



**Brussels, 19 November 2015
(OR. en)**

14195/15

FIN 775

"A" ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016
– *Approval of the joint text*

1. Following meetings of the Conciliation Committee on 9 and 13/14 November 2015, an agreement has been reached between the European Parliament and the Council on a joint text as provided for in Article 314(5) TFEU.

2. This joint text and its annexes have been forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council on 14 November 2015, which each have a period of fourteen days from this day to approve it (see ANNEX), and consists of the following documents taken together, recorded in Addenda 1 to 5 to this document:
 - summary figures by financial framework headings (see document 14195/15 ADD 1);
 - line by line figures on all budget items (see documents 14195/15 ADD 2 and ADD 3);
 - consolidated document showing the figures and final text of all lines modified during the Conciliation (see document 14195/15 ADD 4 and ADD 5).

3. The Conciliation Committee has also agreed on the joint statements recorded in Annex 2 to the ANNEX.
 4. The Council is invited to:
 - approve the joint text on the budget for 2016 as set out in the ANNEX and in addenda 1 to 5 to this document;
 - record in its minutes the statements set out in Annex 2 to the ANNEX.
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86815/13055

EUROPEAN UNION
Conciliation Committee on the 2016 budget

16 -11- 2015

Brussels, 14 November 2015

President-in-Office of the Council of the European Union
175, rue de la Loi
B - 1048 Brussels

Dear President,

Based on Article 314(4) and (5) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), and following information by the Council that it could not accept all the amendments adopted by the European Parliament on 28 October 2015 on the Council's position on the draft budget for 2016¹, the Conciliation Committee was convened for 29 October 2015, with a view to reaching agreement on a joint text.

The Conciliation Committee had at its disposal the following elements:

- draft budget proposed by the Commission (COM(2015) 300 final of 25 June 2015), as amended by letter of amendment No 1 (COM(2015) 317 final of 26 June 2015) and by letter of amendment No 2 (COM(2015) 513 final of 14 October 2015);
- Council's position on the draft budget (4 September 2015);
- European Parliament's amendments to the Council's position (28 October 2015).

Following meetings on 9 and 13/14 November 2015, an agreement has been reached on 14 November 2015 on a joint text as provided for in Article 314(5) TFEU.

¹ See letter by the President of the Council of 28 October 2015.

In accordance with Point 23 of the Annex to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013¹, the joint text for the budget 2016 shall consist of this letter and the following documents taken together, which are recorded in Annex 1:

- line by line figures for all budget items and summary figures by MFF headings;
- a consolidated document, indicating the figures and final text of all lines that have been modified during the conciliation procedure;
- the list of the lines not modified with regard to the draft budget or the Council's position on it.

Pursuant to Article 314(6) TFEU, the joint text is hereby forwarded to the European Parliament and the Council, which shall each have a period of fourteen days from this day, in which to approve the text for the purposes of paragraphs 7 and 8 of the same article.

The Conciliation Committee has also agreed on or taken note of the statements recorded in Annex 2 to this letter.

An identical letter is addressed to the President of the European Parliament.



Jean Arthuis
Co-chair



Pierre Gramigna
Co-chair

Annexes: List of documents forming part of the joint text
Statements

cc: Kristalina Georgieva, Vice-President of the European Commission

¹ 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 management (OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1).

**2016 BUDGETARY PROCEDURE
CONCILIATION DOCUMENT**

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FORMING PART OF THE JOINT TEXT - BUDGET 2016¹

Doc No 1: SUMMARY TABLES

**FIGURES BY MFF HEADING
ESTABLISHMENT PLAN BY SECTION**

Doc No 2: FIGURES BY BUDGET LINE

**Doc No 2.1.: OTHER SECTIONS
Doc No 2.2.: SECTION III - COMMISSION**

Doc No 3: MODIFICATIONS BY BUDGET LINE

**Doc No 4: LIST OF LINES NOT MODIFIED WITH REGARD TO THE DRAFT BUDGET
OR THE COUNCIL'S POSITION ON IT**

¹ The documents listed in this Annex will only be sent electronically.

**2016 BUDGETARY PROCEDURE
CONCILIATION DOCUMENT**

STATEMENTS

1. Joint statement on the Youth Employment Initiative

"The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission recall that reducing youth unemployment remains a high and shared political priority, and to this end they reaffirm their determination to make the best possible use of budgetary resources available to tackle it, and in particular the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI).

They recall that in accordance with Article 14(1) of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 "*Margins left available below the MFF ceilings for commitment appropriations for the years 2014-2017 shall constitute a Global MFF Margin for commitments, to be made available over and above the ceilings established in the MFF for the years 2016 to 2020 for policy objectives related to growth and employment, in particular youth employment*".

In the framework of the MFF mid-term review/revision the Commission will draw lessons from the results of the YEI evaluation, accompanied, as appropriate, by proposals for the continuation of the initiative until 2020.

The Council and the Parliament undertake to examine rapidly proposals put forward by the Commission in this respect."

2. Joint statement on a payment forecast 2016-2020

"Building on the existing agreement on a payment plan 2015-2016, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission acknowledge the steps taken to phase out the backlog of outstanding payment claims from the 2007-2013 cohesion programmes, and to improve the monitoring of any backlog of unpaid bills in all headings. They reiterate their commitment to prevent a similar build-up of backlog in the future, including through setting-up an early warning system.

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission will, throughout the year, actively monitor the state of implementation of the 2016 budget, in accordance with the agreed payment plan; in particular the appropriations provided in the budget 2016 will allow the Commission to reduce the year-end backlog of outstanding payment claims for the 2007-2013 cohesion programmes to a level of around EUR 2 billion by the end of 2016.

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission will continue taking stock of payment implementation and updated forecasts at dedicated interinstitutional meetings, in accordance with Point 36 of the Annex to the Interinstitutional Agreement, which should take place at least three times in 2016 at the political level.

In that context, the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission recall that those meetings should also address the longer-term forecasts on the expected evolution of payments until the end of the MFF 2014-2020."

3. **Statement by the European Parliament on the application of Point 27 of the Interinstitutional Agreement**

"The European Parliament is committed to continue the reduction of the total number of posts in its establishment plan and to complete it by 2019, according to the following timetable, taking into account that a net reduction of 18 posts takes place in 2016:

Annual net reductions in the total number of authorised posts in the establishment plan of the European Parliament compared to previous year

Outstanding reduction to achieve the 5% target ¹	2017	2018	2019	2017-2019
179	-60	-60	-59	-179

¹ The European Parliament considers that the scope of the 5% reduction excludes temporary posts of political groups identified in its establishment plan.