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PROPOSAL

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
date of receipt:	23 October 2017
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2017) 613 final
Subject:	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund following an application from Greece – EGF/2017/003 GR/Attica retail

Delegations will find attached document COM(2017) 613 final.

Encl.: COM(2017) 613 final



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 23.10.2017
COM(2017) 613 final

Proposal for a

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

**on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund following an
application from Greece – EGF/2017/003 GR/Attica retail**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

1. The rules applicable to financial contributions from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) are laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006¹ (the ‘EGF Regulation’).
2. On 13 April 2017, Greece submitted an application EGF/2017/003 GR/Attica retail for a financial contribution from the EGF, following redundancies² in the economic sector classified under the NACE Revision 2 Division 47 (Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles) in the NUTS level 2 regions of Attica (EL30) and 10 other regions³ in Greece.
3. Following its assessment of this application, the Commission has concluded, in accordance with all applicable provisions of the EGF Regulation, that the conditions for awarding a financial contribution from the EGF are met.

SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION

EGF application	EGF/2017/003 GR/Attica retail
Member State	Greece
Region(s) concerned (NUTS ⁴ level 2)	Eastern Macedonia, Thrace (EL11) Central Macedonia (EL12) Western Macedonia (EL13) Thessaly (EL14) Epirus (EL21) Western Greece (EL23) Central Greece (EL24) Peloponnese (EL25) Attica (EL30) Southern Aegean (EL42) Crete (EL43)

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 855.

² Within the meaning of Article 3 of the EGF Regulation.

³ Eastern Macedonia, Thrace (EL11), Central Macedonia (EL12), Western Macedonia (EL13), Thessaly (EL14), Epirus (EL21), Western Greece (EL23), Central Greece (EL24), Peloponnese (EL25), Southern Aegean (EL42), Crete (EL43)

⁴ Commission Regulation (EU) No 1046/2012 of 8 November 2012 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) as regards the transmission of the time series for the new regional breakdown (OJ L 310, 9.11.2012, p. 34).

Date of submission of the application	13 April 2017
Date of acknowledgement of receipt of the application	13 April 2017
Receipt of translation	12 May 2017
Date of request for additional information	26 May 2017
Date of request for additional 2 weeks to provide the requested information	7 July 2017
Deadline for provision of the additional information	21 July 2017
Receipt of translation of additional information	16 August 2017
Deadline for the completion of the assessment	8 November 2017
Intervention criterion	Article 4(2) of the EGF Regulation
Number of enterprises concerned	9
Sector(s) of economic activity (NACE Revision 2 Division) ⁵	Division 47 (Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles)
Reference period (nine months):	19 April 2016 - 19 January 2017
Total number of redundancies	725
Total number of eligible beneficiaries	725
Total number of targeted beneficiaries	725
Budget for personalised services (EUR)	4 720 250
Budget for implementing EGF ⁶ (EUR)	195 000
Total budget (EUR)	4 915 250
EGF contribution (60 %) (EUR)	2 949 150

ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

Procedure

4. Greece submitted application EGF/2017/003 GR/Attica retail within 12 weeks of the date on which the intervention criteria set out in Article 4 of the EGF Regulation were met, on 13 April 2017. The Commission acknowledged receipt of the application on the same date, and requested additional information from Greece on 26 May 2017. Such additional information was provided within eight weeks, after an extension of the deadline by two weeks at the duly justified request of Greece. The deadline of 12 weeks of the receipt of the complete application within which the Commission should finalise its assessment of the application's compliance with the conditions for providing a financial contribution expires on 8 November 2017.

⁵ OJ L 393, 30.12.2006, p. 1.

⁶ In accordance with the fourth paragraph of Article 7 of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013.

Eligibility of the application

Enterprises and beneficiaries concerned

5. The application relates to 725 workers made redundant in the economic sector classified under the NACE Revision 2 Division 47 (Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles). The redundancies made by the 9 enterprises are located in the NUTS level 2 regions of Attica (EL30) and 10 other regions⁷.

