropriate to derogate from Article 220(4), of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

Or. en

Amendment 268

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 38

Text proposed by the Commission

(38) In order to ensure that the provisioning rate remains adequate to the financial risks, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of amending the provisioning rate. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level **and that** those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016¹². In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of the delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

¹² OJ L123, 12.5.2016, p.1.

Amendment

(38) In order to ensure that the provisioning rate remains adequate to the financial risks, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of amending the provisioning rate. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, **as well as with the relevant committees of the European Parliament**. Those consultations **should be** conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016¹². In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of the delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts. **Support under the Facility should also enhance twinning and partnership development initiatives with European peers aiming at enhancing expertise and capacity in the Western Balkans.**

¹² OJ L123, 12.5.2016, p.1.

Or. en

Amendment 269

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 38

Text proposed by the Commission

(38) In order to ensure that the provisioning rate remains adequate to the financial risks, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of amending the provisioning rate. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016¹². In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of the delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

¹² OJ L123, 12.5.2016, p.1.

Amendment

(38) In order to ensure that the provisioning rate remains adequate to the financial risks, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of amending the provisioning rate. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016¹². In particular, to ensure equal participation **and transparency** in the preparation of the delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council **shall** receive all documents **from the Commission** at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

¹² OJ L123, 12.5.2016, p.1.

Or. en

Amendment 270

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 39

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(39) In order to maximise the leverage of Union financial support to attract additional investment, and to ensure EU control over the expenditure, the infrastructure investments supporting the Reform Agendas should be implemented through the WBIF. Individual projects or programmes should be submitted to the WBIF Operational Board for its opinion only upon completion of relevant payment conditions defined in the Reform Agendas. In case of non-fulfilment of relevant payment conditions for investments within one year, the Commission may redistribute the investment funding under the WBIF among the remaining Beneficiaries.

(39) In order to maximise the leverage of Union financial support to attract additional investment, and to ensure EU control over the expenditure, the infrastructure investments supporting the Reform Agendas should be implemented through the WBIF. Individual projects or programmes should be submitted to the WBIF Operational Board for its opinion only upon completion of relevant payment conditions defined in the Reform Agendas. In case of non-fulfilment of relevant payment conditions for investments within one year, the Commission may redistribute the investment funding under the WBIF among the remaining Beneficiaries ***and if not used then the amount shall be reinvested in the European budget.***

Or. en

Amendment 271

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 44

Text proposed by the Commission

(44) In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, Regulation (EU, Euratom) 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹³ and Council Regulations (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95¹⁴, (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96¹⁵ and (EU) 2017/1939¹⁶, the financial interests of the Union are to be protected by means of proportionate measures, including measures relating to the prevention, detection, correction and investigation of irregularities, fraud, corruption, conflict of interest, double funding, to the recovery of funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used.

Amendment

(44) In accordance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, Regulation (EU, Euratom) 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹³ and Council Regulations (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95¹⁴, (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96¹⁵ and (EU) 2017/1939¹⁶, the financial interests of the Union are to be protected by means of proportionate measures, including measures relating to the prevention, detection, correction and investigation of irregularities, fraud, ***all types of corruption including high-level corruption, all types of nepotism or favouritism***, conflict of interest, double funding, to the recovery of funds lost, wrongly paid or incorrectly used. ***The***

Commission services should be provided with sufficient administrative capacities and personnel to ensure these objectives.

¹³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/883/oj>).

¹⁴ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1995/2988/oj>).

¹⁵ Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/2185/oj>).

¹⁶ Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') (OJ L 283, 31.10.2017, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1939/oj>).

¹³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/883/oj>).

¹⁴ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1995/2988/oj>).

¹⁵ Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1996/2185/oj>).

¹⁶ Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') (OJ L 283, 31.10.2017, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/1939/oj>).

Or. en

Amendment 272

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation Recital 45

Text proposed by the Commission

(45) In particular, in accordance with Regulations (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) should be in a position to carry out administrative investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections, with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union.

Amendment

(45) In particular, in accordance with Regulations (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 and (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) should be in a position to carry out administrative investigations including on-the-spot checks and inspections, with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union **during the implementation of the assistance.**

Or. en

Amendment 273

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 45 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(45a) The Commission should ensure that the financial interests of the Union are effectively protected under the Facility. To this end, an independent Audit Board should be set up to provide the Commission with information on possible mismanagement of funds and guarantee that a declaration of assurance is obtained through an independent external audit. The Audit Board should be subject to the reporting obligations to EPPO, in accordance with Article 24(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1939. Such information should be made available to OLAF and EPPO, when applicable, and where appropriate to the relevant Western Balkans Beneficiary authorities. The Commission, with the assistance of the Union delegations, should be entitled to perform checks on how the Western Balkans Beneficiary implement funds

along the whole project life cycle. The Commission should be provided with sufficient funding and human resources to perform the audit and checks. The Audit Board should ensure regular dialogue and cooperation with the European Court of Auditors.

Or. en

Amendment 274
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 45 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(45a) The Commission should ensure that the financial interests of the Union are effectively protected under the Facility. To this end, an independent Audit Board should be set up to provide the Commission with information on possible mismanagement of funds. The Audit Board should be subject to the reporting obligations to EPPO, in accordance with Article 24(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1939. Such information should be made available to OLAF and EPPO, when applicable, and where appropriate to the relevant Western Balkans Beneficiary authorities. The Commission, with the assistance of the Union delegations, should be entitled to perform checks on how the Western Balkans Beneficiary implement funds along the whole project life cycle. The Commission should be provided with sufficient funding and human resources to perform the audit and checks. The Audit Board should ensure regular dialogue and cooperation with the European Court of Auditors.

Or. en

Amendment 275

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 46

Text proposed by the Commission

(46) In accordance with Article 129 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, the necessary rights and access should be granted to the Commission OLAF, the European Court of Auditors and, where applicable the EPPO, including by third parties involved in the implementation of Union funds.

Amendment

(46) In accordance with Article 129 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, the necessary rights and access should be granted to the Commission OLAF, the European Court of Auditors and, where applicable the EPPO, including by third parties involved in the implementation of Union funds. ***The European Parliament shall also be granted with the necessary rights and access. The Western Balkans should also use the Early Detection and Exclusion System and report irregularities in relation to the use of the funds to the Commission.***

Or. en

Amendment 276

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 47

Text proposed by the Commission

(47) The Commission should ensure that the financial interests of the Union are effectively protected under the Facility. At the same time, given the long track record of financial assistance provided to the Western Balkans Beneficiaries also under indirect management and taking into account their gradual alignment with the Unions internal control standards and practices, the Commission may rely to a

Amendment

(47) The Commission should ensure that the financial interests of the Union are effectively protected under the Facility. At the same time, given the long track record of financial assistance provided to the Western Balkans Beneficiaries also under indirect management and taking into account their gradual alignment with the Unions internal control standards and practices, the Commission may rely to a

great extent on the operation of the national internal control and fraud prevention systems. In particular, the Commission and OLAF should be informed of all suspected cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests affecting the implementation of funds under the Facility without delay.

great extent on the operation of the national internal control and fraud prevention systems. In particular, the Commission and OLAF should be informed of all suspected cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests affecting the implementation of funds under the Facility without delay. ***The Commission should also receive the information on beneficial owners of legal entities benefiting from the Facility and publish a list of persons and legal entities receiving more than 50 000 euros cumulatively from the Facility***

Or. en

Amendment 277

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 47

Text proposed by the Commission

(47) The Commission should ensure that the financial interests of the Union are effectively protected under the Facility. At the same time, given the long track record of financial assistance provided to the Western Balkans Beneficiaries also under indirect management and taking into account their gradual alignment with the Unions internal control standards and practices, the Commission may rely to a great extent on the operation of the national internal control and fraud prevention systems. In particular, the Commission and OLAF should be informed of all suspected cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests affecting the implementation of funds under the Facility without delay.

Amendment

(47) The Commission should ensure that the financial interests of the Union are effectively protected under the Facility. At the same time, given the long track record of financial assistance provided to the Western Balkans Beneficiaries also under indirect management and taking into account their gradual alignment with the Unions internal control standards and practices, the Commission may rely to a great extent on the operation of the national internal control and fraud prevention systems. In particular, the Commission and OLAF should be informed of all suspected cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests affecting the implementation of funds under the Facility without delay. ***The Commission and OLAF should provide evaluation of said fraud prevention systems and offer recommendations for upgrades or fixes to the Beneficiaries in line with the EU***

acquis in case of deficiencies.

Or. en

Amendment 278
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 47

Text proposed by the Commission

(47) The Commission should ensure that the financial interests of the Union are effectively protected under the Facility. At the same time, given the long track record of financial assistance provided to the Western Balkans Beneficiaries also under indirect management and taking into account their gradual alignment with the Unions internal control standards and practices, the Commission may rely to a great extent on the operation of the national internal control and fraud prevention systems. In particular, the Commission and OLAF should be informed of all suspected cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests affecting the implementation of funds under the Facility without delay.

Amendment

(47) The Commission should ensure that the financial interests of the Union are effectively protected under the Facility. At the same time, given the long track record of financial assistance provided to the Western Balkans Beneficiaries also under indirect management and taking into account their gradual alignment with the Unions internal control standards and practices, the Commission may rely to a great extent on the operation of the national internal control and fraud prevention systems. In particular, the Commission and OLAF should be informed of all suspected cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests affecting the implementation of funds under the Facility without delay, ***including by national Member States authorities in possession of sufficient and reliable data from credible and official sources.***

Or. en

Amendment 279
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 47

Text proposed by the Commission

(47) The Commission ***should*** ensure

Amendment

(47) The Commission ***shall*** ensure that

that the financial interests of the Union are effectively protected under the Facility. At the same time, given the long track record of financial assistance provided to the Western Balkans Beneficiaries also under indirect management and taking into account their gradual alignment with the Unions internal control standards and practices, the Commission may rely to a great extent on the operation of the national internal control and fraud prevention systems. In particular, the Commission and OLAF should be informed of all suspected cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests affecting the implementation of funds under the Facility without delay.

the financial interests of the Union are effectively protected under the Facility. At the same time, given the long track record of financial assistance provided to the Western Balkans Beneficiaries also under indirect management and taking into account their gradual alignment with the Unions internal control standards and practices, the Commission may rely to a great extent on the operation of the national internal control and fraud prevention systems. In particular, the Commission and OLAF should be informed of all suspected cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests affecting the implementation of funds under the Facility without delay.

Or. en

Amendment 280

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 48**

Text proposed by the Commission

(48) Furthermore, the beneficiaries should report the irregularities including fraud which have been the subject of a primary administrative or judicial finding, without delay, to the Commission and keep **the latter** informed of the progress of administrative and legal proceeding. With the objective of alignment to good practices in Member States, this reporting should be done by electronic means, using the Irregularity Management System, established by the Commission.

Amendment

(48) Furthermore, the beneficiaries should report the irregularities including fraud which have been the subject of a primary administrative or judicial finding, without delay, to **Audit Board and** the Commission and keep **them** informed of the progress of administrative and legal proceeding. With the objective of alignment to good practices in Member States, this reporting should be done by electronic means, using the Irregularity Management System, established by the Commission.

Or. en

Amendment 281

Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 49

Text proposed by the Commission

(49) Each Beneficiary should establish a monitoring system feeding into an semi-annual report of fulfilment of its Agenda's payment conditions accompanying the semi-annual request for the release of funds. Beneficiaries should collect and provide access to data and information allowing the prevention, detection and correction of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests, in relation to the measures supported by the Facility.

Amendment

(49) Each Beneficiary should establish a monitoring system feeding into an semi-annual report of fulfilment of its Agenda's payment conditions accompanying the semi-annual request for the release of funds. Beneficiaries should collect and provide access to data and information allowing the prevention, detection and correction of irregularities, fraud, ***any types of corruption including high-level corruption, any types of nepotism and favouritism***, and conflicts of interests, in relation to the measures supported by the Facility.

Or. en

Amendment 282

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 50

Text proposed by the Commission

(50) The Commission should ensure that clear monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place in order to provide effective accountability and transparency in implementing the Union budget, and to ensure effective assessment of progress towards the achievement of this Regulation's objectives.

Amendment

(50) The Commission should ensure that clear monitoring and ***impartial*** evaluation mechanisms are in place in order to provide effective accountability and transparency in implementing the Union budget, and to ensure effective assessment of progress towards the achievement of this Regulation's objectives.

Or. en

Amendment 283
Vangelis Meimarakis

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 51

Text proposed by the Commission

(51) The Commission should provide ***an annual*** report on the progress with the implementation of the Regulation and the Facility to the European Parliament and to the Committee referred to in this Regulation.

Amendment

(51) The Commission should provide ***a bi-annual*** report on the progress with the implementation of the Regulation and the Facility to the European Parliament and to the Committee referred to in this Regulation. ***The bi-annual report should include a detailed assessment of the added value and additionality of this Facility, of synergies and complementarities between support covered under this Facility and Regulation (EU) 2021/1529, as well as a description of the arrangements and measures taken by the Commission to avoid double funding, with a view to protecting the Union budget.***

Or. en

Amendment 284
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 51

Text proposed by the Commission

(51) The Commission should provide an annual report on the progress with the implementation of the Regulation and the Facility to the European Parliament and to the Committee referred to in this Regulation.

Amendment

(51) The Commission should provide an annual report on the progress with the implementation of the Regulation and the Facility to the European Parliament and to the Committee referred to in this Regulation. ***The annual report should include a detailed assessment of the added value and additionality of this Facility, of synergies and complementarities between support covered under this Facility and Regulation (EU) 2021/1529, as well as a description of the arrangements and***

measures taken by the Commission to avoid double funding, with a view to protecting the Union budget. A regular dialogue with the European Parliament and its relevant committees should be established.

Or. en

Amendment 285

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 51 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(51a) As a measure of public accountability, the Governments of the Beneficiaries, including the relevant Ministers, should inform the Parliaments of the Beneficiaries regularly on the implementation of the respective Reform Agendas. Provision of all relevant information in time to the Parliaments of the Beneficiaries, allowing for an interactive interinstitutional dialogue at least every three months with relevant cabinet members is key to enable transparency both for elected officials, as well as to the press and public. Reporting enabling oversight should also be provided as part of the yearly approval of the budget of the Beneficiaries.

Or. en

Amendment 286

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 52

Text proposed by the Commission

(52) The Commission should carry out an evaluation of the Facility upon its completion.

Amendment

(52) The Commission should carry out an evaluation of the Facility upon its completion ***and present its results in the responsible committees in the European Parliament.***

Or. en

Amendment 287

David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 53

Text proposed by the Commission

(53) ***The communication capacities of the*** Beneficiaries should ***be enhanced in order to ensure strong and*** free pluralistic media ***and public support for and*** understanding of Union values and the benefits and obligations of potential Union membership, while addressing disinformation ***and*** information manipulation. Visibility of the Union funding ***should also*** be ensured.

Amendment

(53) Beneficiaries should ***support*** free pluralistic media ***that enhance the*** understanding of Union values and the benefits and obligations of potential Union membership, while addressing disinformation, ***foreign*** information manipulation ***and interference***. Visibility of the Union funding ***needs to*** be ensured.

Or. en

Amendment 288

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 53

Text proposed by the Commission

(53) The communication capacities of the Beneficiaries should be enhanced in order to ensure strong and free pluralistic media and public support for and understanding of Union values and the benefits and obligations of potential Union

Amendment

(53) The communication capacities of the Beneficiaries should be enhanced in order to ensure strong and free pluralistic media and public support for and understanding of Union values and the benefits and obligations of potential Union

membership, while addressing disinformation and information manipulation. Visibility of the Union funding should also be ensured.

membership, while addressing disinformation and information manipulation. Visibility of the Union funding should also be ensured *via effective communication campaigns by the European Commission and the EU Delegations on the ground in order to promote benefits of Union assistance in beneficiaries.*

Or. en

Amendment 289

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation **Recital 53**

Text proposed by the Commission

(53) The communication capacities of the Beneficiaries should be enhanced in order to ensure strong and free pluralistic media and *public support for and* understanding of Union values and the benefits and obligations of potential Union membership, while addressing disinformation and information manipulation. Visibility of the Union funding should also be ensured.

Amendment

(53) The communication capacities of the Beneficiaries should be enhanced in order to ensure strong and free pluralistic media and *to promote the* understanding of Union values and the benefits and obligations of potential Union membership, while addressing disinformation and information manipulation. Visibility of the Union funding should also be ensured.

