



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 14 April 2020  
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**COVER NOTE**

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From:	Mr Johannes HAHN, Member of the European Commission
date of receipt:	14 April 2020
To:	Mr Zdravko MARIĆ, President of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 05/2020 withing Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2020

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Delegations will find attached Commission document DEC 05/2020.

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Encl.: DEC 05/2020



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

BRUSSELS, 14/04/2020

GENERAL BUDGET - 2020  
SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES: 21, 23

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° **DEC 05/2020**

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**FROM**

**CHAPTER** - 2102 Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

ARTICLE - 21 02 04 Cooperation with the Middle East

Commitments

-13 000 000,00

**TO**

**CHAPTER** - 2302 Humanitarian aid, food assistance and disaster preparedness

ARTICLE - 23 02 01 Delivery of rapid, effective and needs-based humanitarian aid  
and food assistance

Commitments

13 000 000,00

## **INTRODUCTION**

The proposed transfer of EUR 13 million in commitment appropriations from the budget line 21 02 04 'Cooperation with the Middle East' under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) to the budget line 23 02 01 'Delivery of rapid, effective and needs-based humanitarian aid and food assistance' is to reinforce EU's response to the severe COVID-19 crisis in Iran.

The situation in the country is extremely worrying, with enormous needs and gaps in the response. This is partially due to the poor condition of the health care system and the extremely low availability of medical supplies, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Imports of medical goods are restricted by US sanctions. As a result, there is a lack of even the most basic essential items, such as latex gloves. In addition, the population is extremely vulnerable due to the ongoing lack of access to medical care, causing high mortality rates.

As a result Iran is among the most affected countries worldwide with 38 309 confirmed cases and 2 640 deaths as of 29 March. The real figures are likely to be higher, due to the limited testing capacity in the country. These are staggering numbers, if we consider that so far the confirmed COVID-19 cases across all the Eastern Mediterranean Region reached 45 907.

The proposed transfer to the Humanitarian aid instrument will ensure an effective and efficient response, with fast contracting and delivery of support, as it will use humanitarian aid channels and procedures, through a number of relevant implementing partners already on the ground. Implementation under the DCI procedures would require a much longer process before committing and implementing the funds.

A fast response to the COVID-19 in Iran will also play a strategic role in the suppression or slowing down of further propagation of the virus in the whole region, since the country has an estimated population of 85 million people, hosts 4 million Afghan refugees and has several key regional pilgrimage sites.

## I. DECREASE

### I.1

#### a) Heading

**21 02 04 - Cooperation with the Middle East**

#### b) Figures at 27/03/2020

	<b>Commitments</b>
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	243 843 466,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	243 843 466,00
4 Appropriations already used	53 161 398,00
<b>5 Appropriations available (3-4)</b>	<b>190 682 068,00</b>
<b>6 Decrease proposed</b>	<b>13 000 000,00</b>
<b>7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)</b>	<b>177 682 068,00</b>
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	5,33 %
9 Decrease, as a percentage of the final appropriations for the year, in the sum of transfers referred to in Article 30(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation	n/a

#### c) Receipts arising from recovery (carried over from previous year)

	<b>Commitments</b>
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 27/03/2020	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a

#### d) Detailed grounds for the decrease

The proposed transfer of EUR 13 million in commitment appropriations to the Humanitarian aid instrument will ensure an effective and efficient response to the COVID-19 crisis in Iran, with fast contracting and delivery of support, as it will use humanitarian aid channels and procedures, through a number of relevant implementing partners already on the ground. DCI procedures require a much longer process before commitment and implementation of the funds.

## **II. INCREASE**

### **II.1**

#### **a) Heading**

**23 02 01 - Delivery of rapid, effective and needs-based humanitarian aid and food assistance**

#### **b) Figures at 27/03/2020**

	<b>Commitments</b>
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 042 234 779,00
2 Transfers	-15 789 900,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	1 026 444 879,00
4 Appropriations already used	983 234 500,00
<b>5 Appropriations available (3-4)</b>	<b>43 210 379,00</b>
<b>6 Increase requested</b>	<b>13 000 000,00</b>
<b>7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6)</b>	<b>56 210 379,00</b>
8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	1,25 %
9 Increase, as a percentage of the final appropriations for the year, in the sum of transfers referred to in Article 30(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation	n/a

#### **c) Receipts arising from recovery (carried over from previous year)**

	<b>Commitments</b>
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	1 024 638,59
2 Appropriations available on 27/03/2020	1 024 638,59
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	0,00 %

#### **d) Detailed grounds for the increase**

The humanitarian aid assistance initially planned for Iran in 2020 amounts to EUR 10 million. A first tranche of EUR 5 million has already been allocated for activities in support of the 4 million Afghan refugees in the country. The remaining EUR 5 million will address both the needs of Afghan refugees and the response to COVID-19. This funding for COVID-19 response is however utterly insufficient in view of the magnitude of the emergency and will not cover even the most urgent, life-saving needs.

The proposed transfer therefore reinforces EU's response by EUR 13 million in commitment appropriations. It will be used for the urgent procurement of medical supplies.