⁷

Idem footnote 3

Enterprises and number of dismissals within the reference period			
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΟΝΙΚΗ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ Α.Ε.Ε.	428	ΝΟΤΟΣ COM ΣΥΜΜΕΤΟΧΕΣ Α.Ε.	33
DIXONS SOUTH - EAST EUROPE SA	42	ΠΕΤ ΣΙΤΙ ΑΕΒΕ	23
ΗΛΕΚΤΡΟΛΟΓΙΚΑ ΕΛΛΑΣ ΑΘΗΝΗ ΧΟΝΤΟΣ Α.Ε.Ε.	37	ΣΑΡΑΦΙΔΗΣ Α.Ε.	28
ΑΦΟΙ ΒΕΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΙ Α.Ε.	29		
METPO ΑΕΒΕ	49		
	56		
Total no. of enterprises: 9⁸		Total no. of dismissals:	725
Total no. of self-employed persons whose activity has ceased:			0
Total no. of eligible workers and self-employed persons:			725

Intervention criteria

6. Greece submitted the application under the intervention criteria of Article 4(2) derogating from the criteria of Article 4(1)(b) of the EGF Regulation, which requires at least 500 workers being made redundant over a reference period of nine months in enterprises operating in the same economic sector defined at NACE Revision 2 Division and located in one region or two contiguous regions defined at NUTS 2 level in a Member State. There were 513 redundancies in the NUTS level 2 region of Attica (EL30).
7. The reference period of nine months for the application runs from 19 April 2016 to 19 January 2017.

Calculation of redundancies and of cessation of activity

8. The redundancies during the reference period have been calculated as follows:
 - 269 from the date of the employer's individual notice to lay off or to terminate the contract of employment of the worker,
 - 456 from the date of the de facto termination of the contract of employment or its expiry,

Eligible beneficiaries

9. The total number of eligible beneficiaries is 725.

Link between the redundancies and the global financial and economic crisis addressed in Regulation (EC) No 546/2009

10. In order to establish the link between the redundancies and the global financial and economic crisis addressed in Regulation (EC) No 546/2009, Greece argues that the

⁸ The 9 enterprises' have stores and supermarkets which sell electronics, electrical appliances, computers, cosmetic goods, clothing, footwear, food and drinks, etc.
Two enterprises (ΗΛΕΚΤΡΟΝΙΚΗ ΑΘΗΝΩΝ Α.Ε.Ε and ΣΑΡΑΦΙΔΗΣ Α.Ε.) went bankrupt and the other seven have continued their activities.

Greek economy was in deep recession since the beginning of the crisis in 2008. According to ELSTAT, the Greek Statistical Authority, since 2008 and until 2016 the Greek real GDP has decreased by 26,2 percentages, public consumption by 22,8 percentages and private consumption by 24,4 percentages whilst unemployment increased about 14 percentage points. Even though the Greek economy is estimated to be on the recovery path and forecasts for some of these indicators are positive for 2017⁹, the labour market will continue to experience difficulties in the near future as well.

11. Since 2008 the Greek government has been taking measures such as increasing tax rates, streamlining public expenditure and decreasing public employees' salaries in order to deal with foreign debt repayments. Wages in the private sector have also been decreasing in an attempt to increase the competitiveness of the Greek economy.
12. An immediate effect of the reduced income has been a decrease in consumption, especially of non-essential goods. Since 2009, the household consumption in Greece continued decreasing until 2013, despite a slow recovery at the EU-28 level. After a slight recovery in 2014, the downward trend of household consumption in Greece started again in 2015¹⁰.
13. According to the ELSTAT report on household income and living conditions, 21,2 % of Greeks were below the poverty threshold¹¹ in 2016.
14. According to a recent study¹² by IME-GSEVEE¹³, published in January 2016, one out of three households stated that their income level has declined in 2015 compared with the previous year, while 94,2 % of households state that their income fell significantly since the beginning of the crisis.
15. Over the period 2009-2016, the consumer confidence indicator¹⁴ deteriorated greatly during the first four years, from -46 in 2009 to -75 in 2012, and despite a recovery in 2014-2015 (-49), since 2016 the indicator severely deteriorated to -73,3 in February 2017¹⁵.
16. To date, the retail trade sector has been the subject of seven EGF applications¹⁶, all based on the global financial and economic crisis.