Or. en

Amendment 290

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation **Article 1 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Facility shall provide assistance to the Western Balkans for the delivery of socio-economic reforms and

Amendment

2. The Facility shall provide assistance to the Western Balkans for the delivery of *inclusive* socio-economic

investments to implement their respective Reform Agendas, as set out in Chapter III.

reforms and investments to implement their respective Reform Agendas, as set out in Chapter III. ***The Facility should also contribute to fighting poverty, tackling unemployment and lead to quality job creation.***

Or. en

Amendment 291

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation **Article 1 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Facility shall provide assistance to the Western Balkans for the delivery of socio-economic reforms and investments to implement their respective Reform Agendas, as set out in Chapter III.

Amendment

2. The Facility shall provide assistance to the Western Balkans for the delivery of ***inclusive and sustainable*** socio-economic reforms and investments ***contributing to reaching climate neutrality by 2050 latest***, to implement their respective Reform Agendas, as set out in Chapter III.

Or. en

Amendment 292

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation **Article 1 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Facility shall provide assistance to the Western Balkans for the delivery of socio-economic reforms and investments to implement their respective Reform Agendas, as set out in Chapter III.

Amendment

2. The Facility shall provide assistance to the Western Balkans for the delivery of socio-economic reforms ***aligned with EU values*** and investments to implement their respective Reform Agendas, as set out in Chapter III.

Or. en

Amendment 293

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. ‘Beneficiary’ means any of the following: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo¹⁷, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

Amendment

1. ‘Beneficiary’ means any of the following: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia.

¹⁷ * *This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence*

Or. en

Amendment 294

Andrey Kovatchev

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. ‘Enlargement **Package**’ means the annual Communication on EU Enlargement policy and accompanying staff working documents.

Amendment

2. **The** ‘Enlargement **Policy Framework**’ **includes** the annual Communication on EU Enlargement policy and accompanying staff working documents, **as well as the revised enlargement methodology, agreements that establish a legally binding relationship with the beneficiaries, the negotiating frameworks governing accession negotiations with candidates, where applicable, as well as resolutions of the European Parliament, relevant communications of the Commission and joint communications of the Commission**

Or. en

Amendment 295

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. ‘Reform Agendas’ means a comprehensive package of a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms and priority investment areas in each Beneficiary, including payment conditions that indicate satisfactory progress or completion of those measures, and an indicative timetable for the implementation of those measures.

Amendment

5. ‘Reform Agendas’ means a comprehensive package of a coherent and prioritised set of targeted reforms ***aligned with EU values*** and priority investment areas in each Beneficiary, including payment conditions that indicate satisfactory progress or completion of those measures, and an indicative timetable for the implementation of those measures.

Or. en

Amendment 296

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) accelerate regional economic integration and progressive integration with the Union single market;

Amendment

(a) accelerate regional economic integration, ***social and territorial cohesion***, and progressive integration with the Union single market;

Or. en

Amendment 297

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) accelerate the socio-economic convergence of Beneficiaries' economies with the Union;

Amendment

(b) accelerate the socio-economic convergence of Beneficiaries' economies with the Union ***and in particular the decarbonisation of their economies;***

Or. en

Amendment 298

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou

on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) accelerate the ***socio-economic*** convergence of Beneficiaries' economies with the Union;

Amendment

(b) accelerate the ***institutional, social, economic and environmental*** convergence of ***the*** Beneficiaries' economies ***and societies*** with the Union ***standards;***

Or. en

Amendment 299

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou

on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) accelerate alignment with Union values, laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership

Amendment

(c) ***accelerate the adoption and implementation of the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required to*** accelerate alignment with Union values, laws, rules, standards, policies and

practices (*'EU acquis'*) with a view to Union membership.

Or. en

Amendment 300

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) accelerate alignment with Union values, laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership

Amendment

(c) accelerate alignment with Union values, laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to *future* Union membership

Or. en

Amendment 301

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) accelerate alignment with Union values, laws, rules, standards, policies and practices *with a view to Union membership*

Amendment

(c) accelerate alignment with Union values, laws, rules, standards, policies and practices

Or. en

Amendment 302

Andrey Kovatchev

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) foster regional cooperation, good neighbourly relations, reconciliation and the settlement of disputes in the Western Balkans;

Or. en

Amendment 303
Andrey Kovatchev

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cb) promote non-discrimination and tolerance, ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities and/or communities, and persons in vulnerable situations;

Or. en

Amendment 304
Andrey Kovatchev

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point c c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cc) promote balanced regional development through strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion;

Or. en

Amendment 305
Vangelis Meimarakis

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. in line with the general objective of the IPA III, accelerate alignment with Union values, laws, rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership;

Or. en

Amendment 306

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) accelerate the transition of the Beneficiaries to sustainable, and inclusive economies, capable of withstanding competitive market pressures of the Union single market, and to a stable investment environment;

(a) accelerate the transition of the Beneficiaries to sustainable, and inclusive economies, capable of withstanding competitive market pressures of the Union single market, and to a stable investment environment **and reduce strategic dependencies;**

Or. en

Amendment 307

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) accelerate the transition of the Beneficiaries to sustainable, and inclusive economies, capable of withstanding competitive market pressures of the Union single market, and to a stable investment environment;

(a) accelerate the transition of the Beneficiaries to sustainable, **climate-neutral** and inclusive economies, capable of withstanding competitive market pressures of the Union single market, and to a stable investment environment;

Or. en

Amendment 308
David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) boost regional economic integration ***in particular through progress in the establishment of*** the Common Regional Market;

Amendment

(b) boost regional economic integration ***based on EU rules and standards for*** the Common Regional Market, ***which was agreed in 2020 as part of the Berlin Process***;

Or. en

Amendment 309
Vangelis Meimarakis

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) Move towards full alignment of the beneficiaries with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including restrictive measures;

Or. en

Amendment 310
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) support regional economic integration and enhanced integration with the EU single market through improved connectivity in the region in line with

(d) support regional economic integration, ***social and territorial cohesion***, and enhanced integration with the EU single market through improved ***and***

Transeuropean Networks;

sustainable connectivity in the region in line with Transeuropean Networks ***and the decarbonisation of transport***;

Or. en

Amendment 311

Vangelis Meimarakis

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) Promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance to ensure and strengthen respect of the rights of persons belonging to national minorities and persons in other vulnerable situations, and promote their economic inclusivity in the overall economic convergence pursued by the beneficiary;

Or. en

Amendment 312

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(e) accelerate green transition in line with the 2020 Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and covering all economic sectors, particularly energy, including the transition towards decarbonised climate-neutral, climate-resilient and circular economy;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 313

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) accelerate green transition in line with the 2020 Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and covering all economic sectors, particularly energy, including the transition towards de-carbonised climate-neutral, climate-resilient and circular economy;

Amendment

(e) accelerate green transition ***to climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest, in accordance with the Paris Agreement and the Green Deal***, in line with the 2020 Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and covering all economic sectors, particularly ***renewable*** energy, including the transition towards de-carbonised climate-neutral, climate-resilient and circular economy ***with emphasis on decentralised renewable energy networks, promoting climate neutrality and by prioritizing the use of materials ethically sourced locally; all investments shall be fully aligned and respect the EU climate acquis and especially the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ Principle***;

Or. en

Amendment 314

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou

on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) accelerate green transition in line with the 2020 Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and covering all economic sectors, particularly energy, including the transition towards de-carbonised climate-neutral, climate-resilient and circular economy;

Amendment

(e) accelerate ***fair, inclusive and sustainable*** green transition in line with the 2020 Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and covering all economic sectors, particularly energy, including the transition towards ***sustainable***, de-carbonised climate-neutral, climate-resilient and ***inclusive*** circular economy, ***in line with the Paris Agreement***;

Amendment 315

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) accelerate green transition in line with the 2020 Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and covering all economic sectors, particularly energy, including the transition towards de-carbonised climate-neutral, climate-resilient and circular economy;

Amendment

(e) ***strengthen environmental protection and*** accelerate green transition in line with the 2020 Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and covering all economic sectors, particularly energy, including the transition towards de-carbonised climate-neutral, climate-resilient and circular economy;

Or. en

Amendment 316

Victor Negrescu

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point e

Text proposed by the Commission

(e) accelerate green transition in line with the 2020 Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and covering all economic sectors, particularly energy, including the transition towards de-carbonised climate-neutral, climate-resilient and circular economy;

Amendment

(e) accelerate green transition in line with the 2020 Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and covering all economic sectors, particularly energy, ***agriculture***, including the transition towards de-carbonised climate-neutral, climate-resilient and circular economy;

Or. en

Amendment 317

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) promote the digital transformation ***as an enabler*** for sustainable development and inclusive growth;

Amendment

(f) promote the digital transformation ***and digital skills as enablers*** for sustainable development and inclusive growth;

Or. en

Amendment 318
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) promote the digital transformation as an enabler for sustainable ***development*** and inclusive ***growth***;

Amendment

(f) promote the digital transformation as an enabler for sustainable and inclusive ***development***;

Or. en

Amendment 319
Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

(g) ***boost*** innovation, particularly for SMEs and in support of the green and digital transitions;

Amendment

(g) ***accelerate research and innovation, boosting cooperation between academic institutions and industry,*** particularly for ***start-ups and*** SMEs and in support of the green and digital transitions;

Or. en

Amendment 320
David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

(g) boost innovation, ***particularly for SMEs and*** in support of the green and digital transitions;

Amendment

(g) boost innovation in support of the green and digital transitions, ***with a particular emphasis on locally based small and medium enterprises;***

Or. en

Amendment 321
Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

(g) boost innovation, particularly for ***SMEs*** and in support of the green and digital transitions;

Amendment

(g) boost innovation, particularly for ***MSMEs*** and in support of the ***fair, inclusive and sustainable*** green and digital transitions;

Or. en

Amendment 322
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

(g) boost innovation, particularly for SMEs and in support of the green and digital transitions;

Amendment

(g) boost innovation, particularly for SMEs ***and start-ups*** and in support of the green and digital transitions;

Or. en

Amendment 323

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point g a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ga) address social challenges and foster upward social cohesion and convergence towards the Union standards;

Or. en

Amendment 324

Sunčana Glavak

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies;

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies; **launch a Regional Skills Partnership by 2025 to reduce youth unemployment to below 15% and double the number of STEM graduates by 2030;**

Or. en

Amendment 325

Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies **to address the needs of youth and**

policies;

women in particular; strengthen the policies targeting NEETs;

Or. en

Amendment 326

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h

Text proposed by the Commission

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies;

Amendment

(h) boost quality ***accessible and inclusive*** education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies, ***including policies to tackle youth employment;***

Or. en

Amendment 327

Victor Negrescu

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h

Text proposed by the Commission

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies;

Amendment

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies; ***prevent brain drain; support vulnerable, remote and rural communities;***

Or. en

Amendment 328

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies;

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies, ***including youth employment***;

Or. en

Amendment 329

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies;

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies ***in line with the respective EU accession priorities***;

Or. en

Amendment 330

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies;

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies, ***with particular emphasis on youth***;

Or. en

Amendment 331

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h

Text proposed by the Commission

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies;

Amendment

(h) boost quality education ***of all levels***, training, reskilling and upskilling, and ***quality*** employment policies;

Or. en

Amendment 332
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h

Text proposed by the Commission

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, ***and*** employment policies;

Amendment

(h) boost quality education, training, reskilling and upskilling, employment policies ***and human capital***;

Or. en

Amendment 333
Victor Negrescu

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point h a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ha) contribute to building stronger, more resilient and more accessible health systems;

Or. en

Amendment 334
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime **and** money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Amendment

(i) further strengthen the “fundamentals” of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, **any types of corruption including high level corruption and oligarchic structures, any types of nepotism and favouritism and conflicts of interests**, organised crime, money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion, **tax avoidance** and tax fraud, **and through promoting** compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; **guarantee fundamental labour rights as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the relevant ILO conventions**; promote gender equality, **gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women and girls**, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities **including the Roma community, LGBTQI+ people and different vulnerable groups; it should enhance inclusion and accessibility for persons with disabilities, and in particular transition from institutional care to community-based support and independent living**;

Or. en

Justification

We included the additional elements concerning the issues regarding persons with disabilities and respect to European Pillar of Social Rights and the International Labour Organisation based on the recommendations received from the European Disability Forum and from the International Labour Organisation respectively.

Amendment 335

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Amendment

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through ***strengthening democratic institutions, in particular national parliaments, as well as regional and municipal representative bodies, and their powers of oversight and inquiry over the distribution of and access to public funds,*** promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, ***including cybersecurity and resilience against disinformation, strengthening*** the fight against fraud, ***corruption, including high level*** corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, ***tax avoidance***, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom ***and independence*** of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, ***the overall empowerment of women and girls***, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to ***all*** minorities ***such as ethnic, religious, LGBTQ communities***;

Or. en

Amendment 336

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, **to** ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Amendment

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, **including fundamental labour rights**, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, **aggressive tax planning, tax avoidance**, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue **and civil society involvement and ensure that capacities of stakeholders, including social partners and local authorities, are strengthened**; promote gender equality, **gender mainstreaming and the overall empowerment of women and girls**, non-discrimination and tolerance, **rights of persons with disabilities and** ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to **all** minorities;

Or. en

Amendment 337

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism

Amendment

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through **strengthening democratic institutions and** promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime

financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion, ***tax avoidance*** and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom ***and independence*** of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue ***and civil society involvement***; promote gender equality, ***gender mainstreaming***, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to ***all*** minorities, ***such as ethnic, religious, LGBTIQ+, and vulnerable groups and promote their social and economic inclusivity***;

Or. en

Amendment 338
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Amendment

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, ***and the fight against hate crimes***, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities ***and those in the process of being officially recognised as such***;

Or. en

Amendment 339
Nathalie Loiseau

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime **and** money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media **and** academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Amendment

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime **including illicit weapons trafficking**, money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom **and pluralism** of media, **as well as protection of its ability to fight against disinformation, foreign information manipulation and interference**, academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Or. en

Amendment 340
David Lega

Proposal for a regulation
Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent

Amendment

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent

judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities; ***align with the Union's common foreign and security policy, including its sanctions against Russia;***

Or. en

Amendment 341 **Vladimír Bilčík**

Proposal for a regulation **Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point i**

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Amendment

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud, ***spread of disinformation and subversive foreign interference***; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Or. en

Amendment 342

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

Amendment

(i) further strengthen the fundamentals of the enlargement process, including the rule of law, democracy, the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, through promoting an independent judiciary, reinforced security, the fight against fraud, corruption, organised **and crossborder** crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion and tax fraud; compliance with international law; strengthen freedom of media and academic freedom and an enabling environment for civil society; foster social dialogue; promote gender equality, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to **ethnic and religious** minorities;

Or. en

Amendment 343

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j

Text proposed by the Commission

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international

Amendment

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international

justice in the Western Balkans
Beneficiaries.

justice in the Western Balkans
Beneficiaries; ***build local capacities and invest in administrative staff in beneficiaries involved in the implementation of the Facility and prioritise development of local expertise, institutional capacities and encourage secondment of experts to responsible national institutions in beneficiaries to ensure the adequate absorption capacity.***

Or. en

Amendment 344

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j

Text proposed by the Commission

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; ***support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries.***

Amendment

(j) reinforce ***the democratic institutions including regional and municipal representative bodies, and their powers of oversight and inquiry over the distribution of and access to public funds, as well as*** the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control ***and ensure effective protection of whistle-blowers;***

Or. en

Amendment 345

David Lega

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j

Text proposed by the Commission

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries.

Amendment

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries. ***Funding can be withdrawn in the event of backsliding or persistent stagnation in reforms on fundamental values, and will be resumed only after significant improvement.***

Or. en

Amendment 346

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j

Text proposed by the Commission

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries.

Amendment

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration, ***ensure access to information and the participation of civil society in decision making processes and public scrutiny***, and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing ***democracy, international justice and anti-corruption efforts*** in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries.

Or. en

Amendment 347

Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j

Text proposed by the Commission

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries.

Amendment

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries; ***further promote the role of civil society and its involvement in governance at all levels of administration.***

Or. en

Amendment 348

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j

Text proposed by the Commission

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; support initiatives ***and*** bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries.

Amendment

(j) reinforce the effectiveness of public administration and support transparency ***and accountability***, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control; support initiatives, bodies ***and organisations*** involved in supporting and enforcing ***democratic and human rights and*** international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries.

Or. en

Amendment 349

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ja) support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries.

Or. en

Amendment 350

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(jb) work towards good neighbourly relations and reconciliation to overcome the legacies of the past, including but not limited to ensuring access to truth and justice, as well as effective reparations to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;

Or. en

Amendment 351

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(jc) support political and

administrative decentralisation and local development, especially by ensuring meaningful consultation and a level playing field for all levels of government when accessing funds via open, fair, neutral, and transparent procedures;

Or. en

Amendment 352

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(jd) promote transparency, public access to information including environmental information, and meaningful participation of regional and local authorities as well as civil society organisations and experts in legislative and decision-making processes ensuring democratic accountability and public scrutiny;

Or. en

Amendment 353

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 2 – point j e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(je) facilitate the implementation of the Interoperable Europe Act which reinforces the public sector exchange of information across the Union and accelerate the digital transformation of Europe's public sector;

Amendment 354

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Cooperation under the Facility shall be based on and shall promote the development effectiveness principles, across all modalities, namely ownership of development priorities by the Beneficiaries, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability. The cooperation shall be based on effective and efficient resources allocation and use.

