



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate E – HOME Affairs Funds
The Director

Brussels
HOME.E.3/JM

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE HOME AFFAIRS FUNDS

Ref.: HOME-Funds/2024/30

Subject: Launch of the call for expression of interest under the Specific Action “Enhancing border surveillance capabilities for countries at the borders with Russia and Belarus” under the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI) – Reference BMVI/2024/SA/1.4.2.

1. INTRODUCTION

Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy provides that Member States ⁽¹⁾ may receive funding for specific actions in addition to their initial allocations in their respective programmes.

Specific actions aim to fund transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in accordance with the objectives of the Instrument for which one, several or all Member States may receive an additional allocation to their programmes.

They will be implemented as one of the components of the Thematic Facility in line with Art. 8 of the above-mentioned Regulation and in accordance with the relevant financing decisions and work programmes for the Instrument ⁽²⁾.

By the present note, the Commission launches a call for expression of interest for Specific Action “Enhancing border surveillance capabilities for countries at the borders

⁽¹⁾ Reference to Member States participating in the BMVI in this note should be understood as including the Schengen Associated Countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland), once the legal arrangement for their participation in the BMVI are in place.

⁽²⁾ [Integrated Border Management Fund – Border Management and Visa Instrument \(2021-27\) \(europa.eu\)](#)

with Russia and Belarus”, in line with the actions listed in the above-mentioned Commission’s financing decision and work programme.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Specific actions will be implemented by one or more Member States participating in the Instrument via funding received in addition to the allocation under their Instrument programmes.

Funding for specific actions is added to the Member States’ programme allocations at the time of the approval of the initial programme or by means of a programme amendment. The additional funding is earmarked for the specific action concerned and shall not be used for other actions in the Member State’s programme, except in duly justified circumstances and as approved by the Commission through the amendment of the programme.

Whereas the regular EU co-financing rate under the Member States’ programmes will not exceed 75% of total eligible expenditure, projects implemented under specific actions may benefit from an increased co-financing rate of up to 90% of total eligible expenditure.

The specific action must be implemented by the Member States in accordance with the Border Management and Visa Policy Instrument (BMVI)⁽³⁾ Regulation and the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR)⁽⁴⁾. This includes compliance with fundamental rights.

Your attention is drawn, in particular, to one provision of the CPR. As regard the value added tax (“VAT”) eligibility regime, Article 64 (1)(c) of the CPR provides that VAT is not eligible, except:

- (i) “for operations the total cost of which is below EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT);
- (ii) for operations the total cost of which is at least EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT) where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation”.

Moreover, for this call, your attention is also drawn to Article 9(4) of the CPR, where reference is made to sustainable development and the respect of the Union environmental acquis.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy.

3. CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

3.1. Indicative Budget available

The indicative amount envisaged for this call BMVI/2024/SA/1.4.2 is **EUR 150 million** (funds available under the 2023-2025 Thematic Facility work programme).

Countries may submit one application for each external border with a third country (Russia / Belarus).

Each application may be composed of multiple work packages. Work packages can be used to differentiate budget items, phases of implementation, as well as border sections. You will find more information on the work packages in the application form.

The requested amount (i.e., the Union contribution to the Member State's BMVI programme under the Specific Action):

- should not be lower than EUR 10 million per application including technical assistance;
- should not be higher than EUR 50 million per application including technical assistance;

The co-financing rate for this call is 90%.

Proposals that do not meet the minimum pass score of 45 out of 60 for relevance will be excluded from funding.

Given the limited budget, DG HOME may decide to reduce the total budget of individual applications and/or establish a reserve list for proposals.

3.2. Background for the specific action

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the return of war on European soil have radically changed the security landscape, “*putting European and global peace and security at risk*” ⁽⁵⁾.

The European Council repeatedly condemned all types of hybrid activities, targeting the “*European Union, its Member States and partners, including intimidation, sabotage, subversion, foreign information manipulation and interference, disinformation, malicious cyber activities and the instrumentalisation of migrants by third countries*” ⁽⁶⁾.