Events giving rise to the redundancies and cessation of activity

17. According to the Greek authorities, the events giving rise to these redundancies were mainly two: (1) the decrease of available household income — due to the increase in the tax burden, decreasing salaries and rising unemployment — resulting in a huge

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/ecfin_forecast_spring_110517_el_en.pdf

¹⁰ GDP and main components (output, expenditure and income), Code: nama_10_gdp.

¹¹ In Greece, the poverty threshold is EUR 4 500 per year per person (for individuals) and EUR 9 450 for households comprising two adults and two children.

¹² <http://www.imegsevee.gr/dtimegsevee/1078--1-r>

¹³ The Small Enterprises' Institute of the Hellenic Confederation of Professionals, Craftsmen and Merchants

¹⁴ The consumer confidence indicator is the weighted percentage of positive and negative answers

¹⁵ http://iobe.gr/docs/situation/BCS_01032017_PRE_GR.pdf

¹⁶ EGF/2010/010 CZ/Unilever, EGF/2010/016 ES/Aragón Retail, EGF/2011/004 EL/ALDI Hellas, EGF/2014/009 EL/Sprider Stores, EGF/2014/013 EL/Odyssefs Fokas, EGF/2015/011 GR/Supermarket Larissa, EGF/2016/005 NL/Drenthe Overijssel Retail

drop of purchasing power; (2) the drastic reduction of loans to enterprises and individuals due to the lack of cash in the Greek banks. According to the Bank of Greece, the annual growth rate for loans granted to households and enterprises has been negative since 2010 in the Greek banks¹⁷.

18. Due to the drop of purchasing power of Greek households as of 2008, demand for essential goods and durable consumer goods declined. This led to a significant fall of retail sales between 2008-2015 which ranged from 60 % for household appliances to 30 % for food retailers and 23 % for supermarkets¹⁸. According to Infobank Hellastat SA¹⁹, the fall in retail sales is expected to continue in the future.
19. In this framework, retail companies met serious problems in terms of viability, as their financing elements and performance went from bad to worse during the crisis period. The overall turnover index in the retail trade sector had a constant downward trend, decreasing by more than 63 % over the period 2008-2016, from 112,6 in 2008 to 71,1 in 2016²⁰.
20. The continuing decline in the incomes of the Greek consumers changed their consumption habits and attitude. Also, the continuing growth of e-sales, which reached 18,3 % in November 2016, put an even bigger pressure on traditional retail stores²¹. All these contributed to an already high unemployment rate²². According to the 2016 Annual Report of the Greek General Confederation of Workers (GSEE) Labour Institute, 164 000 jobs have been lost between 2008-2015 in the retail trade, manufacturing and construction sectors, which account for 64.2 % of total job losses²³.

Expected impact of the redundancies as regards the local, regional or national economy and employment

21. Although in the last four years unemployment in Greece has been slowly decreasing, the unemployment rate was still the highest in EU (23,6 %) in 2016.
22. The Greek authorities argue that the redundancies in the 11 regions concerned will further aggravate the unemployment situation, which already deteriorated as a result of the economic and financial crisis. In 2016, Greece had the highest unemployment rates amongst EU Member states and the fifteenth highest worldwide²⁴.

