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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 5.4.2019

on the financing of the support measures of the Programme for the Competitiveness of the Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (COSME) for 2019

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (COSME) (2014 - 2020) and repealing Decision No 1639/2006/EC², and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision to implement the Support Measures for 2019. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013, indirect management may be used for the implementation of the COSME programme.
- (4) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation³ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (5) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 33.

³ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment

- (6) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Support Measures

The support measures of the Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (COSME) for 2019, as set out in the Annex, are adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the COSME support measures for 2019 is set at EUR 7 714 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the budget line 02 02 01 of the general budget of the Union for 2019.

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

Article 3
Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to in that Annex.

Article 4
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum contribution set in the first subparagraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and objective of the COSME support measures. The increase of the maximum contribution set in Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

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

Done at Brussels, 5.4.2019

For the Commission
Elżbieta BIENKOWSKA
Member of the Commission