A highly worrying phenomenon observed is the increasing role of State actors in artificially creating and facilitating irregular migration, using migratory flows as a tool for political purposes, to destabilise the European Union and its Member States. Starting in 2021, the eastern European countries sharing a border with Russia and/or Belarus have faced systematic threat and are the victims of recurrent hybrid attacks at their external border.

⁽⁵⁾ [European Council conclusions, 21 October 2022](#)

⁽⁶⁾ [European Council conclusions, 27 June 2024](#)

The European Council conclusions ⁽⁷⁾ from 15 December 2023 recognised that, three years after Belarus started instrumentalising migration as a means to retaliate against European sanctions, Member States are again facing hybrid threats at their external border with Russia and Belarus.

Russia has intensified its campaign with new active operations on European soil and Member States have experienced attempts of destabilisation to their border management system (jamming cameras and GPS in border areas, sending balloons for surveillance).

The EU is determined to face hybrid threats collectively, as emphasised in the Commission President's letter to European leaders, in December 2023, referring to the situation of one Member State affected by these attempts: *“Finland has been impacted by illegal border crossings orchestrated by Russia. We are witnessing a new order of hybrid attack after Finland joined NATO, that requires a clear and determined response. [...] Against the backdrop of hybrid attack of Russia, we will strengthen that support even further to bolster Finland's border security, reinforcing its border control capabilities, equipment, infrastructure and means of surveillance - including through the EU budget”*.

On 9 June 2024, eight Member States (Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Finland and Sweden) addressed a letter to the European Commission raising their concerns regarding the hybrid attacks by Russia and Belarus at the EU's eastern external border. The Commission President addressed a letter to European leaders, in June 2024, in which she reminded that *“hostile actors who push people across the EU's external borders, for political purposes and with the aim of destabilising the Union or a Member State, should be recognised as a threat to our security”* and referred to *“hybrid attacks aimed at undermining the security of our external borders, as well as that of the border regions and our citizens”*.

3.2.1 National legal and policy framework

EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries sharing an external border with Russia and/or Belarus have taken a variety of measures in response. Among them, they have reinforced their presence at the external border, including by calling for the support of reservists and other authorities than border authorities and have adopted (or are in the process of adopting) dedicated legislation to deal with this specific situation.

As regards the right to access to the asylum procedure, the Commission is in contact with these Member States, providing technical advice on their legislation to ensure consistency with the respect of fundamental rights and EU law.

3.2.2 EU legal and policy framework

All EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries sharing an external border with Russia and/or Belarus underwent in 2022-2024 their respective Schengen evaluations. Particular focus was paid to countries' capabilities, processes and tools to address migration and security risks at their external borders, while ensuring an adequate level of protection of fundamental rights, in particular in light of the instrumentalisation of migrants by Russia and Belarus. This process resulted in the identification of various deficiencies requiring remedial actions.

(7) [European Council Conclusions from 14 and 15 December 2023](#)

The recently adopted Regulation addressing situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum ⁽⁸⁾, crisis and force majeure ⁽⁹⁾ has defined instrumentalisation as a *situation where a third country or a hostile non-state actor encourages or facilitates the movement of third-country nationals or stateless persons to the external borders or to a Member State, with the aim of destabilising the Union or a Member State, and where such actions are liable to put at risk essential functions of a Member State, including the maintenance of law and order or the safeguard of its national security*. The regulation provides the conditions to be met in a Member State facing instrumentalisation, to be assessed by the Commission following a reasoned request by a Member State. If the conditions are met, the Member State may benefit from solidarity measures allowing for the proper management of the situation or from specific derogations as to the registration of applications for international protection. This regulation will be applicable as of 1 July 2026.

3.2.3 Additional EU financial support already provided in this context

The Commission made available additional funding of EUR 200 million for Poland, Latvia and Lithuania to manage the situation at the Belarus border in a humane, orderly and dignified manner. In addition to the EUR 15 million grant for emergency assistance for Lithuania awarded under direct management, the three Member States received the following allocations in May 2022 under their programmes: EUR 63 million for Latvia, EUR 55 million for Lithuania and EUR 67 million for Poland, in reply to the invitation for a specific action for “Support for Border management” - BMVI/2021/SA/1.5.8 ⁽¹⁰⁾. Another grant for emergency assistance of EUR 36.7 million, from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and for the support to reception, was provided to Lithuania.