Unemployment rate

¹⁷ http://www.bankofgreece.gr/BogEkdoseis/Summary_Annrep2016.pdf

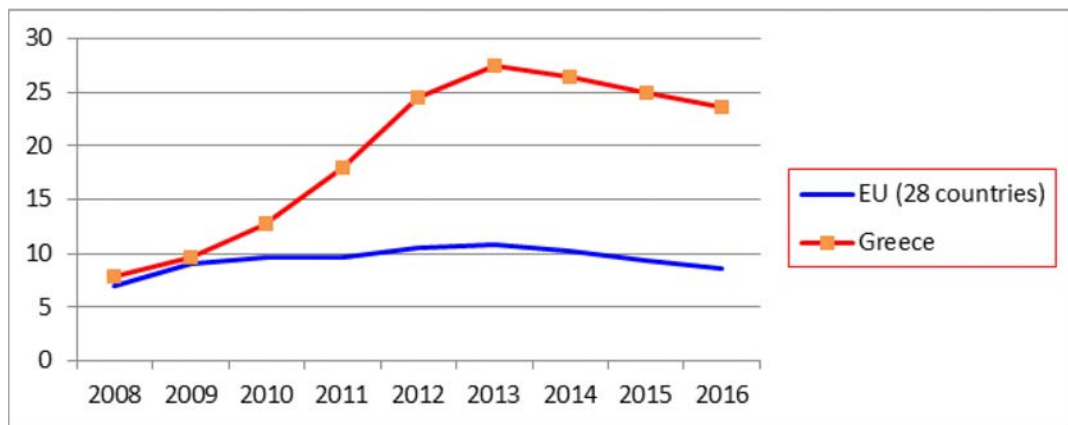
¹⁸ [https://www.nbg.gr/greek/the-group/press-office/e-spot/reports/Documents/SMEs%20Survey_Retail%20Trade%20\(September%202016\).pdf](https://www.nbg.gr/greek/the-group/press-office/e-spot/reports/Documents/SMEs%20Survey_Retail%20Trade%20(September%202016).pdf)
¹⁹ <http://www.pressreader.com/greece/naftemporiki/20170111/281784218780186>

²⁰ <http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/DKT39/2017-M05>
²¹ www.greekecommerce.gr/gr/file-download/eltrun-ecommerce-b2c-2016

²² Eurostat: Code tsdec450.

²³ <http://www.inegsee.gr/ekdosi/etisia-ekthesi-2016-ine-gsee-i-elliniki-ikonomia-ke-i-apascholisi/>

²⁴ Source: ILO.
http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/maps-and-charts/WCMS_442905/lang--en/index.htm



Source: Eurostat²⁵ and ELSTAT

23. Most of the redundancies are concentrated in Attica (70,7 %) region, while the rest occurred in other 10 regions²⁶ (29,3 %). At the end of 2016 the unemployment rate in Attica was 22,9 %, while for the other 10 regions concerned it ranged from 19,5 % in Aegean region to 26,8 % in the Epirus and Western Macedonia regions²⁷. Furthermore, there is a lack of job offers in the regions if compared with the high number of job seekers. 306 749 people appeared as job seekers in the same period (February 2016) only in the Attica region.
24. In this framework, the redundancies in the retail trade enterprises have overburdened the regions which have already been severely hit by the negative consequences of the crisis.

Explanation of the exceptional circumstances underlying the admissibility of the application

25. Greece argues that this application should be assimilated to an application under Article 4(1)(b) of the EGF Regulation due to exceptional circumstances having a serious impact on employment and the local, regional or national economy. The requirements of Article 4(1)(b) are not entirely met because it is difficult to demonstrate that the two NUTS 2 level regions separated by water (EL42 and EL43²⁸) are contiguous to the other regions concerned and are part of the same local or regional labour market.
26. Contiguity in the sense of Article 4(1)(b), in the case of two regions separated by water, is not defined in the EGF Regulation and Greece argues that these 20 workers²⁹, who were made redundant from shops belonging to the same parent company Electroniki Athinon SA should be treated equally and benefit from the same type of measures as the other workers made redundant in the regions located on the main land.
27. Furthermore, these 2 regions separated by water are small local and isolated labour markets and both these regions already have a very high unemployment rate, 19,5 % in Southern Aegean and 23,5 % in Crete.

