



Brussels, 26.3.2020  
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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 26.3.2020**

**amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 8628 approving the operational programme  
"European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme for the United  
Kingdom" for support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in the United  
Kingdom**

**CCI 2014UK14MFOP001**

(ONLY THE ENGLISH TEXT IS AUTHENTIC)

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**amending Implementing Decision C(2015) 8628 approving the operational programme "European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme for the United Kingdom" for support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund in the United Kingdom**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 2328/2003, (EC) No 861/2006, (EC) No 1198/2006 and (EC) No 791/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 1255/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 20(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) By Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 8628<sup>2</sup> the Commission approved the operational programme "European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme for the United Kingdom" for support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in the United Kingdom.
- (2) On 8 January 2020, the United Kingdom submitted, through the electronic data exchange system of the Commission, a request for an amendment to the operational programme. The request was accompanied by a revised operational programme, in which the United Kingdom proposed an amendment to the elements of the operational programme referred to in Article 18 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014 concerned, subject to Implementing Decision C(2015) 8628.
- (3) The amendment of the operational programme consists mainly in the reallocation of the corresponding amount of the performance reserve of the Union priority that has not achieved its milestone, as set out in the Commission decision C(2019) 5458<sup>3</sup>.
- (4) In accordance with Article 30(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>4</sup>, the request for the amendment to the operational

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 149, 20.5.2014, p. 1

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2015) 8628 of 30.11.2015 on approving the operational programme "European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme for the United Kingdom" for support from the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in the United Kingdom

<sup>3</sup> Commission Decision C(2019) 5458 of 19.07.2019 on determining for the United Kingdom and for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund the Union priorities which have achieved their milestones with the reference to the operational programme encoded under the following CCI number 2014UK14MFOP001.

programme is duly justified by the obligation to reallocate the corresponding amount of the performance reserve and significant strategic changes and sets out the expected impact of the changes to the programme on achieving the Union strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and the specific objectives defined in the programme taking account of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, the horizontal principles referred to in Articles 5, 7 and 8 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 and the Partnership Agreement for the United Kingdom approved by Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 8124 of 30 October 2014 as last amended by Implementing Decision C(2019) 3847.

- (5) In accordance with Article 49(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, the monitoring committee at its meeting of 12 December 2019 was consulted on the proposal for the amendment of the operational programme.
- (6) According to its assessment, the Commission noted that the amendment to the operational programme affects the information provided in the Partnership Agreement with the United Kingdom in accordance with point (a)(iv) of Article 15(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. It should be taken into account for the annual amendment of the Partnership Agreement in accordance with Article 16(4a) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013.
- (7) The Commission assessed the revised operational programme and did not make observations pursuant to the second sentence of the first subparagraph of Article 30(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Nevertheless, the United Kingdom provided supplementary information on 3 February 2020 and submitted a modified version of the revised operational programme on 3 February 2020.
- (8) The revised operational programme should therefore be approved.
- (9) In accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 65(9) of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, it is appropriate to fix the date as of which the expenditure that becomes eligible as a result of the amendment to the operational programme which is covered by this Decision should be eligible.
- (10) Implementing Decision C(2015) 8628 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (11) This Decision does not cover State Aid within the meaning of Articles 107, 108 and 109 of the Treaty falling outside the scope of Article 42 of the Treaty, which has not been approved.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

#### *Article 1*

Implementing Decision C(2015) 8628 is amended as follows:

- (1) Article 1 is replaced by the following:

"The operational programme "European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme for the United Kingdom" for support from the EMFF in the United Kingdom for

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<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 320)

the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2020, submitted in its final version on 30 October 2015, as last amended by the revised operational programme submitted in its final version on 3 February 2020 is hereby approved."

(2) Article 3(1) is amended as follows:

(a) Point (a) is replaced by the following:

"EUR 127 335 050 shall be allocated to the sustainable development of fisheries, aquaculture, fisheries and aquaculture areas, to marketing and processing related measures, as set out in Chapters I, II, III and IV of Title V of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014, with the exception of measures under Article 67";

(b) Point (b) is replaced by the following:

"EUR 46 070 371 shall be allocated to the control and enforcement measures referred to in Article 76 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014";

(c) Point (c) is replaced by the following:

"EUR 51 563 504 shall be allocated to the measures on data collection referred to in Article 77 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014";

(d) Point (e) is replaced by the following:

"EUR 5 014 592 shall be allocated to measures concerning the Integrated Maritime Policy as referred to in Chapter VIII of Title V of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014";

(e) Point (f) is replaced by the following:

"EUR 10 785 030 shall be allocated to technical assistance at the initiative of the Member State pursuant to Article 78 of Regulation (EU) No 508/2014".

(3) Annex II is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Decision.

#### *Article 2*

Expenditure that becomes eligible as a result of an amendment to the programme European Maritime and Fisheries Fund - Operational Programme for the United Kingdom" approved by this Decision shall be eligible from 8 January 2020.

*Article 3*

This Decision is addressed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.  
Done at Brussels, 26.3.2020

*For the Commission*  
*Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS*  
*Member of the Commission*