Besides the above home affairs EU funding, the EU offered immediate support to the most affected Member States, providing material support through the civil protection mechanism, deploying EU agencies and mobilising additional funds with a view to full access for the relevant humanitarian agencies on the ground.

It should be noted that since then, the Commission has launched several other specific actions to increase border surveillance capabilities across the EU, enabling Member States to address challenges at borders facing new ways of arrivals and/or high migratory pressure. There were calls for expression of interest addressed to all Member States to increase the Assets Pool of Frontex with various means of transport and equipment “Equipment for EBCG national components, purchased under BMVI and put at the disposal of Frontex to increase its operational capacity – BMVI/2023-2024/SA/1.2.2) and a call to introduce, improve or extend electronic border surveillance systems at external land borders (BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.4). The call for the electronic border surveillance systems addressed the operational needs underlined in the Commission’s Communication COM (2023)146 final.

⁽⁸⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1359 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 addressing situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, OJ L, 2024/1359, 22.5.2024.

⁽⁹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/1359 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 May 2024 addressing situations of crisis and force majeure in the field of migration and asylum and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 PE/19/2024/REV/1 OJ L, 2024/1359, 22.5.2024.

⁽¹⁰⁾ (Ares(2022)107566)

Moreover, given the specific challenge that Lithuania faces in ensuring the effective functioning of the Special Transit Scheme (STS) since the invasion of Russia in Ukraine, the European Commission allocated an additional EUR 24 million for the effective implementation of STS risk management measures.

Bearing in mind the various ways in which migrants arrive at the external borders of the Member States, the Union has provided support to different of groups of Member States for enhancing their border capabilities along specific migratory routes: with calls for expression of interest assisting Member States that faced a high number of irregular border crossings in the Western Balkan and at the border with Türkiye ⁽¹¹⁾ and a call for Member States that face a high number of sea arrivals to develop sea border electronic surveillance systems or extend/upgrade them ⁽¹²⁾.

Given recent developments, it cannot be excluded that there may be other attempts to conduct hybrid attacks against Member States in the coming period and that such attempts include instrumentalisation of migrants by Belarus and Russia and/or other kinds of operations at their borders. It is therefore important that Member States are better equipped to address future challenges and respond rapidly to them directly at the external borders of the countries concerned.

3.3. Scope and purpose of the specific action

This call invites EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries that have borders with Russia and Belarus to launch initiatives to strengthen their border surveillance capabilities, considering the new security landscape, including hybrid threats at the EU external borders and shortcomings identified in the management of their external borders, in particular in the context of Schengen evaluations and Vulnerability Assessment.

The specific action proposed should at least include one or more of the following three activities of strategic importance:

1. *The extension or upgrading of existing border surveillance systems*, involving procurement of fixed and/or mobile equipment catering for increased surveillance of EU external land borders (surveillance systems, including video surveillance systems, thermal imaging devices, night vision capacity, electronic cables, radars, ground sensors and observation towers, etc.);
2. *The introduction of means of surveillance entailing new forms of technology, complementing existing infrastructure and systems*, (e.g. including through the use of UAV, drones, electronic support measures and/or identification systems preventing false alarms, etc.);
3. *Support for upgrades or new communication systems that improve the quality of data transfer & transmission and/or ensure the integration of information of new systems or means of surveillance* into the overall information management/situational awareness.

⁽¹¹⁾ Bulgaria and Romania received support to reinforce their border capabilities in the light of the February Special European Council (BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.2), while earlier this year an invitation was launched to Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Croatia (BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.6).