Amendment

1. Cooperation under the Facility shall be based on and shall promote the development effectiveness principles, across all modalities, namely ownership of development priorities by the Beneficiaries, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability. The cooperation shall be based on effective and efficient resources allocation and use. ***All Beneficiaries shall take utmost care to avoid, report and counter any corrupt practices, nepotism, favouritism or undue regional or sectoral concentration of resource allocation or use.***

Amendment 355

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Cooperation under the Facility shall be based on and shall promote the development effectiveness principles, across all modalities, namely ownership of development priorities by the Beneficiaries, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability. The cooperation shall be

Amendment

1. Cooperation under the Facility shall be based on and shall promote the development effectiveness principles, across all modalities, namely ownership of development priorities by the beneficiaries, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships ***with local and regional authorities, social partners, civil society organisations and***

based on effective and efficient resources allocation and use.

voluntary associations, transparency and mutual accountability. The cooperation shall be based on effective and efficient resources allocation and use.

Or. en

Amendment 356

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Cooperation under the Facility shall be based on and shall promote the development effectiveness principles, across all modalities, namely ownership of development priorities by the Beneficiaries, a focus on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency and mutual accountability. The cooperation shall be based on effective and efficient resources allocation and use.

Amendment

1. Cooperation under the Facility shall be based on and shall promote the development effectiveness principles, across all modalities, namely ownership of development priorities by the Beneficiaries, a focus on **clear conditionality and tangible** results, inclusive partnerships **and good neighbourly relations**, transparency and mutual accountability. The cooperation shall be based on effective and efficient resources allocation and use.

Or. en

Amendment 357

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Support from the Facility shall be **additional** to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments. Activities eligible for funding under this Regulation may receive support from other Union programmes and instruments provided that such support does not cover

Amendment

2. Support from the Facility shall be **supplementary and coherent** to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments, **especially with related instruments such as the current Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA III) through the Western Balkans Investment**

the same cost.

Framework (WBIF). Activities eligible for funding under this Regulation may receive support from other Union programmes and instruments provided that such support does not cover the same cost **or result in duplication.**

Or. en

Amendment 358

Christian Sagartz, Lukas Mandl, Angelika Winzig

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Support from the Facility shall be additional to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments. Activities eligible for funding under this Regulation may receive support from other Union programmes and instruments provided that such support does not cover the same cost.

Amendment

2. Support from the Facility shall be additional to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments. Activities eligible for funding under this Regulation may receive support from other Union programmes and instruments provided that such support does not cover the same cost. ***The Commission shall ensure complementarities and synergies between the Facility and other Union programmes, with a view to avoid the duplication of assistance and double funding.***

Or. en

Amendment 359

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Support from the Facility shall be additional to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments.

Amendment

2. Support from the Facility shall be additional to the support provided under other Union programmes and instruments.

Activities eligible for funding under this Regulation may receive support from other Union programmes and instruments provided that such support does not cover the same cost.

Activities eligible for funding under this Regulation may receive support from other Union programmes and instruments provided that such support does not cover the same cost ***and that appropriate oversight and budget control is established.***

Or. en

Amendment 360

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. In order to promote the complementarity and efficiency of their action, the Commission and the Member States shall cooperate and shall strive to avoid duplication between assistance under this Regulation and other assistance provided by the Union, the Member States, third countries, multilateral and regional organisations and entities, such as international organisations and the relevant international financial institutions, agencies and non-Union donors, in line with the established principles for strengthening operational coordination in the field of external assistance, including through enhanced coordination with Member States at local level.

Amendment

3. In order to promote the complementarity and efficiency of their action, the Commission and the Member States shall cooperate and shall strive to avoid duplication between assistance under this Regulation and other assistance provided by the Union, the Member States, third countries, multilateral and regional organisations and entities, such as international organisations and the relevant international financial institutions, agencies and non-Union donors, in line with the established principles for strengthening operational coordination in the field of external assistance, including through enhanced coordination with Member States at local level. ***The Commission shall facilitate the establishment and coordination of decentralised implementation frameworks and know-how for resource allocation and use.***

Or. en

Amendment 361

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Activities under the Facility shall mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality **and, where relevant**, disaster risk reduction, and shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall be guided by the principles of ‘do no harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’, as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal.

Amendment

4. ***Activities under the Facility shall comply with the highest climate and environmental standards and the Reform Agendas shall be subject to Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment procedures in order to identify and properly mitigate potential negative environmental and social impacts.*** Activities under the Facility shall mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental protection ***and conservation of ecosystems, high animal welfare standards***, human rights, democracy, gender equality, disaster risk reduction ***and sustainable water management***, and shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall be guided by the principles of ‘do no ***significant*** harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’, as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal.

Or. en

Amendment 362
Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Activities under the Facility shall mainstream ***climate change mitigation and adaptation***, biodiversity and environmental

Amendment

4. Activities under the Facility shall mainstream biodiversity and environmental protection, human rights, democracy,

protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction, and ***shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals***, promoting integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall be guided by the principles of ‘do no harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’, ***as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal***.

gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction, and promoting integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall be guided by the principles of ‘do no harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’.

Or. en

Amendment 363

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Activities under the Facility shall mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction, and shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall ***be guided*** by the principles of ‘do no harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’, as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal.

Amendment

4. Activities under the Facility ***shall comply with the social, climate and environmental standards of the Union***. ***These activities*** shall mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental protection, human rights, democracy, ***social rights***, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction, and shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals ***and the European Pillar of Social Rights***, promoting integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall ***abide*** by the principles of ‘do no harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’, as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal.

Or. en

Amendment 364

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Activities under the Facility shall mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction, and shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall be guided by the principles of ‘do no harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’, as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal.

Amendment

4. Activities under the Facility shall mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction, and shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall be guided by the principles of ‘do no harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’ **and the European code of conduct on partnership and the multi-level governance principle**, as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal.

Or. en

Amendment 365

Victor Negrescu

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Activities under the Facility shall mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction, and shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting integrated

Amendment

4. Activities under the Facility shall mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental protection, human **and social** rights, democracy, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction, and shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting integrated

actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall be guided by the principles of ‘do no harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’, as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal.

actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall be guided by the principles of ‘do no harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’, as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal.

Or. en

Amendment 366
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. Activities under the Facility shall mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction, and shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall be **guided by** the principles of ‘do no harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’, as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal.

Amendment

4. Activities under the Facility shall mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and environmental protection, human rights, democracy, gender equality and, where relevant, disaster risk reduction, and shall support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, promoting integrated actions that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives in a coherent way. They shall avoid stranded assets, and shall be **compatible with** the principles of ‘do no **significant** harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’, as well as by the sustainability mainstreaming approach underpinning the European Green Deal.

Or. en

Amendment 367
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall ensure that equality between men and women, gender mainstreaming and the integration of a gender **prespective** are taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation of the Reform Agendas and the implementation of the Facility. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based upon gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Commission will report on these measures in the context of its regular reporting under the Gender Action Plans.

Amendment

5. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall ensure that equality between men and women, gender mainstreaming and the integration of a gender **perspective** are taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation of the Reform Agendas **including Gender Impact Assessments** and the implementation of the Facility. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based upon gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Commission will report on these measures in the context of its regular reporting under the Gender Action Plans.

Or. en

Amendment 368

Andor Deli, Livia Járóka, Kinga Gál

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall ensure that equality between men and women, gender mainstreaming and the integration of a gender prespective are taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation of the Reform Agendas and the implementation of the Facility. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based **upon gender**, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Commission will report on these measures in the context of its regular reporting under the Gender Action Plans.

Amendment

5. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall ensure that equality between men and women, gender mainstreaming and the integration of a gender prespective are taken into account and promoted throughout the preparation of the Reform Agendas and the implementation of the Facility. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based **on sex**, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Commission will report on these measures in the context of its regular reporting under the Gender Action Plans.

Or. en

Amendment 369

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall ensure that equality ***between men and women***, gender mainstreaming and the integration of a gender perspective are ***taken into account*** and promoted throughout the preparation of the Reform Agendas and the implementation of the Facility. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based upon gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Commission will report on these measures in the context of its regular reporting under the Gender Action Plans.

Amendment

5. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall ensure that ***gender*** equality, gender mainstreaming and the integration of a gender perspective are ***incorporated into*** and promoted throughout the preparation of the Reform Agendas and the implementation of the Facility. Beneficiaries and the Commission shall take appropriate steps to prevent any discrimination based upon gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The Commission will report on these measures in the context of its regular reporting under the Gender Action Plans.

Or. en

Amendment 370

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. ***The Facility shall not support activities or measures which are incompatible with the Beneficiaries' National Energy and Climate Plans, their Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, and ambition to reach climate-neutrality by 2050 or that promote investments in fossil fuels, or that cause significant adverse effects on the environment or the climate.***

Amendment

deleted

Amendment 371

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. The Facility shall not support activities or measures which are incompatible with the Beneficiaries' National Energy and Climate Plans, their Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, **and ambition to reach climate-neutrality by 2050** or that promote investments in fossil fuels, or that cause significant adverse effects on the **environment or the** climate.

Amendment

6. The Facility shall not support activities or measures which are incompatible with the Beneficiaries' National Energy and Climate Plans **once aligned with climate neutrality by 2050 latest**, their Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, or that promote investments in fossil fuels, or that cause significant adverse effects on the climate **or biodiversity or any investment that is a stranded asset**.

Amendment 372

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou

on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. The Facility shall not support activities or measures which are incompatible with the Beneficiaries' National Energy and Climate Plans, their Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, and ambition to reach climate-neutrality by 2050 or that promote investments in fossil fuels, or that cause significant adverse effects on the environment or the climate.

Amendment

6. The Facility shall not support activities or measures which are incompatible with the Beneficiaries' National Energy and Climate Plans, their Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, and ambition to reach climate-neutrality by 2050 **at the latest** or that promote investments in fossil fuels, or that cause significant adverse effects on the environment or the climate **or biodiversity**.

Amendment 373
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. The Facility shall not support activities or measures which are incompatible with the Beneficiaries' National Energy and Climate Plans, their Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, and ambition to reach climate-neutrality by 2050 or that promote investments *in fossil fuels, or* that cause significant adverse effects on the environment or the climate.

Amendment

6. The Facility shall not support activities or measures which are incompatible with the Beneficiaries' National Energy and Climate Plans, their Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, and ambition to reach climate-neutrality by 2050 or that promote investments that cause significant adverse effects on the environment or the climate.

Or. bg

Amendment 374
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, shall *contribute to* the implementation of Union commitments to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by promoting the implementation and reinforcement of internal control systems and anti-fraud policies, *and by making* information on the volume and allocation of assistance available *through web-based databases*, and shall ensure that data is comparable and can be easily accessed,

Amendment

7. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, shall *ensure* the implementation of Union commitments to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including *the full implementation of the Aarhus Convention, and* by promoting the implementation and reinforcement of internal control systems and anti-fraud policies. *The Commission shall make the* information on the volume and allocation of assistance *publically* available *online*

shared and published.

*including a list of persons and legal entities receiving a cumulative amounts higher than 50 000 EUR, and shall ensure that data is **up-to-date** comparable and can be easily accessed, shared and published **and available in machine readable format and comparable format.***

Or. en

Amendment 375

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, shall contribute to the implementation of Union commitments to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by promoting the implementation and reinforcement **of** internal control systems and anti-fraud policies, and by making information on the volume and allocation of assistance available through web-based databases, and shall ensure that data is comparable and can be easily accessed, shared and published.

Amendment

7. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, shall contribute to the implementation of Union commitments to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by promoting the implementation and reinforcement internal control systems and anti-fraud policies, and by making information on the volume and allocation of assistance **transparent and** available **at same time to all involved parties** through web-based databases, and shall ensure that data is comparable and can be easily accessed, shared and published.

Or. en

Amendment 376

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

7. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, shall **contribute to** the implementation of Union commitments to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by promoting the implementation and reinforcement of internal control systems and anti-fraud policies, and by making information on the volume and allocation of assistance available through **web-based databases**, and shall ensure that data is comparable and can be easily accessed, shared and published.

7. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, shall **ensure** the implementation of Union commitments to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, including by promoting the implementation and reinforcement of **robust** internal control systems and anti-fraud policies, and by **compulsory** making information on the volume and allocation of assistance **down to the level of final recipients** available through **a single web-portal**, and shall ensure that data is comparable and can be easily accessed, shared and published.

Or. en

Amendment 377
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, shall contribute to the implementation of Union commitments to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, **including by promoting** the implementation and reinforcement of internal control systems and anti-fraud policies, and by making information on the volume and allocation of assistance available through **web-based databases**, and shall ensure that data is comparable and can be easily accessed, shared and published.

Amendment

7. The Commission, in cooperation with the Member States and the Beneficiaries, shall contribute to the implementation of Union commitments to increased transparency and accountability in the delivery of assistance, **through** the implementation and reinforcement of internal control systems and anti-fraud policies, and by **compulsory** making information on the volume and allocation of assistance available through **a single web-portal**, and shall ensure that data is comparable and can be easily accessed, shared and published

Or. en

Amendment 378
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 4 – paragraph 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

7a. In line with the EU Partnership Principle and the EU Code of Conduct, the Commission and the Beneficiaries shall ensure that the relevant stakeholders, including the Parliaments of the Western Balkans, local and regional authorities, social partners and civil society organisations, are duly and fairly consulted and have timely access to relevant information to allow them to meaningfully participate in shaping the design, implementation of activities eligible for funding under this Facility, and in the related monitoring, scrutiny and evaluation processes. Such involvement shall seek to represent the pluralism of the society in the Western Balkans.

Or. en

Amendment 379

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries ***continue to*** uphold and respect ***effective democratic mechanisms, including*** a multi-party parliamentary system, ***and the rule of law, and guarantee*** respect for all human rights ***obligations***, including ***the rights of persons belonging to minorities***. Another ***pre-condition*** shall be ***that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the***

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries uphold and respect ***the Copenhagen criteria for EU accession, notably the stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities. In particular, the Beneficiaries need to demonstrate their compliance with the values of Article 2 of the Treaty on***

normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

European Union (TEU), a multi-party parliamentary democratic system, including with appropriate checks and balances, good governance at all levels, free and fair elections in line with the domestic law of the Beneficiaries and European and international democratic standards, an independent judiciary and public prosecutor and respect for human rights, including but not limited to freedom of speech and media freedom. Another precondition for the support under this Facility shall be the full alignment of the Beneficiaries with the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, in particular the effective adoption and implementation of restrictive measures against Russia.

Or. en

Amendment 380

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries ***continue to*** uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, ***including*** the rights of persons belonging to minorities. ***Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.***

Amendment

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries ***improve***, uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a ***functioning*** multi-party parliamentary system, ***media freedom*** and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, the rights of persons belonging to minorities ***including but not limited to LGBTQ communities.***

Amendment 381
Christian Sagartz, Lukas Mandl, Angelika Winzig

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries ***continue to*** uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries ***improve***, uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a ***functioning*** multi-party parliamentary system, ***media freedom*** and the rule of law, ***also in a view of threats to the Union's financial interests***, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment 382
Vangelis Meimarakis

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries ***continue to*** uphold and respect effective

Amendment

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries ***improve***, uphold and respect effective

democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

democratic mechanisms, including a ***functioning*** multi-party parliamentary system, ***media freedom*** and the rule of law, ***also in view of threats to the EU Financial interests***, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively ***with clearly measurable progress and tangible results*** in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 383

Nathalie Loiseau

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive

Amendment

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, ***the safeguard of free and pluralistic media and fight against disinformation, foreign information manipulation and interference*** and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement

Agreement on normalisation of relations.

on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 384
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries ***strive to maintain good neighbourly relations and*** continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities ***and those in the process of being officially recognized as such.*** Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 385
David Lega

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee **respect** for all human rights **obligations**, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms **in a sustainable way**, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee **protection** for all human rights, including the rights of **persons with disabilities and** persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 386
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its

Amendment

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to **religious and ethnic** minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to

Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 387
Andrey Kovatchev

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities ***and/or communities***. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 388
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Amendment

1. Preconditions for the support under the Facility shall be that the Beneficiaries continue to uphold and respect effective democratic mechanisms, including a multi-party parliamentary system, and the rule of law, and guarantee respect for all human rights obligations, including the rights of persons belonging to ***all*** minorities. Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 389

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch, Nathalie Loiseau

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – point 1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(1) Another precondition shall be full alignment with the Union's common foreign and security policy, including adoption of restrictive measures against Russia as well as with EU visa requirements for third countries.