²⁵ Code tsdec450.

²⁶ Idem footnote 3

²⁷ <http://www.statistics.gr/documents/20181/44dfe0a4-2f54-47c0-aa04-83b6d56508f8>

²⁸ EL42 - Southern Aegean and EL43 - Crete

²⁹ 12 workers in EL42 - Southern Aegean and 8 in EL43 - Crete

Targeted beneficiaries and proposed actions

Targeted beneficiaries

28. The estimated number of redundant workers expected to participate in the measures is 725. The breakdown of these workers by sex, citizenship and age group is as follows:

Category		Number of targeted beneficiaries	
Sex:	Men:	408	(56,3 %)
	Women:	317	(43,7 %)
Citizenship:	EU citizens:	714	(98,5 %)
	non-EU citizens:	11	(1,5 %)
Age group:	15-24 years:	0	(0,0 %)
	25-29 years:	26	(3,6 %)
	30-54 years:	81	(11,2 %)
	55-64 years:	438	(60,4 %)
	over 64 years:	180	(24,8 %)

Eligibility of the proposed actions

29. The personalised services to be provided to redundant workers consist of the following actions:

- Professional counselling: This accompanying measure, which will be offered to all participants with special attention to the elderly beneficiaries, consists of 25 individual sessions of 45 minutes each with a specialised counsellor and covers the following stages:

1 Information. This first measure addressed to all participants provides basic information about the project and their prospects from accepting to participate in it.

2 Registration of beneficiaries and exploration of needs. This includes providing information on available services and training programmes, on skills and training requirements, as well as preparation of a personal file of all participants.

3 Personal and professional assessment. This is intended to help workers identify their skills, opportunities and constraints related to their interests as well as to establish a realistic career plan. The outcome will be a personal and professional assessment which includes the participant's skills, qualifications and training needs.

4 Personal and professional development process. This includes: (1) training in horizontal skills³⁰ (2) job-search assistance and techniques, training on drafting of CVs, cover letters and how to prepare a job interview; (3) career guidance: the counsellors will provide up-to-date information on labour market issues and will steer them towards specific job offers; (4) preparation of the initial summary individual project and an action plan.

5 Development and preparation of the individual action plan. The counsellors will also accompany the workers during the implementation of their training pathways and individual plans of reintegration into employment. The participants interested in setting up a business will receive general support and counselling towards entrepreneurship.

6 Monitoring. This provides a follow up of the participants during the six months that follow the end of the implementation of the measures.

- Training, retraining and vocational training. This measure consists in providing vocational training courses to workers which correspond to their needs, especially of the elderly beneficiaries and the current needs in the labour market. The two types of training are: continuous vocational training programmes and specialised trainings or specific educational programmes. The training courses might also be complemented with traineeships.
- Contribution to business start-up. In order to promote entrepreneurship, the workers who set up their own businesses will receive up to EUR 15 000 as a contribution to cover setting-up costs. The condition is that the beneficiaries maintain their business for at least one year.
- Job-search allowance and training allowance. To cover the expenses incurred when participating in the professional counselling measure, the beneficiaries will receive EUR 40 for expenses for participating in a 45 minute session with a counsellor. While in training the allowance will be EUR 3,33 per hour.
- Job creation subsidy. As a recruitment incentive, employers will receive a subsidy of EUR 650 (gross) per person for six months, provided that they maintain the contract for the EGF beneficiary for six more months after the subsidy ends.

30. The proposed actions, here described, constitute active labour market measures within the eligible actions set out in Article 7 of the EGF Regulation. These actions do not substitute passive social protection measures.

31. Greece has provided the required information on actions that are mandatory for the enterprise concerned by virtue of national law or pursuant to collective agreements. They have confirmed that a financial contribution from the EGF will not replace such actions.