⁽¹²⁾ BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.7

The specific action proposed may however include, to a limited degree, *activities that ensure or reinforce the deployment of the above listed activities* at the EU external borders concerned, namely for means of transport (patrol vehicles), infrastructure (border guard stations at the proximity of the EU external border, etc.) or staff, training which are directly linked to the implementation of the main actions under this call. These additional activities should be limited to 10% of the final allocated amount and clearly identified as such in the application and the budget form.

If the application includes several work packages, composed of several items that would need to be purchased and, where relevant, the related operating cost and staff (in the form of additional activities), **the priority of each work package in relation to its relevance with regards to the capability gaps, as well as the expected timeline for delivery should be indicated.**

We recommend that the priorities are ranked in order of importance/preference, that the reasoning behind the ranked work packages in the application form are described and the budget form is used to detail each priority with the relevant activities. It is possible that only some work packages will be financed. Since there is no earmarking of the amount per country and the EU budget may not be sufficient to cover all additional needs identified, the application should present the views on the priorities for funding among the needs identified and the degree of urgency for each priority.

Proposals may cover (part of) applications made in previous calls for expression of interest which were put on reserve lists or rejected. At this stage in time, there are no intentions to activate the reserve lists established for the calls for the Frontex equipment and the electronic surveillance systems at land borders mentioned in section 3.2.3.

3.4. Expected results following the call

Proposals should present a coherent mid to long term vision for reinforcing the integrated border management capability of the Member State concerned at the external land borders with Russia or Belarus and how the proposed specific action would provide a contribution in the development of this capability, such as:

- Enhanced border surveillance capacity of the external border sections concerned in terms of quantity of tools (“x”%, by number of fixed and mobile surveillance and monitoring solutions (such as systems of radars, day and thermal cameras, sensors, imaging equipment etc.)) and/or in terms of quality of information obtained through the new means or technology
- Increased coverage with “x”% of the external borders with upgraded or extended surveillance systems or the means of surveillance entailing new forms of technology;
- Increased preparedness for tackling future border management challenges at the EU external borders by improved border surveillance capacity and capability.

The successful applications will require changes to the programmes’ relevant indicators that are listed in Annex VIII of the BMVI Regulation. The presentation of the expected results should indicate reliable sources of data used to measure the achievements.

4. PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

4.1. Application content

The applications should:

1. Provide information on the *baseline* currently in place (describe the border covered by activity of strategic importance proposed, outline the existing means of surveillance in place, describe the terrain and other circumstances that affect the choice of additional means of surveillance).
2. Provide an *analysis why the proposed activity/activities of strategic importance would be of added value at a particular border section(s)*, and why it is needed.

The analysis could be based on one or more of the following elements:

- a. completely or partially missing surveillance means in a given border section, where the new solution would be essential to underpin more efficient management of external borders, showing that there are no obstacles to achieve the objectives (e.g., the terrain conditions allow for it);
 - b. surveillance means in place, but outdated and would benefit from update, upgrade or extension;
 - c. data on the volume and nature of the irregular crossings of migrants and where available credible intelligence on future developments (while considering that evaluating data is complex, as numbers of irregular crossings can fluctuate significantly, high number of recorded attempts may actually mean that the surveillance is functioning, seasonal variations etc.);
 - d. how the proposed means addressed recommendations of the Schengen Evaluation and/or Vulnerability Assessment;
 - i. This need to address these findings is exceptionally being considered in this call, without prejudice to the general approach of the Commission that Member States should make the implementation of measures to address any identified deficiencies from the Schengen Evaluation or Vulnerability Assessment, especially measures to address serious deficiencies and assessments of non-compliance, a priority for their BMVI programmes. In case the application is justified in the context of Schengen recommendations and/or Vulnerability Assessments, additional information should be provided explaining why it was not/ would not be possible to address the recommendations concerned using the initial allocation from your BMVI programme in accordance with Article 13 (9) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148.
 - e. other relevant data or information on challenges of a more systemic nature faced at the border sections concerned, including where applicable, results of risk analysis;
 - f. any other relevant data or information relating to security and/or hybrid threats including those faced at the border sections concerned.
3. Explain *how the proposed surveillance means would operate specifically and how it would improve the situation at the border in concrete terms*, e.g., milestones and targets achievements & deadlines, in relation to the expected results including a map to show where the additional capabilities would be deployed (before and after).