Or. en

Amendment 390

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Another pre-condition shall be that Serbia and Kosovo engage constructively in the normalisation of their relations with a view to fully implementing all their respective obligations stemming from the Agreement on the Path to Normalisation and its Implementation Annex as well as all past Dialogue Agreements and engage in negotiations on the Comprehensive Agreement on normalisation of relations.

Or. en

Amendment 391

Georgios Kyrtsos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The Beneficiary countries shall as precondition and on country by country basis be in full alignment with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy decisions and declarations, including restrictive measures.

Or. en

Amendment 392

Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The Western Balkan countries should work in line with the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP);

Amendment 393
Vladimír Bilčík

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in particular, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

Amendment

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds, ***including pre-financing***, are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest ***Rule of Law Report***, Enlargement Package ***and relevant resolutions of the European Parliament***. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in particular, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3). ***The Commission shall withhold the release of funds in cases of a persistent lack of progress, serious deficiencies and regression on rule of law and fundamental reforms. The Commission's assessment shall be transmitted simultaneously to the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission shall develop and apply clear guidelines on the application of conditionality for the release of funding.***

Amendment 394
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in particular, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

Amendment

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to ***the*** Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package, ***as well as relevant international organisations including OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission and the relevant reports and resolutions of the European Parliament.*** The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in particular, ***shall*** withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21 ***if such a decision is taken***, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3). ***In case of persistent lack of progress, serious deficiencies and/or regression in the area of the “fundamentals”, the Commission, after consulting the European Parliament and the Council, shall suspend the funding to the Beneficiaries concerned. The Commission’s assessment shall be transmitted simultaneously to the European Parliament and the Council.***

Or. en

Amendment 395

Georgios Kyrtosos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support

Amendment

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support

provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in particular, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in particular, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3). ***The Commission shall take into account the relevant recommendations of international bodies, such as the Council of Europe and its Venice Commission in this process. The Commission's assessment shall be transmitted simultaneously to the European Parliament and the Council.***

Or. en

Amendment 396

José Manuel Fernandes, Carlos Coelho

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in ***particular***, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

Amendment

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in ***such cases, shall*** withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

Or. en

Amendment 397

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in particular, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

Amendment

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision ***by using clear and impartial criteria*** concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in particular, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

Or. en

Amendment 398
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in particular, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

Amendment

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in particular, ***in such cases, should*** withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article

16(3).

Or. en

Amendment 399
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in *particular*, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

Amendment

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in *such cases, should* withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

Or. en

Amendment 400
Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation
Article 5 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision

Amendment

2. The Commission shall monitor the fulfilment of the preconditions set out in paragraph 1 before funds are released to Beneficiaries under the Facility and throughout the period of the support provided under the Facility taking duly into account the latest Enlargement Package. The Commission may adopt a decision

concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in ***particular***, withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

concluding that some of these preconditions are not met, and in ***such cases, shall*** withhold the release of funds referred to in Article 21, irrespective of the fulfilment of payment conditions referred to in Article 16(3).

Or. en

Amendment 401

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) **98.5%** in the form of non-repayable financial support to the Beneficiaries for the implementation of the Reform Agendas;

Amendment

(a) **97%** in the form of non-repayable financial support to the Beneficiaries for the implementation of the Reform Agendas;

Or. en

Amendment 402

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) 98.5% in the form of ***non-repayable*** financial support to the Beneficiaries for the implementation of the Reform Agendas;

Amendment

(a) 98.5% in the form of ***repayable*** financial support to the Beneficiaries for the implementation of the Reform Agendas;

Or. en

Amendment 403

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) **1.5%** for expenditure pursuant to paragraph 6.

Amendment

(b) **3%** for expenditure pursuant to paragraph 6.

Or. en

Amendment 404

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 5

Text proposed by the Commission

5. Pursuant to Article 19, the amount of funds made available under the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) referred to in Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529¹⁸ shall be at least 50% of the overall amount in paragraph 1. That contribution shall include the entire amount of **non-repayable** financial support as referred to in paragraph 2 point (a) of this Article after deducting the amount of provisioning.

¹⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III), OJ L330, 20.09.2021.

Amendment

5. Pursuant to Article 19, the amount of funds made available under the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF) referred to in Article 12 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1529¹⁸ shall be at least 50% of the overall amount in paragraph 1. That contribution shall include the entire amount of **repayable** financial support as referred to in paragraph 2 point (a) of this Article after deducting the amount of provisioning.

¹⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/1529 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 September 2021 establishing the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III), OJ L330, 20.09.2021.

Or. en

Amendment 405

Vladimír Bilčík

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 6

6. The resources referred to in paragraph 2 point (b) may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Facility, such as preparatory actions, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, which are required for the management of the Facility and the achievement of its objectives, in particular studies, meetings of experts, trainings, consultations with the Beneficiary authorities, conferences, consultation of stakeholders, information and communication actions, including inclusive outreach actions, and corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, insofar as they are related to the objectives of this Regulation, expenses linked to IT networks focusing on information processing and exchange, corporate information technology tools, as well as all other expenditure at headquarters and Union delegations for the administrative and coordination support needed for the Facility. Finally, expenses may also cover the costs of other **supporting** activities such as quality control and monitoring of projects or programmes on the ground and the costs of peer counselling and experts for the assessment and implementation of reforms and investments.

6. The resources referred to in paragraph 2 point (b) may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Facility, such as **impact assessments**, preparatory actions, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, which are required for the management of the Facility and the achievement of its objectives, in particular studies, meetings of experts, trainings, consultations with the Beneficiary authorities, conferences, consultation of stakeholders, **including local and regional authorities and civil society organisations**, information and communication actions, including inclusive outreach actions, and corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, insofar as they are **strictly** related to the objectives of this Regulation, expenses linked to IT networks focusing on information processing and exchange, corporate information technology tools, as well as all other expenditure at headquarters and Union delegations for the administrative and coordination support needed for the Facility. Finally, expenses may also cover the costs of other **relevant transparency** activities such as quality control and monitoring of projects or programmes on the ground and the costs of peer counselling and experts for the assessment and implementation of reforms and investments. ***In case of using resources for auditing purposes, conflict of interests between the entity performing the audit and other activities of that entity in the framework of the Facility, such as consulting or administrative and coordination support, quality control and monitoring of projects, shall be disclosed and prevented.***

Or. en

Amendment 406
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Article 6 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. The resources referred to in paragraph 2 point (b) may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Facility, such as preparatory actions, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, which are required for the management of the Facility and the achievement of its objectives, in particular studies, meetings of experts, trainings, consultations with the Beneficiary authorities, conferences, consultation of stakeholders, information and communication actions, including inclusive outreach actions, and corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, insofar as they are related to the objectives of this Regulation, expenses linked to IT networks focusing on information processing and exchange, corporate information technology tools, as well as all other expenditure at headquarters and Union delegations for the administrative and coordination support needed for the Facility. Finally, expenses may also cover the costs of other supporting activities such as quality control and monitoring of projects or programmes on the ground and the costs of peer counselling and experts for the assessment and implementation of reforms and investments.

Amendment

6. The resources referred to in paragraph 2 point (b) may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Facility, such as ***building local capacities, secondment of experts to responsible national institutions of beneficiaries***, preparatory actions, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, which are required for the management of the Facility and the achievement of its objectives, in particular studies, meetings of experts, trainings, consultations with the Beneficiary authorities, conferences, consultation of stakeholders, information and communication actions, including inclusive outreach actions, and corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, insofar as they are related to the objectives of this Regulation, expenses linked to IT networks focusing on information processing and exchange, corporate information technology tools, as well as all other expenditure at headquarters and Union delegations for the administrative and coordination support needed for the Facility. Finally, expenses may also cover the costs of other supporting activities such as quality control and monitoring of projects or programmes on the ground and the costs of peer counselling and experts for the assessment and implementation of reforms and investments.

Or. en

Amendment 407
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. The resources referred to in paragraph 2 point (b) may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Facility, such as preparatory actions, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, which are required for the management of the Facility and the achievement of its objectives, in particular studies, meetings of experts, trainings, consultations with the Beneficiary authorities, conferences, consultation of stakeholders, information and communication actions, including inclusive outreach actions, and corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, insofar as they are related to the objectives of this Regulation, expenses linked to IT networks focusing on information processing and exchange, corporate information technology tools, as well as all other expenditure at headquarters and Union delegations for the administrative and coordination support needed for the Facility. Finally, expenses may also cover the costs of other supporting activities such as quality control and monitoring of projects or programmes on the ground and the costs of peer counselling and experts for the assessment and implementation of reforms and investments.

Amendment

6. The resources referred to in paragraph 2 point (b) may be used for technical and administrative assistance for the implementation of the Facility, such as preparatory actions, monitoring, control, audit and evaluation activities, which are required for the management of the Facility and the achievement of its objectives, in particular studies, meetings of experts, trainings, consultations with the Beneficiary authorities, conferences, consultation of stakeholders, ***including local and regional authorities and civil society organisations***, information and communication actions, including inclusive outreach actions, and corporate communication of the political priorities of the Union, insofar as they are related to the objectives of this Regulation, expenses linked to IT networks focusing on information processing and exchange, corporate information technology tools, as well as all other expenditure at headquarters and Union delegations for the administrative and coordination support needed for the Facility. Finally, expenses may also cover the costs of other supporting activities such as quality control and monitoring of projects or programmes on the ground and the costs of peer counselling and experts for the assessment and implementation of reforms and investments.

Or. en

Amendment 408

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Union funding may be provided in any of the forms laid down in Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, in particular financial assistance, **grants**, procurement and blending operations.

Amendment

2. Union funding may be provided in any of the forms laid down in Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, in particular financial assistance, procurement and blending operations.

Or. en

Amendment 409

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Nathalie Loiseau

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Depending on the required operational and financial capacity, the entrusted entity implementing blending operations may be the European Investment Bank **or the European Investment Fund**, multilateral **international** financial **institutions**, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or bilateral European finance institutions, such as development banks. Whenever possible, the implementation of blending operations under the Facility shall be complemented by additional forms of financial support, from either Member States or third parties.

Amendment

3. Depending on the required operational and financial capacity, the entrusted entity implementing blending operations may be the European Investment Bank **group, a** multilateral **European** financial **institution**, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or bilateral European finance institutions, such as development banks **or the World Bank Group**. Whenever possible, **non-European multilateral financial institutions may participate in the Facility through joint operations with European financial institutions**. The implementation of blending operations under the Facility shall be complemented by additional forms of financial support, from either Member States or third parties.

Or. en

Amendment 410

Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a regulation
Article 7 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Depending on the required operational and financial capacity, the entrusted entity implementing blending operations may be the European Investment Bank **or the European Investment Fund**, multilateral **international** financial institutions, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or bilateral European finance institutions, such as development banks. **Whenever possible**, the implementation of blending operations under the Facility shall be complemented by additional forms of financial support, from either Member States or third parties.

Amendment

3. Depending on the required operational and financial capacity, the entrusted entity implementing blending operations may be the European Investment Bank **Group**, multilateral **European** financial institutions, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or bilateral European finance institutions, such as development banks **or the World Bank Group**. The implementation of blending operations under the Facility shall be complemented by additional forms of financial support, from either Member States or third parties.

Or. fr

Amendment 411
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) Member States, Beneficiaries, contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area **and countries covered by Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 and Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/1529**;

Amendment

(a) Member States, Beneficiaries, contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area;

Or. fr

Amendment 412
Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Nathalie Loiseau

Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) Member States, Beneficiaries, contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area ***and countries covered by Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/947 and Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/1529;***

Amendment

(a) Member States, Beneficiaries ***and*** contracting parties to the Agreement on the European Economic Area , ***as well as in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia;***

Or. en

Amendment 413

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Nathalie Loiseau

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) countries for which reciprocal access to external assistance in Beneficiaries is established by the Commission.

Amendment

(b) countries ***which provide a level of support to Beneficiaries comparable to the one provided by the European Union taking into account the size of their economy and*** for which reciprocal access to external assistance in Beneficiaries is established by the Commission ***in line with our strategic autonomy.***

Or. en

Amendment 414

Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) countries for which reciprocal access to external assistance in Beneficiaries is established by the Commission.

Amendment

(b) countries ***which provide Beneficiaries with a level of support comparable to that provided by the European Union, taking into account the size of their economies, and*** for which reciprocal access to external assistance in

Beneficiaries is established by the Commission.

Or. fr

Amendment 415
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall decide on the reciprocal access after consulting the concerned Beneficiary.

Amendment

The Commission shall decide on the reciprocal access ***in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 27*** after consulting the concerned Beneficiary.

Or. fr

Amendment 416
Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation
Article 8 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. Tender applicants and candidates from non-eligible countries may be accepted as eligible ***in the case*** of urgency or where services are unavailable in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of an action impossible or exceedingly difficult.

Amendment

7. Tender applicants and candidates from non-eligible countries may be accepted as eligible ***only in substantiated cases*** of urgency or where services are unavailable in the markets of the countries or territories concerned, or in other duly substantiated cases where application of the eligibility rules would make the realisation of an action impossible or exceedingly difficult, ***with full transparency and backed by legitimate justification***.

Or. en

Amendment 417

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 7 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

7a. Regarding the functioning of Public Procurement and State Aid Controls, the Commission shall ensure, through annual audit and controls that the system is remaining functional. In that respect, Commission shall submit the annual report on functioning of such controls in the beneficiary countries to the Council and the Parliament.

Or. en

Amendment 418

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 8 – paragraph 7 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

7 b. If the Commission's assessment of Public Procurement and State Aid Controls is positive, the same should be reflected in the implementation of IPA funds.

Or. en

Amendment 419

Georgios Kyrtsos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The Commission shall conclude a

1. The Commission shall conclude a

Facility Agreement with each Beneficiary for the implementation of the Facility setting out *the obligations and payment conditions of the Beneficiaries* for the *disbursement of Facility funding*.

Facility Agreement with each Beneficiary for the implementation of the Facility setting out *specific arrangements* for the *management, control, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and audit of funds under the Facility, as well as to prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest. That framework agreement, including any related documentation, shall be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council simultaneously and without delay and shall be made public.*

Or. en

Amendment 420
Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall conclude a **Facility** Agreement with each Beneficiary for the implementation of the Facility setting out *the obligations and payment conditions of the Beneficiaries* for the *disbursement of Facility funding*.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall conclude a **Framework** Agreement with each Beneficiary for the implementation of the Facility setting out *specific arrangements* for the *management, control, supervision, monitoring, evaluation, reporting and audit of funds under the Facility, as well as to prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest*.

Or. en

Amendment 421
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall conclude a Facility Agreement with each Beneficiary for the implementation of the Facility setting out the obligations and payment conditions of the Beneficiaries for the disbursement of Facility funding.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall conclude a Facility Agreement with each Beneficiary for the implementation of the Facility setting out the obligations and payment conditions of the Beneficiaries for the disbursement of Facility funding ***following public consultation and the positive assessment of the national parliament.***

Or. en

Amendment 422

Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1a. The establishment of monitoring committees inspired by the European Code of Conduct on Partnership following the best practices for the preparation of calls for proposals, progress reports, monitoring and evaluation of projects, measures and activities;

Or. en

Amendment 423

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The Facility Agreement shall be complemented by loan agreements in accordance with Article 17, setting out specific provisions for the management and implementation of funding provided

deleted

in the forms of loans.

Or. en

Amendment 424

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The **Facility** Agreement shall be complemented by loan agreements in accordance with Article 17, setting out specific provisions for the management and implementation of funding provided in the forms of loans.

Amendment

2. The **Framework** Agreement shall be complemented by loan agreements in accordance with Article 17, setting out specific provisions for the management and implementation of funding provided in the forms of loans. **Framework agreements, including any related documentation, shall be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council simultaneously and without delay and shall be made public.**

Or. en

Amendment 425

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Funding shall only be granted to the Beneficiaries after the respective Facility Agreements and the applicable loan agreements have entered into force.

Amendment

3. Funding, **including pre financing**, shall only be granted to the Beneficiaries after **a positive assessment by the Commission of fulfilment of the preconditions in Article 5, and** the respective Facility Agreements and the applicable loan agreements have entered into force.

Or. en

Amendment 426

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Funding shall only be granted to the Beneficiaries after the respective Facility Agreements **and the applicable loan agreements** have entered into force.

