

Procedure file

Basic information	
COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Regulation	2011/0404(COD) Procedure completed
Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) 2014-2020 See also 2011/0415(COD)	
Subject 8.20.04 Pre-accession and partnership	

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs		05/10/2011
		S&D ROUČEK Libor	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		PPE NEYNSKY Nadezhda	
		ALDE KACIN Jelko	
		Verts/ALE LUNACEK Ulrike	
		ECR KOWAL Paweł Robert	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
REGI Regional Development		26/01/2012	
	PPE ŁUKACIJEWSKA Elżbieta Katarzyna		
BUDG Budgets		29/02/2012	
	PPE NEYNSKY Nadezhda		
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
INTA International Trade		29/02/2012	
	PPE WINKLER Iuliu		
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs		19/01/2012	
	Verts/ALE CORNELISSEN Marije		
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	3302	11/03/2014
	Foreign Affairs	3179	25/06/2012

Key events

07/12/2011	Legislative proposal published	COM(2011)0838	Summary
17/01/2012	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
05/12/2013	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
06/12/2013	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A7-0445/2013	Summary
10/12/2013	Debate in Parliament		
11/12/2013	Results of vote in Parliament		
11/12/2013	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T7-0568/2013	Summary
11/03/2014	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
11/03/2014	Final act signed		
11/03/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		
15/03/2014	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2011/0404(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
	See also 2011/0415(COD)
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the EU TFEU 212
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/7/08311

Documentation gateway

Legislative proposal		COM(2011)0838	07/12/2011	EC	Summary
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)1462	07/12/2011	EC	
Document attached to the procedure		SEC(2011)1463	07/12/2011	EC	
Committee opinion	EMPL	PE483.844	25/04/2012	EP	
Committee draft report		PE486.125	24/05/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	REGI	PE487.681	12/06/2012	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE490.977	18/06/2012	EP	

Committee opinion	INTA	PE486.196	21/06/2012	EP	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE487.790	25/06/2012	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0445/2013	06/12/2013	EP	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0568/2013	11/12/2013	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2014)148	13/02/2014	EC	
Draft final act		00123/2013/LEX	11/03/2014	CSL	
Follow-up document		SWD(2017)0463	15/12/2017	EC	

Additional information

National parliaments	IPEX
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act

[Regulation 2014/231](#)
[OJ L 077 15.03.2014, p. 0011](#) Summary
 Final legislative act with provisions for delegated acts

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) 2014-2020

PURPOSE: to establish a new instrument for pre-accession (IPA II) 2014-2020 in the framework of the reform of the EU external action financial instruments and following on from the unified [Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance \(IPA\) for the potential candidate countries to accession, financial perspective from 2007 to 2013](#).

PHILOSOPHY AND ACTION PLAN FOR EXTERNAL AID 2014-2020: what happens outside the borders of the EU can and does directly affect the prosperity and security of EU citizens. It is therefore in the interest of the EU to be actively engaged in influencing the world around us, including through the use of financial instruments. The Lisbon Treaty marks, in this regard, a new departure in the EU's relations with the rest of the world.

The EU's engagement needs to be tailored to individual circumstances. Its partners range from development economies to the least developed countries in need of specific assistance from the EU.

In general, the overall objective for external action for the period 2014-2020 may be summarised as follows:

- long-term commitment to establishing an area of stability, prosperity and democracy in its own neighbourhood;
- facilitating the EU's engagement with third countries on issues that are of global concern, such as climate change, environmental protection, irregular migration and regional instabilities, and
- allowing the EU to respond rapidly and effectively to natural and manmade disasters around the world.

A major rationalisation of the instruments took place in 2003 and has begun to deliver more effective results. The Commission does not consider that another major alteration of the legislative architecture is necessary for the next MFF period, although some improvements are being proposed and the overall investment is being stepped up.

