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COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2026/2606

of 17 November 2026

amending Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/410 on making the financial assistance under Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 available to Italy

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 of 27 May 2025 establishing the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) through the Reinforcement of the European Defence Industry Instrument [1], and in particular Article 7(5) and Article 8 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) Following the submission by Italy on 30 November 2025 of a request for financial assistance in accordance with Article 7(1) of Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 accompanied by a European defence industry investment plan (the 'plan'), the Commission found that the request in question fulfilled the conditions laid down in that Regulation, in particular those provided for in Article 4, Article 7(2) and Article 16.

(2) The Commission submitted a proposal for a Council Implementing Decision making the financial assistance available to Italy on 26 January 2026 and Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/410 [2] on making the financial assistance under Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 available to Italy was subsequently adopted on 17 February 2026.

(3) On 19 August 2026, prior to the signature of the related loan agreement and operational arrangements, Italy submitted to the Commission an amended request reducing the amount of the financial assistance requested to EUR 8 000 958 000 (the 'revised request'). Consequently, a revised plan was submitted to the Commission on 9 September 2026 (the 'revised plan').

(4) The Commission assessed the revised request against the applicable conditions laid down in Regulation (EU) 2025/1106.

(5) In accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2025/1106, the revised plan was duly reasoned, substantiated and set out a description of the defence products and of the other products for defence purposes and, where relevant, a description of the foreseen involvement of Ukraine in the planned activities, expenditures and measures, or of foreseen actions for the benefit of Ukraine.

(6) The Commission found that the revised request fulfils the conditions laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 for using the SAFE instrument. In particular, it ensures that activities, expenditures and measures related to defence products or other products for defence purposes are carried through common procurements or single procurements. Such activities, expenditures and measures are also to have one or more of the following objectives: speeding up the adjustment of the defence industry to structural changes, improving the timely availability of defence products or ensuring interoperability and interchangeability across the Union.

[1] OJ L, 2025/1106, 28.5.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1106/oj.
[2] Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/410 of 17 February 2026 on making the financial assistance under Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 available to Italy (OJ L, 2026/410, 5.3.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/410/oj).

(7) The Commission also found that the revised request contains a description of the planned measures aimed at ensuring compliance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 and the procurement rules set out in that Regulation, including a description of how that compliance is to be ensured.

(8) As a result, in accordance with Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) 2025/1106, the Commission concluded that the revised request fulfils the conditions laid down in that Regulation, in particular those provided for in Article 4, Article 7(2) and Article 16.

(9) Therefore, this Decision should make available financial assistance in the form of a loan amounting to a maximum of EUR 8 000 958 000 and Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/410 should be amended accordingly.

(10) This Decision should be without prejudice to the outcome of any procedures under Regulation (EU) 2024/1263 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([3]) and under Council Regulation (EC) No 1467/97 ([4]).

(11) This Decision should be without prejudice to the relevant rules adopted pursuant to Article 322 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, in particular Regulations (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 ([5]) and (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 ([6]) of the European Parliament and of the Council.

(12) In accordance with Article 10(2) of Regulation (EU) 2025/1106, the loan agreement to be entered into with Italy should set out all appropriate measures necessary for the protection of the Union's financial interest,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/410 is amended as follows:

(1) Article 1 is replaced by the following:

'*Article 1*

It is hereby confirmed that the Commission has assessed the request for financial assistance under the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) through the Reinforcement of the European Defence Industry Instrument submitted by Italy on 9 September 2026 and found that the request fulfils the conditions laid down in Regulation (EU) 2025/1106, in particular those in Article 4, Article 7(2) and Article 16. Financial assistance shall be made available to Italy accordingly.';

(2) in Article 2, paragraph 1 is replaced by the following:

'1. The Union shall make available to Italy a loan amounting to a maximum of EUR 8 000 958 000.'.

Article 2

This Decision shall take effect on the date of its notification.

([3]) Regulation (EU) 2024/1263 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2024 on the effective coordination of economic policies and on multilateral budgetary surveillance and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 (OJ L, 2024/1263, 30.4.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1263/oj).

([4]) Council Regulation (EC) No 1467/97 of 7 July 1997 on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure (OJ L 209, 2.8.1997, p. 6, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1997/1467/oj).

([5]) Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj).

([6]) Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget (OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/2092/oj).

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Italian Republic.

Done at Brussels, 17 November 2026.

For the Council
The President
H. McENTEE