4. Present how the proposed action *builds upon past measures taken on border surveillance in the border sections concerned* (including through information on complementarity with measures (being) funded under the EU budget);
5. Demonstrate the *added value of the proposed new surveillance capabilities as part of the integrated border management by the Member State concerned (national capability plan etc)*. This could relate to interoperability and integration with other systems and tools in place;
6. Confirm that planned equipment and/or means of transport will be compliant with Frontex standards, where they exist (please provide a statement on that);
7. Confirm that planned equipment and/or improved surveillance capabilities will directly contribute to the National Situational Picture and therefore to the European Situational Picture;
8. Where appropriate, provide justification in the case of a need for highly specialised equipment or means of transport (deployed as additional activities), as well - in case of additional staff needs for operating the additional equipment - that the required trainings and skills will be put in place.

The above information should be presented in the application form under the designated sections and will be assessed in line with relevance, quality and impact criteria.

In the case sensitive information exists relating to incidents at the external borders or threats that impact on border management and/or the internal security of the Member State, applicants are invited to indicate clearly the nature of the available information in the documents to be sent to the Commission. Either the information provided is sensitive and this quality is highlighted (presented separately), or it is indicated that the information cannot be shared and its existence is only described in general terms. Sensitive information should not be sent without encryption.

4.2. Admissibility and assessment aspects

DG HOME will assess the proposals submitted by the EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries.

To be considered admissible a proposal must:

1. be submitted within the deadline (see below) to the BMVI specific actions functional mailbox HOME-BMVI-SPECIFIC-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu,
2. consist of the official BMVI/2023/SA/1.4.2 Application Form attached to this note together with its annexes, which must be readable and complete (all fields necessary for assessment are to be filled in),
3. be submitted by the Managing Authority on behalf of the entity in the country that will be responsible for the implementation of the specific action,
4. identify a project beneficiary (an entity) that will be responsible for the implementation of the specific action in the country.

DG HOME will assess admissible proposals based on the following criteria ⁽¹³⁾:

⁽¹³⁾ A. Relevance (max 60/100), B. Quality and content (max 20/100) and C. Impact (max 20/100).

A. **Relevance (max 60/100 – minimum pass score 45/60):**

1. **Added value and relevance for the enhancement of border surveillance of the country concerned:** technical and operational suitability of the proposed activity / activities of strategic importance to address the specific challenges and identified gaps at the border sections concerned;
2. **Synergies in the border management of the country concerned:** degree of integration and/or interoperability of the proposed solutions into the existing surveillance means of the country concerned;
3. **Compliance with the BMVI and coherence with European Integrated Border Management:** clarity and consistency of the proposal with the BMVI scope and objectives, relevant EU strategies and quality control mechanisms;
4. **Contribution to the capabilities of the country concerned to handle irregular border crossings and threats hindering effective border surveillance, and responding to the deficiencies identified in the Schengen evaluations and/ or Vulnerability Assessment.**

B. **Quality and content (max 20/100):**

1. **Maturity of the proposal:** intervention logic of the proposal as a whole (background information, needs assessment, proposed activities and expected results); project management, including operational and financial management; planned implementation (indicative timeline); monitoring/reporting strategy; experience and expertise of the project team/entities involved in the implementation; risk assessment and risk management procedures; mechanisms to ensure compliance with the EU acquis;
2. **Coherence between the work packages (where applicable):** clarity of the interconnection and interdependencies between the work packages for the achievement of the objectives of the proposal and the reasoning about the priority; feasibility of the start of the work package indicated as the first priority;
3. **Cost-effectiveness:** reasonability and feasibility of the estimated cost; quality of the methodology for the calculation of costs; justification of costs not directly linked to the objectives of the proposal, if any.

C. **Impact (max 20/100):**

1. **Improved border surveillance capacity and capability,** such as % of coverage, number of equipment obtained, better preparedness to address future challenges in terms of management of the EU external borders.