The Commission proposes to allocate EUR 70 billion for the 2014-2020 period for external instruments broken down as follows:

- [Financing instrument for development cooperation](#)
- [Partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries](#)
- This Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)
- [European Neighbourhood Instrument](#)
- [Instrument for nuclear safety cooperation](#)
- [Instrument for Stability](#)
- [Financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide](#)

In parallel and for the first time, the Commission proposes a single horizontal [regulation establishing common rules and procedures for the implementation](#) of the Union's instruments for external action.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

BACKGROUND: for the past 50 years the EU has simultaneously pursued integration and enlargement, increasing from 6 to the present 27

Member States and from a population of less than 200 million to more than 500 million people. A review, five years after the fifth enlargement of the EU in 2004, concluded that: the latest enlargements had brought greater prosperity for all EU citizens and made Europe a stronger player in the world economy.

Currently, the EU is dealing with 5 candidate countries (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Turkey) and 4 potential candidates (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia as well as Kosovo). By 2014, only Croatia is foreseen to become a Member State. Socio-economic indicators show that, with the exception of Iceland, enlargement countries are still well below the EU average and even below the level of the weakest Member States. This low level of socio-economic development calls for substantial investments to bring these countries closer to EU standards and allow them to take on board the obligations of membership and to withstand the competitive pressures of the single market.

In addition, the countries in the Western Balkans are still relatively young states where political stability and the full establishment of the principles of democracy and respect for human rights and good governance – all fundamental values of the EU – still need to be strengthened. These countries cannot sustain alone all the efforts and cost of meeting the criteria for joining the EU.

Technical and financial assistance to the Enlargement countries is currently provided through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) which will expire at the end of 2013.

With a view to future accessions, the EU should continue to offer candidate countries and potential candidates technical and financial assistance to overcome their difficult situation and develop sustainably by concentrating on the following elements:

- promote stability, security and prosperity in Europe;
- continue to pursue the general policy objective of supporting candidate countries and potential candidates in their preparations for EU membership and the progressive alignment of their institutions and economies with the standards and policies of the European Union;
- strengthen the coherence between the financial assistance and the overall progress made in the implementation of the pre-accession strategy;
- operate more flexibly and to leverage more funds from other donors or the private sector by using innovative financing instruments,
- pursue simplification and reduction of the administrative burden linked to managing the financial assistance.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: the impact assessment examined three options:

Option 1 - No change.

Option 2 - Amend the existing Regulation, with the following alternatives:

- Sub-option 2.1: Reduce scope and keep implementation arrangements, focusing on the necessary legal and institutional changes needed to comply with the accession criteria, without committing any significant funds for co-financing public investment for socio-economic development.
- Sub-option 2.2: Keep the component structure and add more focus on investments in order to increase the socio-economic impact in the beneficiary countries and to speed up their preparation for managing structural, cohesion and rural development funds.
- Sub-option 2.3: Maintain the scope and adjust implementation arrangements, covering both compliance with the accession criteria and support for socio-economic development. In addition, adjust aspects of the current IPA set-up and implementation modalities.

Option 3: Design a new instrument. This option was not analysed in detail.

The improved modalities for delivering assistance under option 2.3, by increasing its focus, efficiency, effectiveness, leverage and impact, were assessed as likely to have overall a more positive impact than the increased investments in socio-economic development under option 2.2. Option 2.3 is therefore the preferred option.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 212(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: with this proposed Regulation, the Commission proposes to establish an Instrument for Preaccession Assistance (IPA) aims to support candidate countries and potential candidates listed in the Annex in implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required to bring the countries closer to Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership.

Specific objectives: assistance under this Regulation shall pursue the following specific objectives according to the needs of each beneficiary country and their individual enlargement agenda:

- Support for political reforms, inter alia: (i). strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law, including its implementation; (ii). promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, enhanced respect for minority rights, promotion of gender equality, non-discrimination and freedom of the press, and promotion of good neighbourly relations; (iii). the fight against corruption and organised crime; (iv). public administration reform and good governance; (v). the development of civil society and social dialogue; (vi). reconciliation, peace building and confidence building measures;
- Support for economic, social and territorial development, with a view to a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, inter alia through: (i). the achievement of Union standards in the economy and economic governance; (ii) economic reforms necessary to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union, while pursuing economic, social and environmental goals; (iii). fostering employment and developing human capital; (iv). social and economic inclusion, in particular of minorities and vulnerable groups; (v). development of physical capital, the improvement of connections with Union and regional networks;
- Strengthening of the ability of beneficiary countries to fulfil the obligations stemming from membership by supporting progressive alignment with and adoption, implementation and enforcement of the *acquis communautaire*, structural, cohesion, agricultural and rural development funds and policies of the Union.
- Regional integration and territorial cooperation involving beneficiary countries, Member States and, where appropriate, third countries within the scope of Regulation establishing a European Neighbourhood Instrument.