³⁰ Horizontal skills such as: [adjusting to new situations, decision making, job search, etc.](#)

Estimated budget

32. The estimated total costs are EUR 4 915 250, comprising expenditure for personalised services of EUR 4 720 250 and expenditure for preparatory, management, information and publicity, control and reporting activities of EUR 195 000.
33. The total financial contribution requested from the EGF is EUR 2 949 150 (60 % of total costs).

Actions	Estimated number of participants	Estimated cost per participant (EUR)	Estimated total costs (EUR)
Personalised services (Actions under Article 7(1)(a) and (c) of the EGF Regulation)			
Professional counselling (Επαγγελματική συμβουλευτική)	725	1 250	906 250
Vocational training (Επαγγελματική Κατάρτιση)	680	1 500	1 020 000
Specialised training/education (Εξειδικευμένη κατάρτιση / εκπαίδευση)	45	4 000	180 000
Contribution to business start-up (Συνεισφορά για σύσταση επιχείρησης)	65	15 000	975 000
Sub-total (a): Percentage of the package of personalised services	—		3 081 250 (65,28 %)
Allowances and incentives (Actions under Article 7(1)(b) of the EGF Regulation)			
Job search allowances (Επιδόματα αναζήτησης εργασίας)	725	1 000	725 000
Training allowances (Επιδόματα κατάρτισης)	680	1 000	680 000
Job creation subsidy (Επιδότηση θέσεων εργασίας)	60	3 900	234 000
Sub-total (b): Percentage of the package of personalised services:	—		1 639 000 (34,72 %)
Actions under Article 7(4) of the EGF Regulation			
1. Preparatory activities	—		25 000
2. Management	—		90 000
3. Information and publicity	—		55 000
4. Control and reporting	—		25 000

Sub-total (c):	–	195 000
Percentage of the total costs :	–	(3,97 %)
Total costs (a + b + c):	–	4 915 250
EGF contribution (60 % of total costs)	–	2 949 150

34. The costs of the actions identified in the table above as actions under Article 7(1)(b) of the EGF Regulation do not exceed 35 % of the total costs for the coordinated package of personalised services. Greece confirmed that these actions are conditional on the active participation of the targeted beneficiaries in job-search or training activities.

35. Greece confirmed that the costs of investments for self-employment, business start-ups and employee take-overs will not exceed EUR 15 000 per beneficiary.

Period of eligibility of expenditure

36. Greece started providing the personalised services to the targeted beneficiaries on 13 July 2017. The expenditure on the actions will therefore be eligible for a financial contribution from the EGF from 13 July 2017 to 13 July 2019.

37. Greece started incurring the administrative expenditure to implement the EGF on 5 June 2017. The expenditure for preparatory, management, information and publicity, control and reporting activities shall therefore be eligible for a financial contribution from the EGF from 5 June 2017 to 13 January 2020.

Complementarity with actions funded by national or Union funds

38. The source of national pre-financing or co-funding is the Public Investment Programme of the Greek Ministry of Economy and Development.

39. Greece has confirmed that the measures described above receiving a financial contribution from the EGF will not also receive financial contributions from other Union financial instruments.

Procedures for consulting the targeted beneficiaries or their representatives or the social partners as well as local and regional authorities

40. Greece has indicated that the co-ordinated package of personalised services has been drawn up in consultation with the General Secretary and the representatives of Labour Institute of the General Confederation of Hellenic Workers (GSEE)

41. In January 2017 six meetings took place at the office of General Secretary of Ministry of Labour; three of these meetings between the General Secretary and the representatives of GSEE and the other three between the General Secretary and the Coordinating Committee of the dismissed workers.

Management and control system

42. The application contains a description of the management and control system which specifies the responsibilities of the bodies involved. Greece has notified the Commission that the financial contribution will be managed and controlled by the

same bodies that manage and control the European Social Fund (ESF) funding in Greece. The National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) Task Force at the Department of Employment and Social Economy of the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Social Solidarity will act as managing authority, the EDEL (the Financial Audit Committee) as audit authority and the Special Service for Certification and Verification of Co-financed Programs as certification authority.

