

REQUEST FOR THE RELEASE OF FUNDS

Skopje, 15 January 2026

Ambassador Michalis Rokas
 Delegation of the EU in the Republic of North Macedonia
 Ss Kiril i Metodij 52B
 1000 Skopje

I declare that, for the implementation of the EU financial assistance to North Macedonia under the Facility for the period Q4/25 (31 December 2025) and pending steps from previous reporting periods which are into grace period, as well as three steps achieved in advance, based on my own judgement and on the information at my disposal, as well as on the evidence enclosed, the payment conditions set out in the North Macedonia's Reform Agenda for the following steps have been fulfilled:

Reform	Step	Financial Value/EUR
Reform 1.1.1: Strengthen Public Internal Financial Control	At least 80% of budget users at central level and 75% at local level submit a report on performed internal audits (related to Fiscal Year 2024)	4.281.623,70
	A minimum of 70% of parent budget users at central level have a risk management document, including anti-corruption risk and record the identified risks in mitigation plans	4.281.623,70
Reform 1.1.2: Strengthen the public procurement system	Use of auctions in Tenders in Fiscal Year 2025 decreased to maximum 40% of Tenders	8.563.247,40
Reform 1.1.3: Full implementation of the 2022 Organic Budget Law, including reform in Public Investment Management	Adoption of at least 17 bylaws foreseen in the Organic Budget Law, including establishing of the registry of public entities (Art 4), revision of the budget classification (art 5) and reduction of the number of primary ("parent") budget users by at least 40% in the administrative classification and Public Investment Management Decree (art 20)	4.281.623,70
	Developed adequate level (excel based) transitory IT solution that will provide the Ministry of Finance with a database of projects from which to select budget candidates and monitor financial implementation of projects	2.140.811,85
Reform 2.1.2.1: Implementation of climate	Governance structures foreseen in the Just Transition Roadmap are operational and	2.140.811,85

and energy policies and measures as foreseen in the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)	have approved the annual implementation plan for 2025	
Reform 2.1.5.1: Implementation of the Energy Performance in Buildings and Energy Efficiency Directives	Three-year Renovation Plan for Central Government Buildings to be adopted aligned with the annual 3% renovation target	2.140.811,85
Reform 2.2.2.1: Secure Digital infrastructures roll-out	Adoption of the new Law on Electronic Communications, alignment of national legislation with the relevant EU Acquis to align it with the EU Acquis and the Gigabit Infrastructure Act, upon entry in force in EU	4.281.623,70
Reform 2.2.2.2: Digital Public Services	Join the EU Third Countries trusted list for the validation of electronic signatures as advanced electronic in the EU as a first step towards pursuing mutual recognition of qualified trust services; Trust services available and start issuing qualified certificates; Ensure implementation e-identity and e-signature services for citizens and businesses	2.140.811,85
Reform 3.1.3: Improve and ensure the quality of secondary and higher education	Implementation of New financing methodology in secondary and VET education applied when preparing the national budget of 2027	8.563.247,40
Reform 3.1.5: Increase the efficiency through rationalisation of the primary schools network and establish “smart” primary schools with IT tools and Internet infrastructure ensuring also their operability (“Smart” as in integrating digital technologies in teaching and school management, including communication with families, distance interactive learning)	Implementation of New financing methodology in primary education applied when preparing as of the national budget of 2026	6.422.435,55
	Number of primary schools equipped with Internet access and IT tools (December 2025) 160 schools [number/share of primary schools concerned; number of pupils and teachers covered]: 160 schools [44% of schools]	4.281.623,70
Reform 4.1.2: Make the state aid regime more transparent and efficient	According to training needs, a sufficient number of Judges are specialised via training modules in the CPC procedure and the EU acquis in order to increase the expertise on State Aid in the Courts. An extensive training module on State	1.070.405,92

	aid rules in the EU covering substantially the EU acquis including key case-law provided by a trainer with significant experience and expertise in this area	
Reform 4.1.3: Foster SMEs development by adopting and implementing the new SME strategy	Ease the access to lending for SMEs by amending relevant legislation to allow the use of intangible assets as collateral in lending to SMEs	4.281.623,70
	Ease the access to lending for SMEs by expanding issued guarantees under State Credit Guarantee Schemes by 24%, compared to December 2023 and increasing the number of SMEs benefiting from CGSs by 23%, compared to December 2023	8.563.247,40
	Ease the access to lending for SMEs by expanding issued guarantees under State Credit Guarantee Schemes by 40%, compared to December 2023 and increasing the number of SMEs benefiting from CGSs by 35%, compared to December 2023	8.563.247,40
Reform 4.1.4: Support development of the innovation eco system through the implementation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy	Introduce a system for matchmaking between SMEs and EIC/EIT funding with co-funding from FITD in the priority areas of the Smart specialization strategy (SSS), including of Smart agriculture and food with higher added value, Electro-mechanical industry - Industry 4.0, ICT	2.140.811,85
Reform 4.1.5: Reform the governance of State-Owned Enterprises with focus on the Railways and Postal services	Restructuring plan for state owned railways operator and railway infrastructure manager adopted by January 2025	2.140.811,85
Reform 5.2.2. Adopt and implement a new Action plan for the prevention of corruption in the judiciary for 2026-2029	Adopt the Action plan for the prevention of corruption in the judiciary for 2026-2029	1.070.405,92
Reform 5.3.1: Implement an improved regulatory framework of the Judicial Council in particular to disciplinary and appeal proceedings of judges (in line with the TAIEX peer review mission of Sep 2023)	New Law on Judicial Council adopted in line with the 'peer review' on the functioning of the Judicial Council, from Sep '23, and the opinion of the Venice Commission	6.422.435,55

Reform 5.7.1: Strengthen capacities with regard to assets confiscation and recovery in line with the EU acquis	All vacancies on the Agency for Management of Confiscated Property have been filled	4.281.623.70
TOTAL		92.054.909,54

On the basis of the above I request that the amount of **EUR 92.054.909,54** is made available, **EUR (42,827,685.19)** disbursed directly to the treasury of North Macedonia, and **EUR (49,227,224.35)** to be made available through the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), of which **EUR (22,808,613.95)** in the form of loans and **EUR (26,418,610.40)** in the form of non-repayable support¹².

I hereby attach an assessment of each step, the required evidence showing the satisfactory fulfilment of the qualitative and quantitative steps set out in the relevant Annex to the Commission implementing decision³ and other information requested as per Article 14 of the Facility Agreement.

Skopje, 15 January 2026

Signature by the Coordinator

Bekim Sali
Minister for European Affairs and National RGF Coordinator

¹ Subject to rules laid down in Articles 16 and 17, each instalment shall draw from the indicative financial contributions set out in Article 2 paragraph 2, as follows: a) 28.7% from the non-repayable support and 24.8% from the loan support, in sum 53.5%, to be made available through the Western Balkans Investments Framework (WBIF), and b) 46.5% from the loan support to be channelled directly to the treasury.

² A condition precedent to the disbursement of the loan to the Treasury, to be channelled to the WBIF, is the submission of the signed contribution arrangement with the WBIF. This signed arrangement must be provided before any loan disbursements are processed.

³ Reference of CID (2024)7375, 23.10.2024