Progress towards achievement of the specific objectives set out above shall be assessed through indicators laid down in the proposal. The indicators shall be used for monitoring, evaluation and review of performance, as appropriate.

Countries concerned:

- Albania

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Iceland
- Kosovo
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Turkey
- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Strategic planning

The delivery of assistance will be made more coherent, strategic and result-oriented, by:

- Addressing policy areas through comprehensive multi-annual country (and multi-beneficiary) strategy papers reflecting the political priorities of the Enlargement Strategy and covering, for each policy area, all necessary institution building, acquis compliance and investment actions. The scope will be based on a needs assessment and will be adapted to the country context.
- Reinforcing (co-)financing of agreed sector strategies contributing to the policy objectives, as opposed to individual projects, thus moving away from purely grantfinanced projects and increasing the share of assistance funded through support at sector level (including sector budget support for selected policy areas based on effectively targeted conditionalities). Nevertheless, support for acquis compliance will remain available through project support or other implementation modalities such as dedicated facilities, when not covered by overarching sector strategies.
- More systematic multi-annual programming also for policy objectives pursued by transition and institution-building assistance (e.g. public administration reform; reform of justice systems, etc.), supporting effective implementation of the related sector strategies and ultimately attainment of the related objectives.
- Making financial assistance more directly conditional on improved governance and growing ownership by the beneficiary countries. Elements of flexibility will be introduced to cater for emerging needs and give incentives to improve performance.

The delivery of assistance will be made more flexible and tailored to address needs, by:

Allowing un-differentiated access to assistance (irrespective of candidate or potential candidate status), albeit with a different scope or intensity, on the basis of needs and technical and administrative capacity. The needs of the beneficiary countries would be the starting point for determining the sectors/policy areas for assistance.

- Envisaging a more progressive, phased approach to the management of financial assistance, whereby management would be by the Commission or by the beneficiary country, with or without ex-ante controls by the Commission, depending on accession status/perspective, sector/policy area of assistance, and administrative, technical and management capacity. The creation of management structures and procedures mirroring those that need to be in place post-accession would continue to be the aim in relevant sectors in preparation for accession.
- Linking progress along different management phases to political priorities, as reflected in progress reports, the achievement of negotiation benchmarks or the track record in implementing the Association Agreements.
- Increasing flexibility between priorities for a more result-oriented delivery of the assistance, allowing allocations to be transferred between policy areas, with the possibility to carry over funds from one year to another, where allowed by the new Financial Regulation.

The deployment of assistance will be made more efficient and effective by: (i) pursuing further the identification and use of innovative financial instruments that could leverage more private funds; (ii) increasing cooperation with other donors and International and other financial institutions at strategic level; (iii) continuing to support regional programmes/projects that bring added value, e.g. in transport, energy, environment, climate change, statistics, the fight against organised crime and migration issues; (iv) streamlining the rules for the procurement of twinning assistance.

Indicative programming: the proposal also envisages that strategic decisions on the allocation of assistance are made through comprehensive country and multi-country strategy papers covering the full period of the new financial framework (2014-2020) and reviewed once at mid-term, replacing the current system of three-year rolling indicative planning documents revised each year. This will reduce, for all stakeholders involved, the administrative burden related to the yearly review of each document and possible ensuing revisions. Similarly, less administration for all and quicker delivery of assistance will follow from introducing multi-annual programming for transition and capacity-building assistance as well.

Simplified implementation: a priority for the Commission in this new Regulation, as in other programmes under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), is to simplify the regulatory environment and facilitate Union assistance to beneficiary countries and regions, civil society organisations, SMEs, etc. This proposal pursues simplification primarily by streamlining the component structure around principal policy areas. This translates into simplification of the legislative framework for the instrument and the future implementing rules, with streamlined provisions.

