

# **EU/Liechtenstein Agreement: supplementary rules in relation to the instrument for financial support for border management and visa policy**

2023/0334(NLE) - 16/05/2024 - Final act

**PURPOSE:** to conclude, on behalf of the European Union, the Agreement between the European Union and the Principality of Liechtenstein on supplementary rules in relation to the instrument for financial support for border management and visa policy, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund.

**NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT:** Council Decision (EU) 2024/1357 on the conclusion, on behalf of the Union, of the Agreement between the European Union and the Principality of Liechtenstein on supplementary rules in relation to the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, for the period 2021 to 2027.

**BACKGROUND:** Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy for the period 2021-2027 (BMVI Regulation) was adopted on 7 July 2021.

The purpose of the BMVI Regulation is to express solidarity through financing assistance to those (Member) States that apply the Schengen acquis provisions on external borders. It constitutes a development of the Schengen acquis to which the countries associated to the implementation, application and further development of the Schengen acquis participate ('Schengen associated countries' or 'associated countries').

On 21 February 2022, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein for the arrangements on the financial contributions of those countries and the supplementary rules necessary for their participation in the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI Regulation) for the period 2021 to 2027, including provisions ensuring the protection of the Union's financial interests and the powers of audit of the Court of Auditors, to be concluded pursuant Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

The negotiations with Liechtenstein were successfully concluded by the initialling of an Agreement on 16 June 2023.

**CONTENT:** under this Decision, the Agreement between the European Union and Liechtenstein on supplementary rules in relation to the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, for the period 2021 to 2027 is hereby approved on behalf of the Union.

The Agreement:

- offers the opportunity to implement actions in shared management, direct and indirect management modes, and the Agreement should therefore ensure that the implementation in any of these methods is made in the Principality of Liechtenstein in accordance with the principles and rules of the Union on financial management and control;

- ensures that all rules applicable to the management of the programmes should apply for the Principality of Liechtenstein in the same way as for Member States;
- introduces specific mechanisms for swift adjustments to the agreement with the Principality of Liechtenstein, in the event of changes to key Union legislation relevant to the implementation, such as the Financial Regulation and the Common Provisions Regulation;
- ensures, as well, that the mid-term review of the BMVI takes into account the delayed participation of the Schengen associated countries;
- extends the horizontal obligations concerning budgetary and financial controls to Liechtenstein;
- contains a provision on European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS);
- states that to facilitate the calculation and use of the annual contributions due by Liechtenstein to the BMVI, its contributions for the period 2021-2027 should be paid in five annual instalments from 2023 to 2027. From 2023 to 2025 the annual contributions are set in fixed amounts while the contribution due for the years 2026 and 2027 should be determined in 2026 on the basis of the nominal gross domestic product of all States participating in the BMVI taking into account the payments effectively made.