Amendment

3. Funding shall only be granted to the Beneficiaries after the respective Facility Agreements have entered into force.

Or. en

Amendment 427

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Facility Agreement and the loan agreements concluded with each of the Beneficiaries, and agreements concluded with person or entities receiving Union funds, shall ensure that the obligations set out in Article 129 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 are fulfilled.

Amendment

4. The Facility Agreement and the loan agreements concluded with each of the Beneficiaries, and agreements concluded with person or entities receiving Union funds, shall ensure that the obligations set out in Article 129 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 are fulfilled. ***The Facility Agreements, including any related documentation, shall be transmitted to the European Parliament and the Council simultaneously and without delay and shall be made public.***

Or. en

Amendment 428

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Facility Agreement **and the loan agreements** concluded with each of the Beneficiaries, and agreements concluded with person or entities receiving Union funds, shall ensure that the obligations set out in Article 129 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 are fulfilled.

Amendment

4. The Facility Agreement concluded with each of the Beneficiaries, and agreements concluded with person or entities receiving Union funds, shall ensure that the obligations set out in Article 129 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 are fulfilled.

Or. en

Amendment 429
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) the commitment of the Beneficiary to **progress towards** more efficient and effective control systems, and to strengthen the fight against money laundering, terrorism financing, tax avoidance, tax fraud or tax evasion;

Amendment

(a) the commitment of the Beneficiary to **strictly prioritise the establishment of** more efficient and effective control systems, **which are able to effectively prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests as well as to avoid, report and counter any corrupt practices, nepotism, favouritism or undue regional or sectoral concentration of resource allocation or use and to** and to strengthen the fight against money laundering, terrorism financing, tax avoidance, tax fraud or tax evasion **and other illegal activities affecting the funds provided under the Facility;**

Or. en

Amendment 430

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) the establishment of a monitoring committee to coordinate the involvement of civil society and experts in the evaluation and monitoring of the allocation and use of resources, in line with the European Code of Conduct on Partnerships;

Or. en

Amendment 431
Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) the Beneficiary's commitment to the fundamental EU principle of subsidiarity in the distribution of funds within its jurisdiction, preventing regional or political favouritism.

Or. en

Amendment 432
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) the rules on reporting to the Commission on whether and how the

(d) the rules on reporting to the Commission on whether and how the

payment conditions referred to in Article 12 are fulfilled;

payment conditions referred to in Article 12 are fulfilled, ***including by allowing the examination of the fulfilment of milestones and targets connected to reforms and investment;***

Or. en

Amendment 433

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point e a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ea) the recognition of the responsibilities of the Audit Board referred to in Article XX, and the modalities of the Western Balkans Beneficiaries' cooperation with it;

Or. en

Amendment 434

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(f) the measures to prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest, and the obligation to notify the Commission and OLAF without delay of suspected or actual cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests and their follow-up;

(f) the measures to prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest, and the obligation to notify the ***Audit Board, the Commission and OLAF and when applicable EPPO*** without delay of suspected or actual cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests and their follow-up;

Or. en

Amendment 435

David Lega

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) the measures to prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest, and the obligation to notify the Commission and OLAF without delay of suspected or actual cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests and their follow-up;

Amendment

(f) the measures to prevent, detect, investigate and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest, and the obligation to notify the Commission, ***the European Court of Auditors*** and OLAF without delay of suspected or actual cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflict of interests and their follow-up;

Or. en

Amendment 436

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

(g) the obligations referred to in Articles 22 and 23, including precise rules and timeframe on collection of data by the Beneficiary and access for the Commission and OLAF;

Amendment

(g) the obligations referred to in Articles 22 and 23, including precise rules and timeframe on collection of data by the Beneficiary and access for the Commission and OLAF, ***European Court of Auditors, and where applicable EPPO***;

Or. en

Amendment 437

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

(g) the obligations referred to in Articles 22 and 23, including precise rules and timeframe on collection of data by the Beneficiary and access for the Commission and OLAF;

Amendment

(g) the obligations referred to in Articles 22 and 23, including precise rules and timeframe on collection of data by the Beneficiary and access for the Commission ***the European Court of Auditors*** and OLAF;

Or. en

Amendment 438

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point g a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ga) the commitment of the Beneficiaries to respecting the ‘do no significant harm’ principle, in line with Regulation 2020/852, for all expenditure under this Regulation;

Or. en

Amendment 439

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point g a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ga) to provide a similar level of access to information and authority to carry out on-the-spot controls as the Commission and the Court of Auditors to the Audit Board;

Or. en

Amendment 440

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point g b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(gb) to provide a similar level of access to information and authority to carry out on-the-spot controls as the Commission and the Court of Auditors to the independent external auditor appointed by the Audit Board;

Or. en

Amendment 441

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point h

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(h) a procedure to ensure that disbursement requests for the loan support fall within the available loan amount, taking into consideration Article 6(3);

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 442

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 9 – paragraph 5 – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(i) the right of the Commission to reduce proportionately the support provided under the Facility and recover

(i) the right of the Commission to reduce proportionately the support provided under the Facility and recover

any amount spent to achieve the objectives of the Facility ***or to ask for early repayment of the loan***, in cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or of a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreement;

any amount spent to achieve the objectives of the Facility in cases of irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or of a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreement;

Or. en

Amendment 443

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation **Article 10 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall ***inform*** the European Parliament and the Council ***of*** commitment appropriations carried over in accordance with Article 12(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

Amendment

2. The Commission shall ***submit to*** the European Parliament and the Council ***the information on*** commitment appropriations carried over, ***including the amounts involved***, in accordance with Article 12(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

Or. en

Amendment 444

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation **Article 10 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of commitment appropriations carried over in accordance with Article 12(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

Amendment

2. The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of commitment appropriations carried over, ***including the amounts involved***, in accordance with Article 12(6) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

Amendment 445
Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. In order to receive any support under the Facility, each Beneficiary shall submit to the Commission a Reform Agenda for the duration of the Facility, building on the structural reforms part of the latest Economic Reform Programme and the related Joint Policy Guidance agreed at the Economic and Financial Dialogue in May 2023, its national growth strategy where applicable, ***the revised enlargement methodology, the most recent Enlargement Package*** and the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans.

Amendment

1. In order to receive any support under the Facility, each Beneficiary shall submit to the Commission a Reform Agenda for the duration of the Facility, building on the structural reforms part of the latest Economic Reform Programme and the related Joint Policy Guidance agreed at the Economic and Financial Dialogue in May 2023, its national growth strategy where applicable, and the Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans.

Amendment 446
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
 on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Reform Agendas shall set out the reforms to be undertaken by the Beneficiary, as well as investment ***areas***, towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives set out in Article 3. The Reform Agendas shall comprise measures for the implementation of reforms through a comprehensive and coherent package. In the areas of fundamentals, including the

Amendment

2. The Reform Agendas shall set out the reforms to be undertaken by the Beneficiary, as well as investment, towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives set out in Article 3 ***and general principles set out in Article 4 with specific milestones and targets***. The Reform Agendas shall comprise measures for the implementation of reforms through a

rule of law, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights and the freedom of expression, the Reform Agendas shall reflect the assessments in the most recent Enlargement Package.

comprehensive and coherent package ***including ensuring adherence to the ‘do no significant harm’ principle.*** In the areas of ***the ‘fundamentals’***, including the rule of law, the fight against ***corruption including high level*** corruption, fundamental rights and the freedom of expression, the Reform Agendas shall reflect the assessments in the most recent Enlargement Package, ***as well as of the relevant international organisations including, OSCE/ODIHR and the Venice Commission and the relevant reports and resolutions from the European Parliament.***

Or. en

Amendment 447
Vladimír Bilčík

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Reform Agendas shall ***set*** out the reforms to be undertaken by the Beneficiary, as well as investment areas, ***towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives set out in Article 3.*** The Reform Agendas shall comprise measures for the implementation of reforms through a comprehensive and coherent package. In the areas of fundamentals, including the rule of law, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights and the freedom of expression, the Reform Agendas shall reflect the assessments in the most recent Enlargement Package.

Amendment

2. The Reform Agendas shall ***provide an overarching framework to achieve the general and specific objectives laid out in Article 3, setting*** out the reforms to be undertaken by the Beneficiary, as well as investment areas. The Reform Agendas shall comprise measures for the implementation of reforms ***and investments*** through a comprehensive and coherent package. In the areas of fundamentals, including the rule of law, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights and the freedom of expression, the Reform Agendas shall reflect the assessments in the most recent Enlargement Package ***and the Rule of law report. The Reform Agendas shall include an estimation of the financial amounts needed for the implementation of the reforms and investments under the Facility in line with the general and specific objectives set out***

in Article 3.

Or. en

Amendment 448

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Reform Agendas shall set out the reforms to be undertaken by the Beneficiary, as well as investment areas, towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives set out in Article 3. The Reform Agendas shall comprise measures for the implementation of reforms through a comprehensive and coherent package. ***In the areas of fundamentals, including the rule of law, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights and the freedom of expression, the Reform Agendas shall reflect the assessments in the most recent Enlargement Package.***

Amendment

2. The Reform Agendas shall set out the reforms to be undertaken by the Beneficiary, as well as investment areas, towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives set out in Article 3. The Reform Agendas shall comprise measures for the implementation of reforms through a comprehensive and coherent package.

Or. en

Amendment 449

Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Reform Agendas shall set out the reforms to be undertaken by the Beneficiary, as well as investment areas, towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives set out in Article 3. The Reform Agendas shall comprise measures for the implementation of reforms through a comprehensive and coherent package. In

Amendment

2. The Reform Agendas shall set out the reforms to be undertaken by the Beneficiary, as well as investment areas, towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives set out in Article 3. The Reform Agendas shall comprise measures for the implementation of reforms through a comprehensive and coherent package. In

the areas of fundamentals, including the rule of law, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights and the freedom of expression, the Reform Agendas shall reflect the assessments in the most recent Enlargement Package.

the areas of fundamentals, including the rule of law, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights, ***including minority groups, both officially and non-recognised, and those in the process of being recognized as such*** and the freedom of expression, the Reform Agendas shall reflect the assessments in the most recent Enlargement Package ***and the respective country reports by the European Parliament.***

Or. en

Amendment 450 **Sunčana Glavak**

Proposal for a regulation **Article 11 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Reform Agendas ***shall set out the reforms to be undertaken by the Beneficiary, as well as investment areas, towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives set out in Article 3.*** The Reform Agendas shall comprise measures for the implementation of reforms through a comprehensive and coherent package. In the areas of fundamentals, including the rule of law, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights and the freedom of expression, the Reform Agendas shall reflect the assessments in the most recent Enlargement Package.

Amendment

2. The Reform Agendas ***must clearly delineate both the short-term and long-term reforms and investment priorities that directly contribute to achieving the Facility's objectives. This should include specific legislative, regulatory, and policy measures across key sectors such as economic development, environmental sustainability, digital transformation, and social inclusion.*** The Reform Agendas shall comprise measures for the implementation of reforms through a comprehensive and coherent package. In the areas of fundamentals, including the rule of law, the fight against corruption, fundamental rights and the freedom of expression, the Reform Agendas shall reflect the assessments in the most recent Enlargement Package.

Or. en

Amendment 451

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Reform Agenda shall be consistent with the latest macroeconomic and fiscal policy framework submitted to the Commission in the context of the Economic and Financial Dialogue with the EU.

Amendment

3. The Reform Agenda shall ***define specific targets and milestones within the Reform Agendas for each priority area, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, digital infrastructure development, judicial reforms, and anti-corruption measures. These targets should be measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART), facilitating effective monitoring and evaluation of progress and*** be consistent with the latest macroeconomic and fiscal policy framework submitted to the Commission in the context of the Economic and Financial Dialogue with the EU.

Or. en

Amendment 452
Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Reform Agendas shall be consistent with and support the reform priorities identified in the context of the Beneficiary's accession path, and other relevant documents, such as the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, the National Energy and Climate Plan, ***the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement and the ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050.***

Amendment

4. The Reform Agendas shall be consistent with and support the reform priorities identified in the context of the Beneficiary's accession path, and other relevant documents, such as the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, ***and*** the National Energy and Climate Plan.

Or. en

Amendment 453

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Reform Agendas shall be consistent with and support the reform priorities identified in the context of the Beneficiary's accession path, and other relevant documents, such as the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, the National Energy and Climate Plan, the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement and the ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050.

Amendment

4. The Reform Agendas shall be consistent with and support the reform priorities identified in the context of the Beneficiary's accession path, and other relevant documents, such as the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, the National Energy and Climate Plan **as revised to be in line with Climate Neutrality by 2050**, the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement and the ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050.

Or. en

Amendment 454

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou

on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Reform Agendas shall be consistent with and support the reform priorities identified in the context of the Beneficiary's accession path, and other relevant documents, such as the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, the National Energy and Climate Plan, the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement and the ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050.

Amendment

4. The Reform Agendas shall be consistent with and support the reform priorities identified in the context of the Beneficiary's accession path, and other relevant documents, such as the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, the National Energy and Climate Plan, the Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement and the ambition to reach climate neutrality by 2050 **at the latest**.

Amendment 455

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. The Commission shall invite the Beneficiaries to submit within three months from the entry into force of this Regulation their respective Reform Agendas.

Amendment

6. The Commission shall invite the Beneficiaries to submit within three months from the entry into force of this Regulation their respective Reform Agendas. ***The Commission shall inform and send the Beneficiaries' Reform Agendas to the European Parliament and the Council as soon as available.***

Amendment 456

David McAllister

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 6

Text proposed by the Commission

6. The Commission shall invite the Beneficiaries to submit within three months from the entry into force of this Regulation their respective Reform Agendas.

Amendment

6. The Commission shall invite the Beneficiaries to submit within three months from the entry into force of this Regulation their respective Reform Agendas. ***National economic reform programmes (ERPs) and the Commission's annual progress reports should serve as the starting point.***

Amendment 457

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation
Article 11 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. In case of a redistribution of support under the Facility leading to a Beneficiary receiving additional support, the Commission shall invite the Beneficiary to submit within three months a revised Reform Agenda for the remaining duration of the Facility.

Amendment

7. In case of a redistribution of support under the Facility leading to a Beneficiary receiving additional support, the Commission shall invite the Beneficiary to submit within three months a revised Reform Agenda for the remaining duration of the Facility. ***The Commission will engage in consultations with the European Parliament and the Council before taking any decision on the redistribution of financial support to avoid a possible geographic disbalance of distributed funds.***

Or. en

Amendment 458
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Article 12 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Facility shall incentivise the implementation of the Reform Agenda of each Beneficiary by putting payment conditions on the release of funds. These payment conditions shall apply to funds under Article 6(2) point (a) and Article 6(3) and shall take the form of qualitative or quantitative steps. Such steps shall reflect progress on specific socio-economic reforms, including on fundamentals of the enlargement process and rule of law, linked to the achievement of the different objectives of the Facility, set out in Article 3, consistent with the latest Enlargement Package.

Amendment

The Facility shall incentivise the implementation of the Reform Agenda of each Beneficiary by putting ***clear and specific*** payment conditions on the release of funds. These payment conditions shall apply to funds under Article 6(2) point (a) and Article 6(3) and shall take the form of qualitative or quantitative steps. Such steps shall reflect progress on specific socio-economic reforms, including on fundamentals of the enlargement process and rule of law, linked to the achievement of the different objectives of the Facility, set out in Article 3, consistent with the latest Enlargement Package ***and the respective country reports by the European Parliament.***

Amendment 459**Željana Zovko****Proposal for a regulation****Article 12 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1***Text proposed by the Commission*

The Facility shall incentivise the implementation of the Reform Agenda of each Beneficiary by putting payment conditions on the release of funds. These payment conditions shall apply to funds under Article 6(2) point (a) and Article 6(3) and shall take the form of qualitative or quantitative steps. Such steps shall reflect progress on specific socio-economic reforms, including on fundamentals of the enlargement process and rule of law, linked to the achievement of the different objectives of the Facility, set out in Article 3, consistent with the latest Enlargement Package.

Amendment

The Facility shall incentivise the implementation of the Reform Agenda of each Beneficiary by putting payment conditions on the release of funds. These payment conditions shall apply to funds under Article 6(2) point (a) and Article 6(3) and shall take the form of ***measurable*** qualitative or quantitative steps ***in line with compliance with the achieved benchmarks and concrete targets***. Such steps shall reflect progress on specific socio-economic reforms, including on fundamentals of the enlargement process and rule of law, linked to the achievement of the different objectives of the Facility, set out in Article 3, consistent with the latest Enlargement Package.