Simplification and flexible procedures in the implementation of the new Regulation, will allow swifter adoption of implementing measures and delivery of EU assistance. In implementing this Regulation, the Commission will use the simplified procedures provided for in the new Financial Regulation.

Different Commission services will remain responsible for managing and implementing the assistance in the different policy areas. However, coordination, communication and implementation on the ground will be further improved through simplification of a number of aspects, including closer joint monitoring of the progress of implementation in the beneficiary countries and fewer processes for accreditation and conferral of management powers.

Beneficiaries change of status: it will no longer be necessary to go through a cumbersome procedure to reflect a beneficiary's change of status, thus reducing the gap between the political decisions on financial assistance and implementation on the ground. Similarly, should a new country become a potential candidate for EU accession, the procedural requirements for including that country among the beneficiaries of assistance would be considerably simplified.

Coherence and complementarity: increasing the coherence of action by the Commission should also substantially reduce the cost and burden of coordination incurred by beneficiary countries, on account of the different communication channels and procedures used by the Commission.

Follow-up and evaluation: detailed provisions on joint monitoring and the accreditation processes will be set out in separate implementing rules.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: in its [Communication](#) on A Budget for Europe 2020, the European Commission proposed to allocate an amount of EUR 14 110 100 000 (current prices) to the new Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance for the period 2014-2020.

DELEGATED ACTS: considering that the discretionary policy decisions on the status of applicant countries should be taken at another level, it is proposed that amendments made to the list of beneficiary countries in Annex to the proposed Regulation to reflect such decisions should be adopted by way of a delegated act in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, since such amendments will not actually affect an essential element of the Regulation.

It is also proposed that the Commission should be conferred delegated powers to adopt detailed rules establishing uniform conditions for implementing the proposed Regulation, in particular as regards management structures and procedures. Such rules are needed to complement the common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for external action established by the Common Implementing Regulation. They should take into account the lessons learnt from the management and implementation of past pre-accession assistance and be adapted to the evolution of the situation in the beneficiary countries.

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) 2014-2020

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the report by Libor ROUŽEK (S&D, CZ) on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II).

The committee recommended that the European Parliaments position at first reading, following the ordinary legislative procedure, should amend the Commission proposal.

The main amendments were as follows:

General objective: the objective of the IPA II should support the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the future Regulation in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to comply with Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership.

Through such support, IPA II shall contribute to stability, security and prosperity in the beneficiary countries.

Specific objectives: a new series of specific objectives have been added:

- support for political reforms through strengthening of democracy and its institutions, including an independent and efficient judiciary;
- promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, enhanced respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities, including LGBT, non-discrimination and respect for cultural diversity;
- regional co-operation and good neighbourly relations;
- promotion of reconciliation, peace building, and confidence building measures;
- border management and implementation of migration policy, including the management of migration flows;
- strengthen education and cultural heritage.

Incentive measures and performance indicators: progress in these areas would be assessed through performance indicators defined in the draft Regulation. It is also specified that assistance should be managed with a strong focus on results and with incentives for those who demonstrate their commitment to reform through efficient implementation of pre-accession assistance and progress towards meeting the membership criteria.

General framework of assistance: assistance under this Regulation should be provided in accordance with the enlargement policy framework, as well as of the relevant resolutions of the European Parliament. Assistance should be targeted and adjusted to the specific situation of the beneficiaries, taking into account further efforts needed to meet the membership criteria as well as the capacities of those beneficiaries. Assistance shall be differentiated in scope and intensity according to the needs of each beneficiary. To this effect, the thematic priorities for providing assistance according to the needs and capacities of the beneficiaries are set out in Annex II and III. Assistance should support cross-border cooperation, both between the beneficiaries with a view to promoting good neighbourly relations.

Implementation: provisions have been included to clarify the technical implementation of the IPA II in terms of its strategic planning and programming.

It should be noted that when establishing the uniform conditions for implementing this Regulation, the lessons learnt from the management and implementation of past pre-accession assistance should be taken into account.