Commitments provided by the Member State concerned

43. Greece has provided all necessary assurances regarding the following:
- the principles of equality of treatment and non-discrimination will be respected in the access to the proposed actions and their implementation,
 - the requirements laid down in national and EU legislation concerning collective redundancies have been complied with,
 - the dismissing enterprises, which have continued their activities after the lay-offs, have complied with their legal obligations governing the redundancies and provided for their workers accordingly,
 - the proposed actions will not receive financial support from other Union funds or financial instruments and any double financing will be prevented,
 - the proposed actions will be complementary with actions funded by the Structural Funds,
 - the financial contribution from the EGF will comply with the procedural and material Union rules on State aid.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION

Budgetary proposal

44. The EGF shall not exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 150 million (2011 prices), as laid down in Article 12 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020³¹.
45. Having examined the application in respect of the conditions set out in Article 13(1) of the EGF Regulation, and having taken into account the number of targeted beneficiaries, the proposed actions and the estimated costs, the Commission proposes to mobilise the EGF for the amount of EUR 2 949 150, representing 60 % of the total costs of the proposed actions, in order to provide a financial contribution for the application.
46. The proposed decision to mobilise the EGF will be taken jointly by the European Parliament and the Council, as laid down in point 13 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and

³¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management³².

Related acts

47. At the same time as it presents this proposal for a decision to mobilise the EGF, the Commission will present to the European Parliament and to the Council a proposal for a transfer to the relevant budgetary line for the amount of EUR 2 949 150.
48. At the same time as it adopts this proposal for a decision to mobilise the EGF, the Commission will adopt a decision on a financial contribution, by means of an implementing act, which will enter into force on the date at which the European Parliament and the Council adopt the proposed decision to mobilise the EGF.

³² OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund following an application from Greece – EGF/2017/003 GR/Attica retail

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006³³, and in particular Article 15(4) thereof,

Having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management³⁴, and in particular point 13 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) aims to provide support for workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activity has ceased as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, as a result of a continuation of the global financial and economic crisis, or as a result of a new global financial and economic crisis, and to assist them with their reintegration into the labour market.
- (2) The EGF is not to exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 150 million (2011 prices), as laid down in Article 12 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013³⁵.
- (3) On 13 April 2017, Greece submitted an application to mobilise the EGF, in respect of redundancies in the economic sector classified under the Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community ('NACE') Revision 2 Division 47 (Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles) in the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics ('NUTS')³⁶ level 2 regions of Attica (EL30), Eastern Macedonia, Thrace (EL11), Central Macedonia (EL12), Western Macedonia (EL13),

³³ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 855.

³⁴ OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

³⁵ Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884).

³⁶ Commission Regulation (EU) No 1046/2012 of 8 November 2012 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) as regards the transmission of the time series for the new regional breakdown (OJ L 310, 9.11.2012, p. 34).

Thessaly (EL14), Epirus (EL21), Western Greece (EL23), Central Greece (EL24), Peloponnese (EL25), Southern Aegean (EL42) and Crete (EL43) in Greece. It was supplemented by additional information provided in accordance with Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013. That application complies with the requirements for determining a financial contribution from the EGF as laid down in Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013.

- (4) In accordance with Article 4(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013, the application from Greece is considered admissible since the redundancies have a serious impact on employment and the local, regional or national economy.
- (5) The EGF should, therefore, be mobilised in order to provide a financial contribution of EUR 2 949 150 in respect of the application submitted by Greece.
- (6) In order to minimise the time taken to mobilise the EGF, this decision should apply from the date of its adoption,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

For the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2017, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund shall be mobilised to provide the amount of EUR 2 949 150 in commitment and payment appropriations.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. It shall apply from *[the date of its adoption]**.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

* *Date to be inserted by the Parliament before the publication in OJ.*