Member States ⁽¹⁴⁾ must ensure respect for the horizontal principles described in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, including respect for fundamental rights and compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Moreover, Member States must ensure that the envisaged actions are not affected by a reasoned opinion delivered by the Commission in respect of infringement proceedings under Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) that put in

⁽¹⁴⁾ In the case of Schengen Associated Countries, the references to the Charter on Fundamental Rights of the European Union shall be understood as references to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Protocols as ratified by the Schengen Associated Countries and Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

doubt the legality and regularity of expenditure or the performance of the actions (Article 8(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148).

4.3. Application procedure

Deadline for the application: EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries are invited to submit their proposals by 30 September 2024 at the latest, using the official BMVI/2023/SA/1.4.2 Application Form attached to this Note, together with its annexes. The applicant can submit an application in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, it is strongly advised to use English for the entire application.

To ensure equal and fair treatment of the proposals and allow the Commission to allocate at the same date all the available funding, DG HOME will assess all proposals simultaneously. Therefore, proposals submitted after the deadline will not be admissible.

The Members of the Committee for the Home Affairs Funds will be informed at the latest 10 working days before the deadline for the submission of the proposals in case the deadline for the submission of proposals is extended.

E-mail address for the application: The proposals should be submitted to the BMVI specific actions functional mailbox HOME-BMVI-SPECIFIC-ACTION@ec.europa. Countries may submit additional documentation if necessary.

No modification to the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or to correct clerical mistakes, the Commission may contact the applicant/lead Member State during the evaluation process. A reply should be provided by the Member State within 3 working days from the request date.

Any requests for clarification on this call for the expression of interest may be sent by 9 September 2024 at the latest, to the same BMVI specific actions functional mailbox HOME-BMVI-SPECIFIC-ACTION@ec.europa.

Requests should only be sent **by the Managing authority**. The Managing Authority has an important role to explain to the potential beneficiaries the applicable rules and specificities of the programmes in general and of a specific action in particular and to help prepare applications for a specific action. The Managing Authority should be the contact point and take the responsibility to review questions from potential beneficiaries and raise questions to or request clarifications from the Commission services, where necessary. As projects under specific actions are managed at national level, according to national rules, specific questions on eligibility of costs should be addressed first to the Managing Authority.

To respect the equal treatment and transparency, the replies to the written requests for clarification received will be sent to all countries, via HOME-AFFAIRS-FUNDS-COMMITTEE@ec.europa.eu

DG HOME will inform EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries of the outcome of the assessment of the proposals in the course of November 2024.

5. AMENDMENT OF THE BMVI PROGRAMMES AND ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE

After having been informed of the outcome of the call for expression of interest, each successful EU Member State and Schengen Associated Country shall submit to the Commission a request to amend its BMVI programme via SFC. The amended programme should include a short description of the specific action, adjust the output and result indicators, and include the costs and codes linked to this specific action (respectively in the description and under tables 1, 2 and 3 of the relevant specific objective, and table 6 of the programme).

When amending an BMVI programme, two situations may arise regarding the eligibility of expenditure ⁽¹⁵⁾:

1. if all the types of interventions are listed in Annex VI table 1 of the BMVI Regulation that are relevant for the Specific Action “Enhancing border surveillance capabilities for countries at the borders with Russia and Belarus” in table(s) 2.1.3 of the relevant specific objective(s) in the *initially approved* BMVI programme: expenditure for the Specific Action will be eligible as of 01/01/2021.
2. if all the types of interventions are not listed in Annex VI table 1 of the BMVI Regulation that are relevant for the Specific Action “Enhancing border surveillance capabilities for countries at the borders with Russia and Belarus” in the tables in the table(s) 2.1.3 of the relevant specific objective(s) in the initially approved BMVI programme: expenditure for the Specific Action will be eligible from the date of submission of the request for amendment of the BMVI programme that will add the respective types of interventions in the programme.

Yours faithfully,

Silvia MICHELINI

⁽¹⁵⁾ Art. 63(7) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.