Financial envelope: in accordance with the agreement on the Financial Framework, the financial envelope for the implementation of this Regulation for the period from 2014 to 2020 is set at EUR 11 698 668 000. Up to 4% of this amount should be allocated to cross-border cooperation programmes.

It is also stated that the Union should seek the most efficient use of available resources in order to optimise the impact of its external action. This should be achieved through coherence and complementarity between Instruments for external action.

Delegated acts: in order to take account of changes in the enlargement policy framework or of significant developments in the beneficiary countries, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 on the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in respect of adapting and updating the thematic priorities for assistance listed in Annex II of the future Regulation. Following the publication of the Mid-term report and based upon the recommendations contained in the mid-term review report, the Commission shall adopt a delegated act amending Annex II to this Regulation by 31 March 2018.

Annexes: strengthening the rule of law, including the fight against corruption and organised crime, and good governance, including public administration reform, remain key challenges in most of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I and are essential for these to come closer to the Union and later to fully assume the obligations of Union membership.

The future Regulation should comprise of 3 annexes:

- Annex I lists the beneficiary countries of the IAP II: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Annex II defines the thematic priorities of assistance;
- Annex III concerns the priorities of assistance as regards territorial cooperation.

It should be noted that the amended draft Regulation is accompanied by a series of joint, bilateral or unilateral statements from the EU institutions including:

- a statement on the funding of horizontal programmes for minorities;
- a Commission declaration on the use implementing acts for the setting of the specific provisions for the implementation of certain rules in the [European Neighbourhood Instrument](#) and the IPA II;
- a European Parliament statement on the suspension of assistance granted under the financial instruments for foreign policy, particularly in cases where a beneficiary country fails to observe the basic principles enunciated in the respective instrument and notably the principles of democracy. (It is stated that the European Parliament considers that any suspension of assistance under these instruments would modify the overall financial scheme agreed under the ordinary legislative procedure. As a co-legislator, the European Parliament is therefore entitled to fully exercise its prerogatives in that regard, if such a decision is to be taken).

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) 2014-2020

The European Parliament adopted by 616 votes to 50, with 12 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II).

Parliament adopted its position at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure. The amendments adopted in plenary are the result of a compromise negotiated between the European Parliament and the Council.

General objective: the objective of the IPA II should be to support the beneficiaries listed in Annex I of the future Regulation in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by the beneficiaries listed in Annex I to comply with Union values and to progressively align to Union rules, standards, policies and practices with a view to Union membership. Through such support, IPA II should contribute to stability, security and prosperity in the beneficiary countries.

Specific objectives: a new series of specific objectives have been added:

- strengthening of democracy and institutions, including an independent and efficient judiciary;
- promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, enhanced respect for the rights of persons belonging to minorities, including LGBT, non-discrimination and respect for cultural diversity;
- regional co-operation and good neighbourly relations;
- promotion of reconciliation, peace building, and confidence building measures;
- border management and implementation of migration policy, including the management of migration flows;
- improvement of social dialogue and strengthening of the capacities of social partners;
- strengthening of education and research;
- preservation and restoration of cultural heritage.

Where appropriate, particular attention should be paid to good governance, the rule of law and the fight against corruption and organised crime in each of the planned actions.

Incentive measures and performance indicators: progress in these areas should be assessed through performance indicators defined in the draft Regulation. It is also specified that assistance should be managed with a strong focus on results and with incentives for those who demonstrate their commitment to reform through efficient implementation of pre-accession assistance and progress towards meeting the membership criteria. A part of the financial allocation should be earmarked for beneficiary countries demonstrating particular progress.

General framework of assistance: assistance under this Regulation should be provided in accordance with the enlargement policy framework, as well as with the relevant resolutions of the European Parliament. Assistance should be targeted and adjusted to the specific situation of the beneficiaries, taking into account further efforts needed to meet the membership criteria as well as the capacities of those beneficiaries. Assistance should be differentiated in scope and intensity according to the needs of each beneficiary. To this effect, the thematic priorities for providing assistance according to the needs and capacities of the beneficiaries are set out in Annex II and III of the future Regulation. Assistance should in particular support cross-border cooperation between the beneficiaries with a view to promoting good neighbourly relations.

