COMMISSION DECISION


approving guidelines on the closure of operational programmes from the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA), components II, III and IV (2007-2013)
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approving guidelines on the closure of operational programmes from the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA), components II, III and IV (2007-2013)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Whereas:

(1) By Decision C(2013) 1573 of 20 March 20131, as amended by Commission Decision C(2015) 2771 of 30 April 20152, the Commission approved guidelines on the closure of operational programmes adopted for assistance from the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund (2007-2013) (hereinafter referred to as 'the Structural Funds Closure Guidelines').

(2) Taking into account the importance of timely and efficient closure of the operational programmes approved for assistance from the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA) with regard to the "Cross-border cooperation component" (hereinafter referred to as 'component II'), the "Regional Development component" (hereinafter referred to as 'component III') and the "Human Resources Development component" (hereinafter referred to as 'component IV'), for the programming period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2013, it is necessary to provide proper guidance on the closing of those operational programmes (hereinafter referred to as 'the IPA I Closure Guidelines').

(3) The purpose of the IPA I Closure Guidelines is to facilitate the closure process by providing the methodological framework under which the closure exercise should take place for the financial settlement of outstanding Union's budgetary commitments through payment of the final balance, recovery of sums unduly paid and/or decommitment of any final balance. In addition, while taking into account the specificity of pre-accession assistance, the IPA I Closure Guidelines should be aligned as much as possible to the Structural Funds Closure Guidelines.

(4) The proposed IPA I Closure Guidelines should therefore be approved,

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HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Commission Guidelines on the closure of operational programmes from the instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA), components II, III and IV (2007-2013), as set out in the Annex to this Decision are hereby approved.

Done at Brussels, 16.9.2016

For the Commission
Corina CREŢU
Member of the Commission