Amendment 460**Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro**

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation**Article 12 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1***Text proposed by the Commission*

The Facility shall incentivise the implementation of the Reform Agenda of each Beneficiary by putting payment conditions on the release of funds. These payment conditions shall apply to funds under Article 6(2) point (a) and Article

Amendment

The Facility shall incentivise the implementation of the Reform Agenda of each Beneficiary by putting payment conditions on the release of funds. These payment conditions shall apply to funds under Article 6(2) point (a) and Article

6(3) and shall take the form of qualitative or quantitative steps. Such steps shall reflect progress on specific socio-economic reforms, including on fundamentals of the enlargement process and rule of law, linked to the achievement of the different objectives of the Facility, set out in Article 3, consistent with the latest Enlargement Package.

6(3) and shall take the form of *measurable* qualitative or quantitative steps *and be linked to the achievement of concrete milestones and targets*. Such steps shall reflect progress on specific socio-economic reforms, including on fundamentals of the enlargement process and rule of law, linked to the achievement of the different objectives of the Facility, set out in Article 3, consistent with the latest Enlargement Package.

Or. en

Amendment 461

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Facility shall incentivise the implementation of the Reform Agenda of each Beneficiary by putting payment conditions on the release of funds. These payment conditions shall apply to funds under Article 6(2) point (a) and Article 6(3) and shall take the form of qualitative or quantitative steps. Such steps shall reflect progress on specific socio-economic reforms, including on fundamentals of the enlargement process *and* rule of law, linked to the achievement of the different objectives of the Facility, set out in Article 3, consistent with the latest Enlargement Package.

Amendment

The Facility shall incentivise the implementation of the Reform Agenda of each Beneficiary by putting payment conditions on the release of funds. These payment conditions shall apply to funds under Article 6(2) point (a) and Article 6(3) and shall take the form of qualitative or quantitative steps. Such steps shall reflect progress on specific socio-economic reforms, including on fundamentals of the enlargement process, *EU values*, rule of law, *justice and fundamental rights*, linked to the achievement of the different objectives of the Facility, set out in Article 3, consistent with the latest Enlargement Package.

Or. en

Amendment 462

Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Facility shall incentivise the implementation of the Reform Agenda of each Beneficiary by putting payment conditions on the release of funds. These payment conditions shall apply to funds under Article 6(2) point (a) and Article 6(3) and shall take the form of qualitative or quantitative steps. Such steps shall reflect progress on specific socio-economic reforms, including on fundamentals of the enlargement process and rule of law, linked to the achievement of the different objectives of the Facility, set out in Article 3, ***consistent with the latest Enlargement Package***.

Amendment

The Facility shall incentivise the implementation of the Reform Agenda of each Beneficiary by putting payment conditions on the release of funds. These payment conditions shall apply to funds under Article 6(2) point (a) and Article 6(3) and shall take the form of qualitative or quantitative steps. Such steps shall reflect progress on specific socio-economic reforms, including on fundamentals of the enlargement process and rule of law, linked to the achievement of the different objectives of the Facility, set out in Article 3.

Or. en

Amendment 463

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch, Nathalie Loiseau

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Funds under the Facility will not support activities or measures which could compromise the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Or. en

Amendment 464

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) measures constituting a coherent, comprehensive and adequately balanced response to the objectives set out in Article 3, including structural reforms, investments, and measures to ensure compliance with preconditions if appropriate;

(a) measures constituting a coherent, comprehensive and adequately balanced response to the objectives set out in Article 3, including structural reforms, investments, ***the fight against fraud, corruption and organised crime*** and measures to ensure compliance with preconditions if appropriate;

Or. en

Amendment 465

Vangelis Meimarakis

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) measures constituting a coherent, comprehensive and adequately balanced response to the objectives set out in Article 3, ***including structural reforms, investments, and measures to ensure compliance with preconditions if appropriate;***

(a) ***The Reform Agenda shall in particular set out the following elements, which shall be reasoned and substantiated: a)*** measures constituting a coherent, comprehensive and adequately balanced response to the objectives set out in Article 3

Or. en

Amendment 466

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(a) measures constituting a coherent, comprehensive and adequately balanced response to the objectives set out in Article 3, ***including structural reforms, investments,*** and measures to ensure

(a) measures constituting a coherent, comprehensive and adequately balanced response to the objectives set out in Article 3 ***in the form of milestones and targets*** and measures to ensure compliance with

compliance with preconditions if appropriate;

preconditions if appropriate;

Or. en

Amendment 467

José Manuel Fernandes, Carlos Coelho

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point a a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(aa) (aa) measure related to negotiation chapter 32, particularly public finance management and internal control, as well as on fight against fraud, together with chapters 23 and 24, particularly when it comes to justice, corruption and organised crime and chapter 8, particularly on State aid control.

Or. en

Amendment 468

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) an explanation of how the measures are consistent with the principles, strategies, plans and programmes referred to in Article 11;

(b) an explanation of how the measures are consistent with the ***general*** principles ***referred to in Article 4, as well as the requirements***, strategies, plans and programmes referred to in Article 11;

Or. en

Amendment 469

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) an explanation of the extent to which the measures are expected to contribute to climate **and** environmental objectives;

Amendment

(c) an explanation of the extent to which the measures are expected to contribute to climate, **biodiversity and environmental as well as higher animal welfare standards objectives of Beneficiaries, how these measures are adhering to the EU climate acquis and how the measures shall contribute to the achievement of the overall target of ensuring that at least 50 % of the financial envelope shall contribute to the green transition or to addressing the challenges resulting therefrom, as well as an explanation of how the Reform Agendas ensures that no measure for the implementation of reforms and investments included in the Reform Agendas does no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (the principle of ‘do no significant harm’), as well as how the measures contribute to inclusive social convergence objectives;**

Or. en

Amendment 470

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) an explanation of the extent to which the measures are expected to **contribute to climate and environmental objectives;**

Amendment

(c) an explanation of the extent to which the measures are expected to **ensure tangible progress towards EU social and economic standards, reduce inequalities and reinforce social cohesion;**

Amendment 471

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Stelios Kouloglou
on behalf of The Left Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) an explanation of the extent to which the measures ***are expected to*** contribute to climate and environmental objectives;

Amendment

(c) an explanation of the extent to which the measures contribute to ***social***, climate and environmental objectives;

Amendment 472

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) an explanation of how Beneficiaries have taken utmost care to avoid, report and counter any corrupt practices, favouritism or undue regional or sectoral concentration of resource allocation, as well as an explanation of which measures the Beneficiaries have taken to fight against fraud, any types of corruption including high level corruption, any types of nepotism and favouritism and conflicts of interests, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion, tax avoidance and tax fraud and to ensure compliance with international law;

Amendment 473

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point c b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cb) an explanation of the measures taken by the Beneficiaries to strengthen the freedom of media and academic freedom and to ensure an enabling environment for civil society;

Or. en

Amendment 474

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point c c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cc) An explanation of how the measures under the Reform Agendas ensure effective protection of whistleblowers;

Or. en

Amendment 475

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(d) for the reforms and investments, an indicative timetable, and the envisaged

(d) for the reforms and investments, an indicative timetable, and the envisaged

payment conditions for release of funds in the form of qualitative and quantitative steps to be implemented by 31 August 2027 at the latest;

payment conditions for release of funds in the form of **measurable** qualitative and quantitative steps **in the form of concrete milestones and targets** to be implemented by 31 August 2027 at the latest;

Or. en

Amendment 476
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests and to enforce State aid control rules;

Amendment

(f) an explanation of the Beneficiary's system **and planned measures** to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption, **high-level corruption** and conflicts of interests and to enforce State aid control rules, **and the proposed measures to address existing deficiencies in the first years of the implementation of the Reform Agenda**;

Or. en

Amendment 477
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests and to enforce State aid control rules;

Amendment

(f) an explanation of the Beneficiary's system to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests and to enforce State aid control rules **ensure an adequate level of protection of the EU financial interests by applying comparable standards as**

*provided for in Regulation (EU, Euratom)
2018/1046;*

Or. en

Amendment 478
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fa) an explanation of the extent to which the measures are expected to contribute to: - the transition of the Beneficiaries towards sustainable, climate-neutral and climate resilient and inclusive economies by improving regional connectivity, making progress on the twin transition of green and digital, including biodiversity, and boosting innovation, education and skills and the wider labour market; - gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including the protection and promotion of women's and girls' rights in line with EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions;

Or. en

Amendment 479
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fa) an explanation of how the Reform Agendas ensure that the measures will promote the digital transformation as an

enabler for inclusive sustainable development and boost innovation, particularly for SMEs and start-ups and in support of the green and digital transitions and how it will boost quality and inclusive education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies as well as to social cohesion, equality and inclusion of vulnerable groups;

Or. en

Amendment 480

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fa) provisions facilitating transparency and accountability through the means of easy public access to information related to the distribution of Facility funds.

Or. en

Amendment 481

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fb) an explanation of how the measures under the Reforms Agendas are expected to promote gender equality, gender mainstreaming and the overall empowerment of women and girls, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of

persons belonging to minorities including the Roma community, LGBTQI+ people and different vulnerable groups;

Or. en

Amendment 482

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fb) an explanation on how the measures are compatible with the principles of ‘do no significant harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’;

Or. en

Amendment 483

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fc) An explanation of how the measures under the Reforms Agendas reinforce the democratic institutions including regional and municipal representative bodies, and their powers of oversight and inquiry over the distribution of and access to public funds, the effectiveness of public administration and support of transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control;

Or. en

Amendment 484

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fd) an explanation of and how the Beneficiaries support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries as well as how they work towards good neighbourly relations and sustainable reconciliation to overcome the legacies of the past, including but not limited to ensuring access to truth and justice, as well as effective reparations to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;

Or. en

Amendment 485

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 1 – point f e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(fe) An explanation of how the measures under the Reforms Agendas support political and administrative decentralisation and local development, especially by ensuring meaningful consultation and meaningful participation of regional and local authorities as well as civil society organisations and experts in legislative and decision- making processes ensuring democratic accountability and public scrutiny; improvement of

*interoperability between the public sector
and the speeding-up of the digital
transformation;*

Or. en

Amendment 486

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 13 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Reform Agendas shall be results-based and include indicators for assessing progress towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives set out in. These indicators shall be based, where appropriate and relevant, on internationally agreed indicators and those already available related to Beneficiaries' policies. Indicators shall also be coherent to the extent possible, with the key corporate indicators included in the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) Results Framework, in the EFSD+ Results Measurement Framework and in the WBIF.

Amendment

2. The Reform Agendas shall be results-based and include indicators for assessing progress towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives set out in. These indicators shall be based, where appropriate and relevant, on internationally agreed indicators and those already available related to Beneficiaries' policies. Indicators shall also be coherent to the extent possible, with the key corporate indicators included in the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA III) Results Framework, in the EFSD+ Results Measurement Framework and in the WBIF ***and shall also include indicators on consultation and transparency.***

Or. en

Amendment 487

Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall assess the relevance, comprehensiveness and

Amendment

1. The Commission shall assess the relevance, comprehensiveness and

appropriateness of each Beneficiary's Reform Agenda or, where applicable, any amendment to that Agenda, without undue delay. When carrying out its assessment, the Commission shall act in close cooperation with the Beneficiary concerned, and may make observations *or* seek additional information.

appropriateness of each Beneficiary's Reform Agenda or, where applicable, any amendment to that Agenda, without undue delay. When carrying out its assessment, the Commission shall act in close cooperation with the Beneficiary concerned, and may make observations, seek additional information *or require the Beneficiary to review and modify that Agenda.*

Or. en

Amendment 488

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall assess the relevance, comprehensiveness and appropriateness of each Beneficiary's Reform Agenda or, where applicable, any amendment to that Agenda, without undue delay. When carrying out its assessment, the Commission shall act in close cooperation with the Beneficiary concerned, and may make observations or seek additional information.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall assess the relevance, comprehensiveness and appropriateness of each Beneficiary's Reform Agenda or, where applicable, any amendment to that Agenda, without undue delay. When carrying out its assessment, the Commission shall act in close cooperation with the Beneficiary concerned, and may make observations, *require to review and/or modify* or seek additional information.

Or. en

Amendment 489

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall assess the relevance, comprehensiveness and

Amendment

1. The Commission shall assess the relevance, comprehensiveness and

appropriateness of each Beneficiary's Reform Agenda or, where applicable, any amendment to that Agenda, without undue delay. When carrying out its assessment, the Commission shall act in close cooperation with the Beneficiary concerned, and may make observations *or* seek additional information.

appropriateness of each Beneficiary's Reform Agenda or, where applicable, any amendment to that Agenda, without undue delay. When carrying out its assessment, the Commission shall act in close cooperation with the Beneficiary concerned, and may make observations, seek additional information *or request modifications*.

Or. en

Amendment 490

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) whether the Reform Agenda represents a relevant, comprehensive, coherent and adequately balanced response to the objectives set out in Article 3;

Amendment

(a) whether the Reform Agenda represents a relevant, comprehensive, coherent and adequately balanced response to the objectives set out in Article 3, *as well as the general principles referred to in Article 4* ;

Or. en

Amendment 491

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) whether the Reform Agenda can be expected to accelerate progress towards bridging the socio-economic gap between the Beneficiary and the Union, and thereby enhances their economic, social and environmental development *and* supports the convergence towards the Union's

Amendment

(b) whether the Reform Agenda can be expected to accelerate progress towards bridging the socio-economic gap between the Beneficiary and the Union, and thereby enhances their economic, social and environmental development, supports the convergence towards the Union's standards

standards;

reduces inequalities and reinforces social cohesion;

Or. en

Amendment 492

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) whether the arrangements proposed by the Beneficiaries will be sufficient to avoid, report and counter any corrupt practices, favouritism or undue regional or sectoral concentration of resource allocation;

Or. en

Amendment 493

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh, Michael Kauch

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(c) whether the Reform Agenda can be expected to accelerate the transition of the Beneficiaries towards sustainable, climate-neutral and climate resilient and inclusive economies by improving regional connectivity, making progress on the twin transition of green and digital, including biodiversity, and boosting innovation, education and skills and the wider labour market;

(c) whether the Reform Agenda can be expected to accelerate the transition of the Beneficiaries towards sustainable, climate-neutral and climate resilient and inclusive economies by improving regional connectivity, making progress on the twin transition of green and digital, including biodiversity, *reducing strategic dependencies* and boosting *research and* innovation, education and skills and the wider labour market, *with particular attention on youth*;

Or. en

Amendment 494

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) whether the reforms and investments in the Reform Agenda can be expected to contribute to the achievement of the overall target of ensuring the contribution of at least 50 % of the financial envelope to the climate and the environment calculated in accordance with Annex VI of Regulation 2021/241 Establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility and thus to the green transition or to addressing the challenges resulting therefrom, as well how the Reform Agendas ensures that no measure for the implementation of reforms and investments included does significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (the principle of ‘do no significant harm’) and does not finance stranded assets; as well as whether the reforms and investment in the Reform Agenda can be expected to contribute to the achievement of inclusive social convergence objectives;

Or. en

Amendment 495

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) whether the Reform Agenda is

expected to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and seeks to protect and promote women's and girls' rights in line with the EU Gender Action Plans and relevant Council conclusions and international conventions;

Or. en

Amendment 496

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point c b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cb) whether the arrangements have taken utmost care to avoid, report and counter any corrupt practices, favouritism or undue regional or sectoral concentration of resource allocation, as well as whether the Reform Agenda strengthens the fight against fraud, any types of corruption including high level corruption, any types of nepotism and favouritism and conflicts of interests, organised crime and money laundering and terrorism financing, tax evasion, tax avoidance and tax fraud and ensures compliance with international law;

Or. en

Amendment 497

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point c b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cb) whether the measures included in

Reform Agenda are compatible with the principles of ‘do no significant harm’ and of ‘leaving no one behind’

Or. en

Amendment 498

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point c c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cc) whether the Reform Agenda can be expected to sufficiently achieve the strengthening of the freedom of media and academic freedom and to ensure an enabling environment for civil society;

Or. en

Amendment 499

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point c d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(cd) whether the Reform Agendas ensure that its measures will promote the digital transformation as an enabler for sustainable development and inclusive development and boost innovation, particularly for SMEs and start-ups and in support of the green and digital transitions and how it will boost quality and inclusive education, training, reskilling and upskilling, and employment policies and contribute to the objectives of social cohesion, equality and the inclusion of vulnerable groups;

Amendment 500

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point c e (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ce) whether the measures under the Reforms Agendas are expected to promote gender equality, gender mainstreaming and the overall empowerment of women and girls, non-discrimination and tolerance, to ensure and strengthen respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities including the Roma community and LGBTQI+ people;

Amendment 501

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point g

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(g) whether the arrangements proposed by the Beneficiary are expected to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests, when using the funds provided under the Facility, and ensure that there is no double funding from the Facility and other Union programmes as well as other donors from the Facility and other Union programmes as well as other donors.