Civil society: the role of civil society should be enhanced both in programmes implemented through government bodies and as a direct beneficiary of Union assistance.

Implementation: provisions have been included to clarify the technical implementation of the IPA II in terms of its strategic planning and programming.

It should be noted that when establishing the uniform conditions for implementing this Regulation, the lessons learnt from the management and implementation of past pre-accession assistance should be taken into account.

Financial envelope: in accordance with the agreement on the Financial Framework, the financial envelope for the implementation of this Regulation for the period from 2014 to 2020 is set at EUR 11 698 668 000. Up to 4% of this amount would be allocated to cross-border cooperation programmes. Part of the allocation would also be devoted to cross-border mobility.

Optimisation of resources: the Union should seek the most efficient use of available resources in order to optimise the impact of its external action. This should be achieved through coherence and complementarity between Instruments for external action.

Delegated acts: in order to take account of changes in the enlargement policy framework or of significant developments in the beneficiary countries, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 on the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated

to the Commission in respect of adapting and updating the thematic priorities for assistance listed in Annex II of the future Regulation. Following the publication of the Mid-term report and based upon the recommendations contained in the mid-term review report, the Commission shall adopt a delegated act amending Annex II to this Regulation by 31 March 2018.

Annexes: strengthening the rule of law, including the fight against corruption and organised crime, and good governance, including public administration reform, remain key challenges in most of the beneficiaries listed in Annex I and are essential for these to come closer to the Union and later to fully assume the obligations of Union membership.

The future Regulation should comprise 3 annexes:

- Annex I lists the beneficiary countries of the IPA II: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Annex II defines the thematic priorities of assistance;
- Annex III concerns the priorities of assistance as regards territorial cooperation.

It should be noted that the amended draft Regulation is accompanied by a series of joint, bilateral or unilateral statements from the EU institutions including:

- a statement on the funding of horizontal programmes for minorities;
- a Commission declaration on the use implementing acts for the setting of the specific provisions for the implementation of certain rules in the [European Neighbourhood Instrument](#) and the IPA II;
- a European Parliament statement on the suspension of assistance granted under the financial instruments for foreign policy, particularly in cases where a beneficiary country fails to observe the basic principles enunciated in the respective instrument and notably the principles of democracy. (It is stated that Parliament considers that any suspension of assistance under these instruments would modify the overall financial scheme agreed under the ordinary legislative procedure. As co-legislator, Parliament is therefore entitled to fully exercise its prerogatives in that regard, if such a decision is to be taken).

Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) 2014-2020

PURPOSE : to establish an instrument for pre-accession aid (IPA II) for the period 2014-2020 following on from the [instrument for pre-accession aid](#) for the period 2007-2013.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Regulation (EU) N° 231/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II).

BACKGROUND : this Regulation forms part of the new Multiannual Financial Framework ([MFF](#)) 2014-2020 in the field of the Unions external relations and cooperation with third countries. The relevant instruments are as follows:

- [Financing instrument for development cooperation](#)
- [Partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries](#)
- this Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)
- [European Neighbourhood Instrument](#)
- [Instrument for nuclear safety cooperation](#)
- [Instrument for Stability](#)
- [Financing instrument for the promotion of democracy and human rights worldwide](#)

All the procedures applicable to the implementation of these financial instruments will be governed by a [single Regulation](#), adopted at the same time.

CONTENT : the objective of this Regulation is to establish the Instrument for Preaccession Assistance for the period from 2014 to 2020 (IPA II) to support partner countries in adopting and implementing the political, institutional, legal, administrative, social and economic reforms required by these beneficiaries in order to comply with the Union's values and to progressively align to the Union's rules, standards, policies and practices, with a view to Union membership.

Specific objectives: assistance under the Regulation will pursue the achievement of the following specific objectives according to the needs of each of the beneficiaries, as well as their individual enlargement agenda:

- support for political reforms, including strengthening democracy and rules on governance as well as the promotion of good neighbourly relations ;
- support for economic, social and territorial development, with a view to sustainable growth;
- strengthening of the ability of beneficiary countries to fulfil the obligations stemming from membership by supporting progressive alignment with Union policies;
- regional integration and territorial cooperation.

