COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 14.11.2018

on the financing of the Union contribution to the European Union reference laboratories and the European Union reference centres for 2019 and 2020
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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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


Whereas:

(1) Commission Implementing Decision C (2017) 6889 adopted on 17 October 2017, concerns the financing of the Union contribution to the European Union reference

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4 Commission Implementing Decision C (2017) 6889 final of 17 October 2017 on the adoption of the work programmes of the Commission for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 and on the financing of the
laboratories ("EU reference laboratories") and the European Union reference centres ("EU reference centres").

(2) In order to ensure that activities of the EU reference laboratories and the EU reference centres, provided for in Regulations (EU) 2016/1012 and (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council, are carried out, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision for 2019 and 2020. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ("the Financial Regulation") establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.

(3) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals on basis of the criteria defined in the Annex of Commission Implementing Decision C (2017) 6889.

(4) This financing decision should be subject to the availability of budget appropriations for the respective financial year after the adoption of the annual budget.

(5) For the application of this Decision, it is appropriate to define the term "substantial change" for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.

(6) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1**

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the work programmes of the Commission for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 adopted on 17 October 2017 is set at 41,350,000 EUR for the years 2019 and 2020. It shall be financed:

(a) from the 2018 appropriations entered in budget line 17.0403 of the general budget of the Union for an amount of EUR 20,100,000 regarding the 2019 Union contribution;

(b) from the 2019 appropriations entered in budget line 17.0403 of the general budget of the Union for an amount of EUR 21,250,000 regarding the 2020 Union contribution.

Regarding the 2020 Union contribution, the implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2019, following the adoption of that budget by the budgetary authority or subject to the system of provisional twelfths.

**Article 2**

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in Article 1 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 the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in Article 1 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

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

Done at Brussels, 14.11.2018

For the Commission

Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS
Member of the Commission