(g) whether the arrangements proposed by the Beneficiary are expected to effectively prevent, detect and correct irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests ***and achieve an adequate level of protection of EU financial interests by applying at least comparable standards as provided for in Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046,*** when using the funds provided under the Facility, and ensure that there is no double funding from the Facility and other Union programmes as well as other donors from

the Facility and other Union programmes
as well as other donors.

Or. en

Amendment 502

Francisco Guerreiro, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point g a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ga) whether the measures under the Reform Agendas reinforce the democratic institutions including regional and municipal representative bodies, and their powers of oversight and inquiry over the distribution of and access to public funds, the effectiveness of the public administration and support of transparency, structural reforms and good governance at all levels, including in the areas of public financial management and public procurement and State aid control;

Or. en

Amendment 503

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point g b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(gb) whether the Reform Agendas support initiatives and bodies involved in supporting and enforcing international justice in the Western Balkans Beneficiaries as well as work towards good neighbourly relations and sustainable reconciliation to overcome the

legacies of the past, including but not limited to ensuring access to truth and justice, as well as effective reparations to victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;

Or. en

Amendment 504

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point g c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(gc) whether the Reform Agendas support political and administrative decentralisation and local development, especially by ensuring meaningful consultation and meaningful participation of regional and local authorities as well as civil society organisations and experts in legislative and decision-making processes ensuring democratic accountability and public scrutiny;

Or. en

Amendment 505

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 3 – point g d (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(gd) whether the Reform Agendas measures ensure effective protection of whistleblowers;

Or. en

Amendment 506
José Manuel Fernandes, Carlos Coelho

Proposal for a regulation
Article 14 – paragraph 4 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. 4a. The Commission shall request the Beneficiary to review and/or modify the Reform Agendas to address the potential risks when the outcomes of its assessment reveals that some or all criteria as stated in Article 14 (3) are not met. Such a revision would be aligned with the approval process for the cross-border programmes in which the Western Balkan countries participate.

Or. en

Amendment 507
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – title

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Commission ***implementing decision***

Commission ***delegated act***

Or. en

Amendment 508
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a regulation
Article 15 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. In case of a positive assessment, the ***Commission*** shall approve by means of an

1. In case of a positive assessment, the ***Council*** shall approve by means of an

implementing decision the Reform Agenda submitted by the Beneficiary, in accordance with Article 14 or, where applicable, of its amendment submitted in accordance with Article 16. That implementing decision shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

implementing decision the Reform Agenda submitted by the Beneficiary, in accordance with Article 14 or, where applicable, of its amendment submitted in accordance with Article 16. That implementing decision shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

Or. fr

Amendment 509

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation **Article 15 – paragraph 1**

Text proposed by the Commission

1. In case of a positive assessment, the Commission shall approve by means of ***an implementing decision*** the Reform Agenda submitted by the Beneficiary, in accordance with Article 14 or, where applicable, of its amendment submitted in accordance with Article 16. That implementing decision shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

Amendment

1. In case of a positive assessment, the Commission shall approve by means of ***a delegated act*** the Reform Agenda submitted by the Beneficiary, in accordance with Article 14 or, where applicable, of its amendment submitted in accordance with Article 16. That implementing decision shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 27(2).

Or. en

Amendment 510 **Sunčana Glavak**

Proposal for a regulation **Article 15 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission implementing decision ***shall set out the*** reforms to be implemented by the Beneficiary, ***the*** investment areas ***to*** be supported ***and*** the

Amendment

2. The Commission Implementing Decision ***will precisely outline the necessary*** reforms to be implemented by the Beneficiary, ***identify the specific***

payment conditions *stemming from* the Reform *Agenda*, including the indicative timetable.

investment areas *that will* be supported, *and detail* the conditions *under which payments will be made*. This Decision will serve as a critical instrument in guiding the Beneficiary's actions towards the fulfilment of the agreed-upon objectives and ensuring accountability and progress in the reform process.

Or. en

Amendment 511

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation **Article 15 – paragraph 2**

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission *implementing decision* shall set out the reforms to be implemented by the Beneficiary, the investment areas to be supported and the payment conditions stemming from the Reform Agenda, including the indicative timetable.

Amendment

2. The Commission *delegated act* shall set out the reforms to be implemented by the Beneficiary, the investment areas to be supported and the payment conditions stemming from the Reform Agenda, including the indicative timetable.

Or. en

Amendment 512

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation **Article 15 – paragraph 3 – introductory part**

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission *implementing decision* shall also lay down:

Amendment

3. The Commission *delegated act* shall also lay down:

Or. en

Amendment 513

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 15 – paragraph 3 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) the arrangements and timetable for monitoring, reporting and implementation of the Reform Agenda including, where relevant, measures necessary for complying with Article 24;

Amendment

(d) the arrangements and timetable for monitoring, reporting and implementation of the Reform Agenda, ***in particular the involvement of national parliaments of the beneficiary countries and other stakeholders*** including, where relevant, measures necessary for complying with Article 24;

Or. en

Amendment 514

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission may amend the ***implementing decision***, in particular to take into account a change of the amounts available in line with the principles under Article 21.

Amendment

2. The Commission may, ***after informing the European Parliament and the Council***, amend the ***delegated act***, in particular to take into account a change of the amounts available in line with the principles under Article 21.

Or. en

Amendment 515

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. The Commission may amend the ***implementing decision***, in particular to take into account a change of the amounts available in line with the principles under Article 21.

2. The Commission may amend the ***delegated act***, in particular to take into account a change of the amounts available in line with the principles under Article 21.

Or. en

Amendment 516

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Where the Commission considers that the reasons put forward by the Beneficiary justify an amendment to the Reform Agenda, the Commission shall assess the amended Agenda in accordance with Article 14 and may amend the ***implementing decision*** referred to in Article 15(1) without undue delay.

Amendment

3. Where the Commission considers that the reasons put forward by the Beneficiary justify an amendment to the Reform Agenda, the Commission shall assess the amended Agenda in accordance with Article 14 and may amend the ***delegated act*** referred to in Article 15(1) without undue delay.

Or. en

Amendment 517

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 16 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Where the Commission considers that the reasons put forward by the Beneficiary justify an amendment to the Reform Agenda, the Commission shall assess the amended Agenda in accordance with Article 14 and may amend the ***implementing decision*** referred to in Article 15(1) without undue delay.

Amendment

3. Where the Commission considers that the reasons put forward by the Beneficiary justify an amendment to the Reform Agenda, the Commission shall assess the amended Agenda in accordance with Article 14 and may amend the ***delegated act*** referred to in Article 15(1) without undue delay.

Amendment 518
Eric Minardi, Joachim Kuhs

Proposal for a regulation
Article 17 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. In order to finance the support under the Facility in the form of loans, the Commission shall be empowered, on behalf of the Union, to borrow the necessary funds on the capital markets or from financial institutions in accordance with Article 220a of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

deleted

Amendment 519
Sunčana Glavak

Proposal for a regulation
Article 17 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The Commission shall enter into a loan agreement with **the** Beneficiary. **The loan agreement shall lay down the maximum loan amount, the availability period and the detailed terms and conditions of the support under the Facility in the form of loans.** The loans shall have maximum duration of 40 years as of the signature of the loan agreement.

In accordance with the objectives of the Facility, the European Commission shall enter into a loan agreement with **each** Beneficiary. **This agreement will serve as the legal basis for the provision of financial support, detailing the commitments of both parties and ensuring the effective and efficient use of the funds in alignment with the Facility's goals.** The loans shall have maximum duration of 40 years as of the signature of the loan agreement.

Amendment 520
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Article 17 – paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall enter into a loan agreement with the Beneficiary. The loan agreement shall lay down the maximum loan amount, the availability period and the detailed terms and conditions of the support under the Facility in the form of loans. The loans shall have maximum duration of **40** years as of the signature of the loan agreement.

Amendment

The Commission shall enter into a loan agreement with the Beneficiary. The loan agreement shall lay down the maximum loan amount, the availability period and the detailed terms and conditions of the support under the Facility in the form of loans. The loans shall have maximum duration of **35** years as of the signature of the loan agreement.

Or. en

Amendment 521
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation
Article 19 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. At least **37%** of the non-repayable financial support channelled through the WBIF shall account to climate objectives.

Amendment

4. At least **50%** of the non-repayable financial support channelled through the WBIF shall account to climate objectives, ***calculated in accordance with Annex VI of Regulation 2021/241 Establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility.***

Or. en

Amendment 522
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Article 21 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall **assess** ***without undue delay*** whether the Beneficiary has achieved satisfactory fulfilment of the payment conditions set out in the Commission implementing decision referred to in Article 15(1). The satisfactory fulfilment of these payment conditions shall presuppose that measures related to the same reforms for which the Beneficiary had achieved satisfactory fulfilment in prior decisions have not been reversed by the Beneficiary. The Commission may be assisted by experts.

Amendment

2. The Commission shall ***develop in cooperation with the legislators guidelines on assessing*** whether the Beneficiary has achieved satisfactory fulfilment of the payment conditions set out in the Commission implementing decision referred to in Article 15(1) ***on the basis of information received by the Beneficiary and if available any relevant data submitted by the authorities of EU Member States, OLAF and the European Court of Auditors.*** The satisfactory fulfilment of these payment conditions shall presuppose that measures related to the same reforms for which the Beneficiary had achieved satisfactory fulfilment in prior decisions have not been reversed by the Beneficiary. The Commission may be assisted by experts.

Or. en

Amendment 523
Emmanuel Maurel

Proposal for a regulation
Article 21 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission shall assess without undue delay whether the Beneficiary has achieved satisfactory fulfilment of the payment conditions set out in the ***Commission*** implementing decision referred to in Article 15(1). The satisfactory fulfilment of these payment conditions shall presuppose that measures related to the same reforms for which the Beneficiary had achieved satisfactory fulfilment in prior decisions have not been reversed by the Beneficiary. The Commission may be assisted by experts.

Amendment

2. The Commission shall assess without undue delay whether the Beneficiary has achieved satisfactory fulfilment of the payment conditions set out in the ***Council*** implementing decision referred to in Article 15(1). The satisfactory fulfilment of these payment conditions shall presuppose that measures related to the same reforms for which the Beneficiary had achieved satisfactory fulfilment in prior decisions have not been reversed by the Beneficiary. The Commission may be assisted by experts.

Or. fr

Amendment 524

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Where the Commission makes a positive assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of all applicable conditions, it shall adopt without undue delay a decision authorising the release of funds corresponding to these conditions. That decision shall, in accordance with the split established in Article 6(4), set the amount of funds to be made available as financial assistance, channelled directly to the national budget and the amount to be made available through the WBIF. In respect of those amounts, the decision shall constitute the condition referred to in Article 12 for the amount of funds to be made available as financial assistance channelled directly to the national budget and the preliminary validation referred to in Article 12 for the amount to be made available through the WBIF.

Amendment

3. Where the Commission makes a positive assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of all applicable conditions, it shall adopt without undue delay a decision authorising the release of funds corresponding to these conditions. ***The Commission shall share its assessment and consult with the European Parliament and the Council prior to adopting its decision.*** That decision shall, in accordance with the split established in Article 6(4), set the amount of funds to be made available as financial assistance, channelled directly to the national budget and the amount to be made available through the WBIF. In respect of those amounts, the decision shall constitute the condition referred to in Article 12 for the amount of funds to be made available as financial assistance channelled directly to the national budget and the preliminary validation referred to in Article 12 for the amount to be made available through the WBIF.

Or. en

Amendment 525

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. The Commission may reduce the

Amendment

7. The Commission may reduce the

amount of the non-repayable financial support, including by offsetting in line with Article 102 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, or of the loan, in the event of identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreements or from the Loan Agreements, including on the basis of information provided by OLAF.

amount of the non-repayable financial support, including by offsetting in line with Article 102 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, or of the loan, in the event of identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreements or from the Loan Agreements, including on the basis of information provided by OLAF.

Information about such decisions needs to be transferred to the European Parliament and the Council.

Or. en

Amendment 526
Angel Dzhambazki

Proposal for a regulation
Article 21 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. The Commission may reduce the amount of the non-repayable financial support, including by offsetting in line with Article 102 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, or of the loan, in the event of identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreements or from the Loan Agreements, including on the basis of information provided by OLAF.

Amendment

7. The Commission may reduce the amount of the non-repayable financial support, including by offsetting in line with Article 102 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, or of the loan, in the event of identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreements or from the Loan Agreements, including on the basis of information provided by ***OLAF or by the reports of the European Court of Auditors.***

Or. en

Amendment 527

David Lega

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. The Commission may reduce the amount of the non-repayable financial support, including by offsetting in line with Article 102 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, or of the loan, in the event of identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreements or from the Loan Agreements, including on the basis of information provided by OLAF.

Amendment

7. The Commission may reduce the amount of the non-repayable financial support, including by offsetting in line with Article 102 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, or of the loan, in the event of identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreements or from the Loan Agreements, including on the basis of information provided by OLAF **and the European Court of Auditors**.

Or. en

Amendment 528

Fabienne Keller, Javier Nart, Olivier Chastel, Katalin Cseh

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. The Commission may reduce the amount of the non-repayable financial support, including by offsetting in line with Article 102 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, or of the loan, in the event of identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreements or from the Loan Agreements, including on the basis of

Amendment

7. The Commission may reduce the amount of the non-repayable financial support, including by offsetting in line with Article 102 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, or of the loan, in the event of identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreements or from the Loan Agreements, including on the basis of

information provided by OLAF.

information provided by OLAF *and the European Court of Auditors' reports.*

Or. en

Amendment 529

José Manuel Fernandes, Carlos Coelho

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 7

Text proposed by the Commission

7. The Commission may reduce the amount of the non-repayable financial support, including by offsetting in line with Article 102 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, or of the loan, in the event of identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreements or from the Loan Agreements, including on the basis of information provided by OLAF.

Amendment

7. 7. The Commission may reduce the amount of the non-repayable financial support, including by offsetting in line with Article 102 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, or of the loan, in the event of identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, irregularities, fraud, corruption and conflicts of interests affecting the financial interests of the Union that have not been corrected by the Beneficiary, or a serious breach of an obligation resulting from the Facility Agreements or from the Loan Agreements, including on the basis of information provided by OLAF *and/or the European Court of Auditors.*

Or. en

Amendment 530

Željana Zovko

Proposal for a regulation

Article 21 – paragraph 8

Text proposed by the Commission

8. The Commission may decide to redistribute any amount reduced pursuant to paragraph 6 or 7 among other Beneficiaries of the Facility by amending the implementing decisions referred to in Article 15(1).

Amendment

8. The Commission may decide to redistribute any amount reduced pursuant to paragraph 6 or 7 among other Beneficiaries of the Facility by amending the implementing decisions referred to in Article 15(1). *The Commission should*

focus on enhancing absorptive capacities, providing technical assistance to beneficiaries lacking in this regard, to prevent them from lagging behind in the enlargement process.

Or. en

Amendment 531

José Manuel Fernandes, Carlos Coelho

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Facility Agreement shall provide for the following obligations of the Beneficiary:

Amendment

2. 2. The Facility Agreement **and loan agreements** shall provide for the following obligations of the Beneficiary:

Or. en

Amendment 532

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) take appropriate measures to prevent, detect and correct fraud, corruption, conflicts of interests and irregularities affecting the financial interests of the Union, to avoid double funding and to take legal actions to recover funds that have been misappropriated, including in relation to any measure for the implementation of reforms and investment projects or programmes under the Reform Agendas;

Amendment

(b) take appropriate measures to prevent, detect and correct fraud, corruption, conflicts of interests and irregularities affecting the financial interests of the Union, to **detect and** avoid double funding and to take legal actions to recover funds that have been misappropriated, including in relation to any measure for the implementation of reforms and investment projects or programmes under the Reform Agendas;

Or. en

Amendment 533

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) for the purpose of paragraph 1 of this Article, in particular for checks on the use of funds in relation to the implementation of reforms in the Reform Agendas, to ensure the collection of, and access to, adequate data on persons and entities receiving funding for the implementation of measures of the Reform Agenda under chapter III;

Amendment

(c) for the purpose of paragraph 1 of this Article, in particular for checks on the use of funds in relation to the implementation of reforms in the Reform Agendas, to ensure the collection of, and access to, ***in compliance with EU data protection principles and with applicable data protection rules***, adequate data on persons and entities receiving funding, ***including beneficial ownership information***, for the implementation of measures of the Reform Agenda under chapter III;

Or. en

Amendment 534

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 2 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) insert all information related to project implementation, in particular concerning performance and financial implementation in an interoperable information system provided by the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 535

Klemen Grošelj, Javier Nart, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 2 – point d a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(da) expressly authorise the EPPO to exert its rights as provided for in Regulation 2017/1939.