Policy areas: assistance will mainly address the following policy areas:

- reforms in preparation for Union membership and related institution- and capacity-building;
- socio-economic and regional development;
- employment, social policies, education, promotion of gender equality, and human resources development;
- agriculture and rural development;

- regional and territorial cooperation.

Progress in these areas will be assessed on the basis of performance indicators specified in the Regulation.

Partner countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iceland, Kosovo (UN definition), Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Framework for assistance differentiation: assistance should be targeted and adjusted to the specific situation of the beneficiaries, taking into account further efforts needed to meet the membership criteria as well as the capacities of those beneficiaries. Assistance should be differentiated in scope and intensity according to the needs of each beneficiary, as well as their commitment to reform and progress in implementing reforms.

Thematic priorities for providing assistance according to the needs and capacities of the beneficiaries are set out in Annex II of the Regulation. There are also provisions on supporting cross-border cooperation between the beneficiaries and between beneficiaries and Member States or countries under the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) with a view to promoting good neighbourly relations.

The thematic priorities for assistance for territorial cooperation are set out in Annex III.

Implementation: measures will be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the [horizontal Regulation](#) on common rules and procedures for Instruments for financing external action. There are also provisions ensuring coherence with assistance granted under other European funds, such as the ERDF.

Financial envelope: in accordance with the MFF, the financial envelope for the implementation of the Regulation for the period from 2014 to 2020 is set at EUR 11 698 668 000 at current prices. Up to 4 % of the financial envelope is allocated to cross-border cooperation programmes between the beneficiaries and the Member States.

In addition, the promotion of the international dimension of higher education will receive an amount of EUR 1.68 billion from these financial instruments:

- the Development Cooperation Instrument
- the European Neighbourhood Instrument
- the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance
- the Partnership Instrument.

This amount shall be allocated to actions in respect of learning mobility to or from partner countries within the ERASMUS + programme and to cooperation and policy dialogue with authorities, institutions and organisations from those countries.

Monitoring progress and performance reward: an appropriate amount of assistance will remain available to reward an individual beneficiary for:

- particular progress made towards meeting the membership criteria; and/or
- efficient implementation of pre-accession assistance whereby particularly good results are achieved with respect to the specific targets set in the relevant strategy paper.

In such cases, the Commission shall adjust the allocations proportionately. An appropriate amount shall be set aside for the rewards and will be allocated on the basis of an assessment of performance and progress over a period of several years

Coherence and coordination: compliance, coherence, and complementarity of assistance should be ensured with other external policy areas and other Union policies including through regular consultations, with other donors.

The role of civil society should be enhanced both in programmes implemented through government bodies and as a direct beneficiary of Union assistance.

Strategy papers: the Regulation sets out the programming framework. Assistance shall be provided on the basis of country or multi-country indicative strategy papers established for the period from 2014 to 2020. The strategy papers shall define the priorities for action towards meeting the objectives in the relevant policy areas.

Annexes: the Regulation contains Annexes containing details of thematic priorities for assistance and thematic priorities for assistance for territorial cooperation.

Strategic dialogue with the European Parliament: the Commission makes a declaration in which it undertakes to inform the European Parliament of relevant actions in the framework of a strategic dialogue.

Suspension of assistance: in a unilateral declaration, Parliament notes that the instruments applicable in the field of the EU's external relations do not contain any explicit reference to the possibility of suspending assistance in cases where a beneficiary country fails to observe the basic principles on democracy, rule of law and the respect for human rights. Any suspension of assistance under these instruments must take place under the ordinary legislative procedure.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 16.03.2014. The Regulation is applicable from 01.01.2014 to 31.12.2020.

DELEGATED ACTS : the Commission may adopt delegated acts in respect of adapting and updating the thematic priorities for assistance listed in Annex II following the mid-term review report presented by 31 March 2018. The power to adopt delegated acts is conferred on the Commission for the duration of the programme. The European Parliament or Council may raise objections to a delegated act within two months from the date of notification (which may be extended by two months). If Parliament or Council raise objections, the delegated act will not enter into force.