Or. en

Amendment 536

Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 2 – point d b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(db) (db) for the purpose of audit, control and discharge:

(i) to maintain, and ensure access by the competent Union audit and control institutions and bodies:

- detailed records on the implementation measures adopted, including information on national award procedures and contracts with intermediaries and recipients, indicating if applicable the total amount of any national co-financing, other national contributions, or other contributions under the Western Balkans Facility or under other Union funds; and - evidence showing the correlation between the grants, non-repayable financial support or loans received and the costs incurred for the achievement of indicators.

Or. en

Amendment 537

Željana Zovko

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 22 – paragraph 4 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. The beneficiary countries shall ensure the full functioning of the Public Internal Financial Control framework. In that respect, they shall ensure adequate staffings in the whole PIFC system in order to enable a sufficient level of audit on one hand and full respect of audit findings on the other. The European Court of Auditors shall be enabled to perform an annual system audit as well as an annual report over the functioning of the PIFC in beneficiary countries.

Or. en

**Amendment 538
Georgios Kyrtos, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius**

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 22 – paragraph 4 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

4a. Persons and entities implementing funds under the Facility, as well as persons knowledgeable about the implementation process, shall be able to report the cases of alleged corruption, fraud, irregularities and maladministration through a dedicated digital tool, with the relevant whistleblower protection provisions.

Or. en

**Amendment 539
Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group**

Proposal for a regulation
Article 22 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 22a

Audit Board

- 1. The Commission shall establish an Audit Board before the submission by the Western Balkans Beneficiaries of the first payment request.***
- 2. The Audit Board shall be composed of independent members appointed by the Commission. Representatives of Member States and other donors may be invited by the Commission to participate in the activities of the Audit Board.***
- 3. At least one-fifth of the Audit Board should be composed of Beneficiaries' nationals, given they have proven high professional competence and integrity and have no personal or professional affiliation to Beneficiaries' authorities or officials as well as demonstrably independent international experts with a proven track record of understanding of the Beneficiaries' economy and political system.***
- 4. The Audit Board shall exercise its functions in complete objectivity and operate in compliance with best applicable international practices and standards. It shall act without prejudice to the powers of the Commission, OLAF, the Court of Auditors and, where applicable, the EPPO.***
- 5. The Audit Board shall appoint an independent external auditor that provides an annual statement of assurance on the declarations by the Beneficiaries authorities that accompany a request for payment. It shall also approve the annual work plan of the independent external auditor.***

6. The Audit Board shall decide on recommendations to the Commission and the Beneficiaries' authorities on amounts to be recovered following the findings of the independent external auditor, and inform the Commission and the Beneficiaries' authorities of those recommendations.

7. The Audit Board shall ensure regular dialogue and cooperation with the European Court of Auditors.

8. In carrying out their duties, the Audit Board, its members and its staff shall neither seek nor take instructions from the Beneficiaries' governments or any institution, body, office or agency. Strong guarantees of independence shall apply for the selection of its staff, management and budget.

9. The Audit Board shall assist the Commission in fighting mismanagement of Union funding under the Facility and in particular fraud, corruption, conflict of interests and irregularities incurred in relation to any amount spent to achieve the objectives of the Facility.

10. For that purpose, the Audit Board shall regularly report to the Commission and the relevant committees of the European Parliament and the Council, and transmit to the Commission without delay any information it obtains or is made aware of, on any identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, mismanagement of public funding incurred in relation with any amount spent to achieve the objectives of the Facility, including its performance. In accordance with Article 24(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the Audit Board shall report to the EPPO any criminal conduct in respect of which the latter could exercise its competence. In accordance with Article 24(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the Audit Board shall report to the EPPO any criminal conduct in respect of which the

latter could exercise its competence. In addition, the Audit Board shall adopt recommendations to the Beneficiaries on all cases where in its view competent Beneficiaries' authorities have not taken the necessary steps to prevent, detect and correct fraud, corruption, conflict of interests and irregularities that have affected or seriously risk affecting the sound financial management of the expenditure financed under the Facility and in all cases where it identifies weaknesses affecting the design and functioning of the control system put in place by the Beneficiaries' authorities. The Beneficiaries shall implement such recommendations, or provide a justification on why it has not done so. The reports of, and information from, the Audit Board shall also be sent to OLAF, and where applicable to the EPPO, and may be shared with the relevant Beneficiaries' authorities, especially in case they need to take steps to prevent, detect and correct fraud, corruption, conflict of interests and irregularities, including its performance, as well as to investigate and prosecute criminal offences affecting the financial interests of the Union.

11. The Audit Board shall have access to information, databases and registries required to carry out its tasks. The facility agreement referred to in Article 9 shall define rules and details for the access to relevant information by the Audit Board and the provision of relevant information by the Beneficiaries to the Audit Board.

12. The Audit Board may assist the Commission in supporting the Beneficiaries with capacity building activities in the field of fight against mismanagement of public funding. 13. The functioning of the Audit Board shall be funded under Article 6 paragraph 2 (b), including the funding for the appointed independent external auditor.

Amendment 540
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Article 22 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 22a

Audit Board

- 1. The Commission shall establish an Audit Board before the submission by the Western Balkans Beneficiaries of the first payment request.***
- 2. The Audit Board shall be composed of independent members appointed by the Commission. Representatives of Member States and other donors may be invited by the Commission to participate in the activities of the Audit Board.***
- 3. The Audit Board shall exercise its functions in complete objectivity and operate in compliance with applicable international practices and standards. It shall act without prejudice to the powers of the Commission, OLAF, the Court of Auditors and the EPPO.***
- 4. The Audit Board shall ensure regular dialogue and cooperation with the European Court of Auditors, as well with the Supreme Audit Institutions of the Western Balkans Countries.***
- 5. In carrying out their duties, the Audit Board, its members and its staff shall neither seek nor take instructions from the Beneficiaries' governments or any institution, body, office or agency. Strong guarantees of independence shall apply for the selection of its staff, management and budget.***
- 6. The Audit Board shall assist the Commission in fighting mismanagement***

of Union funding under the Facility and in particular fraud, corruption, conflict of interests and irregularities incurred in relation to any amount spent to achieve the objectives of the Facility.

7. For that purpose, the Audit Board shall regularly report to the Commission and the relevant committees of the European Parliament and the Council, and transmit to the Commission without delay any information it obtains or is made aware of, on any identified cases of, or serious concerns in relation to, mismanagement of public funding incurred in relation with any amount spent to achieve the objectives of the Facility, including its performance. In accordance with Article 24(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1939, the Audit Board shall report to the EPPO any criminal conduct in respect of which the latter could exercise its competence. In addition, the Audit Board shall adopt recommendations to the Beneficiaries on all cases where in its view competent Beneficiaries' authorities have not taken the necessary steps to prevent, detect and correct fraud, corruption, conflict of interests and irregularities that have affected or seriously risk affecting the sound financial management of the expenditure financed under the Facility and in all cases where it identifies weaknesses affecting the design and functioning of the control system put in place by the Beneficiaries' authorities. The Beneficiaries shall implement such recommendations without undue delay, or provide a justification on why it has not done so. The reports of, and information from, the Audit Board shall also be sent to OLAF, and where applicable to the EPPO, and may be shared with the relevant Beneficiaries' authorities, especially in case they need to take steps to prevent, detect and correct fraud, corruption, conflict of interests and irregularities, , as well as to investigate and prosecute criminal offences affecting

the financial interests of the Union.

8. The Audit Board shall have access to information, databases and registries required to carry out its tasks. The facility agreement referred to in Article 9 shall define rules and details for the access to relevant information by the Audit Board and the provision of relevant information by the Beneficiaries to the Audit Board.

9. The Audit Board may assist the Commission in supporting the Beneficiaries with capacity building activities in the field of fight against mismanagement of public funding.

10. The functioning of the Audit Board shall be funded under Article 6 paragraph 2 (b), including the funding for the appointed independent external auditor.

Or. en

Amendment 541

Katalin Cseh, Fabienne Keller, Olivier Chastel

Proposal for a regulation

Article 23 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

For the part of the Facility funding paid as financial assistance, channelled directly to the Beneficiaries' national budgets, the Commission shall rely on existing and improved internal control systems of the Beneficiaries, including the National Audit Authorities and, where applicable, the Anti-Fraud Coordination Services of each Beneficiary established in the framework of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance.

Amendment

For the part of the Facility funding paid as financial assistance, channelled directly to the Beneficiaries' national budgets, the Commission shall rely on existing and improved internal control systems of the Beneficiaries, including the National Audit Authorities and, where applicable, the Anti-Fraud Coordination Services of each Beneficiary established in the framework of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance ***as well as on local civilian oversight, facilitated by transparency measures in line with EU standards.***

Or. en

Amendment 542

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The Commission shall provide an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on progress towards the achievement of the objectives of this Regulation.

Amendment

3. The Commission shall provide an annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on progress towards the achievement of the objectives of this Regulation *and the adherence to the general principles in Article 4.*

Or. en

Amendment 543

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 24a

Western Balkans Facility Regular dialogue

1. In order to enhance the dialogue between the Union institutions, in particular the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, and to ensure greater transparency and accountability, the competent committees of the European Parliament may invite the Commission and the relevant EU authorities and agencies every 6 months to discuss the following matters:

(a) the state of implementation of the Facility

(b) the status and assessment of the

Facility Agreement;

(c) the status of the involvement of all stakeholders, especially the national Parliaments

(d) the main findings of the monitoring activities defined in this Regulation, including the annual report as defined in Article 24;

(e) the status of fulfilment of the milestones and targets of the Facility Agreements;

(f) payment, suspension and emergency procedures, including any observation presented and remedial measures taken by Beneficiaries to ensure a satisfactory fulfilment of the milestones and targets;

(g) any other relevant information and documentation provided by the Commission to the competent committee of the European Parliament in relation to the implementation of the Facility.

2. The European Parliament may express its views in resolutions as regards the matters referred to in paragraph 1.

3. The Commission shall take into account any elements arising from the views expressed through the Western Balkans Facility Regular dialogue, including the resolutions from the European Parliament if provided, also in its assessments and drafts Council Implementing Decisions.

4. The scoreboard referred to in Article XX may serve as a basis for the dialogue.

Or. en

Amendment 544
Eider Gardiazabal Rubial

Proposal for a regulation
Article 24 a (new)

Article 24a

WBF Scoreboard

- 1. The Commission shall establish a WBF scoreboard (the ‘Scoreboard’), which shall display the progress of the implementation of the reform agendas of the beneficiaries in each of objectives referred to in Article 3. The Scoreboard shall constitute the performance reporting system of the Facility.*
- 2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt a delegated act in accordance with Article 26 to supplement this Regulation by defining the detailed elements of the Scoreboard with a view to displaying the progress of the implementation of the Facility as referred to in paragraph 1.*
- 3. The Scoreboard shall be operational by December 2024 and shall be continuously updated by the Commission, as soon as performance information and other essential documents described in article 24a.4 become available. The Scoreboard shall be made publicly available on a website or internet portal.*
- 4. The Scoreboard shall also present the key documents, such as the Reform Agenda’s, the Commission’s assessments of the Reform Agenda’s, the payment requests from the Beneficiaries, the Commission’s assessment of the fulfilment of payment conditions, the implementing decision of the reform agenda’s and the decisions authorising the release of funds.*

Or. en

Amendment 545

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 24 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 24b

Western Balkans Facility Scoreboard

- 1. The Commission shall establish a WBF scoreboard (the ‘Scoreboard’), which shall display the progress of the implementation of the reform agendas of the beneficiaries in each of objectives referred to in Article 3. The Scoreboard shall constitute the performance reporting system of the Facility.***
- 2. The Commission shall be empowered to adopt a delegated act in accordance with Article 26 to supplement this Regulation by defining the detailed elements of the Scoreboard with a view to displaying the progress of the implementation of the Facility as referred to in paragraph 1.***
- 3. The Scoreboard shall be operational by December 2024 and shall be continuously updated by the Commission, as soon as performance information and other essential documents described in article 24a.4 become available. The Scoreboard shall be made publicly available on a website or internet portal.***
- 4. The Scoreboard shall also present the key documents, such as the Reform Agenda’s, the Commission’s assessments of the Reform Agenda’s, the payment requests from the Beneficiaries, the Commission’s assessment of the fulfilment of payment conditions, the implementing decision of the reform agendas and the decisions authorising the release of funds.***
- 5. The Scoreboard shall also present information on the final recipients of funds from this Facility.***

Or. en

Amendment 546

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. After 31 December 2027, but by 31 December 2031 at the latest, the Commission shall carry out an ex-post evaluation of the Regulation. That ex-post evaluation shall assess the Union contribution to the achievement of the objectives of this Regulation.

Amendment

1. After 31 December 2027, but by 31 December 2031 at the latest, the Commission shall carry out an ex-post evaluation of the Regulation ***by means of an independent external evaluation***. That ex-post evaluation shall assess the Union contribution to the achievement of the objectives of this Regulation. ***The Commission shall take due account of proposals by the European Parliament or the Council for this independent external evaluation.***

Or. en

Amendment 547

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall communicate the findings and conclusions of this ex-post evaluation accompanied by its observations and follow-up, to the European Parliament, the Council and the Member States. This ex-post evaluation may be discussed at the request of Member States. The results shall feed into the preparation of future programmes and actions and resource allocation. This ex-post evaluation and follow-up shall be made publicly available.

Amendment

The Commission shall communicate the findings and conclusions of this ex-post evaluation accompanied by its observations and follow-up, to the European Parliament, the Council and the Member States. This ex-post evaluation may be discussed at the request of Member States ***or the European Parliament***. The results shall feed into the preparation of future programmes and actions and resource allocation. This ex-post evaluation and follow-up shall be made publicly available.

Or. en

Amendment 548

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 25 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

The Commission shall, to an appropriate extent, associate all relevant stakeholders, including Beneficiaries, social partners, civil society organisations and local authorities in the evaluation process of the Union's funding provided under this Regulation, and may, where appropriate, seek to undertake joint evaluations with the Member States and other partners with close involvement of the Beneficiaries.

Amendment

The Commission shall, to an appropriate extent, associate all relevant stakeholders, including Beneficiaries, social partners, civil society organisations **regional** and local authorities in the evaluation process of the Union's funding provided under this Regulation, and may, where appropriate, seek to undertake joint evaluations with the Member States and other partners with close involvement of the Beneficiaries.

Or. en

Amendment 549

Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Francisco Guerreiro

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Proposal for a regulation

Article 26 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in **Article 18** shall be conferred on the Commission for an indeterminate period from the date of entry into force of this Regulation.

Amendment

2. The power to adopt delegated acts referred to in **Articles 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 24** shall be conferred on the Commission for an indeterminate period from the date of entry into force of this Regulation.

Or. en

Amendment 550

Karlo Ressler

on behalf of the Committee on Budgets

**Proposal for a regulation
Article 27 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 27a

Parliamentary scrutiny

The European Parliament and the Commission shall conduct a regular dialogue in order to ensure parliamentary oversight and scrutiny over the Western Balkans Facility. This dialogue shall be conducted within the framework of the existing high-level geopolitical dialogue on the implementation of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) in order to ensure coherence between both instruments. This dialogue should allow for exchanges with the European Parliament on the state of progress in the implementation of the Facility and the Reform Agendas. The dialogue shall take place at least three times a year at appropriate moments in the implementation cycle.

Ahead of each dialogue, the Commission shall provide the Parliament with:

- 1) the state of progress in the implementation of the Facility, in particular the Reform agendas and related investments and reforms;***
- 2) the Reform Agendas, the Commission assessment thereof and any amendments of the Reform Agendas;***
- 3) information on payment withholding, reduction of funds and redistribution of funds;***
- 4) an assessment of complementarities between IPA III and the Facility for each of the measures;***
- 5) the latest detailed financial programming and any other related documents of both the Facility and of IPA***

III to allow for a coherent scrutiny of both instruments for Western Balkan countries.

Or. en

Amendment 551

Klemen Grošelj, Javier Nart, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Article 28 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The recipients of Union funding shall acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding, including, where applicable, by displaying the emblem of the Union and an appropriate funding statement that reads ‘funded by the European Union’, in particular when promoting the actions and their results, by providing coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media and the public.

Amendment

2. The recipients of Union funding, ***especially governmental and other public institutions***, shall ***actively and transparently*** acknowledge the origin and ensure the visibility of the Union funding, including, where applicable, by displaying the emblem of the Union and an appropriate funding statement that reads ‘funded by the European Union’, in particular when promoting the actions and their results, by providing coherent, effective and proportionate targeted information to multiple audiences, including the media and the public.

Or. en

Amendment 552

Klemen Grošelj, Javier Nart, Katalin Cseh, Petras Auštrevičius

Proposal for a regulation

Article 28 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The recipients’ future access to Union funding shall be conditional upon fulfilling the visibility criteria as defined in paragraph 2.

Or. en

