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COVER NOTE

From:	Mr Günther OETTINGER, Member of the European Commission
date of receipt:	21 September 2018
To:	Mr Hartwig LÖGER, President of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 24/2018 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2018

Delegations will find attached Commission document DEC 24/2018.

Encl.: DEC 24/2018



BRUSSELS, 21/09/2018

GENERAL BUDGET - 2018

SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES: 05, 07, 14, 22, 23, 34

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° DEC 24/2018

FROM

CHAPTER - 0505 Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance -- Agriculture and rural development

ITEM - 05 05 04 02 Support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis	Commitments	-13 015 198,00
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CHAPTER - 0506 International aspects of the 'Agriculture and rural development' policy area

ARTICLE - 05 06 01 International agricultural agreements	Commitments	-2 767 940,00
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CHAPTER - 0702 Environmental policy at Union and international level

ARTICLE - 07 02 04 Contribution to multilateral and international environment agreements	Commitments	-402 743,00
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CHAPTER - 1402 Customs

ARTICLE - 14 02 02 Membership of international organisations in the field of customs	Commitments	-5 301,00
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CHAPTER - 2303 The Union Civil Protection Mechanism

ITEM - 23 03 01 02 Disaster prevention and preparedness in third countries	Commitments	-750 000,00
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ITEM - 23 03 02 02 Rapid and efficient emergency response interventions in the event of major disasters in third countries	Commitments	-3 000 000,00
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CHAPTER - 3402 Climate action at Union and international level

ARTICLE - 34 02 04 Contribution to multilateral and international climate agreements	Commitments	-58 818,00
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TO

CHAPTER - 2204 European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)

ITEM - 22 04 01 04 Support to the peace process and financial assistance to Palestine and to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)	Commitments	20 000 000,00
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I. DECREASE

I.1

a) Heading

05 05 04 02 - Support for economic, social and territorial development and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis

b) Figure at 14/09/2018

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	131 000 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	131 000 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	0,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	131 000 000,00
6 Decrease proposed	13 015 198,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	117 984 802,00
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (7/1)	9,94 %
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)

	Commitments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 14/09/2018	13 015 198,61
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the transfer

Assigned revenues from recoveries from old projects implemented mainly in Turkey have become available in the course of the year and shall be used. Therefore an equivalent amount of EUR 13,0 million in commitment appropriations can be made available.

I.2

a) Heading

05 06 01 - International agricultural agreements

b) Figure at 14/09/2018

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	7 228 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	7 228 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	4 460 059,15
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	2 767 940,85
6 Decrease proposed	2 767 940,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	0,85
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (7/1)	38,29 %
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)

	Commitments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 14/09/2018	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the transfer

The EU contributions actually paid to the International Sugar Organisation, the International Grains Council and the International Olive Council were lower than estimated in the 2018 budget and therefore an amount of EUR 1,8 million will not be used.

Moreover, the World Intellectual Property Organisation will not use the amount of EUR 1,0 million budgeted in 2018, as the adoption procedure for the Commission proposals for EU accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement (Council Decision on accession and European Parliament and Council Regulation on implementation of accession) took substantially longer than anticipated. The legislative procedure for both proposals in the European Parliament and Council will not be terminated before year's end. In total, EUR 2,8 million can be made available.

I.3

a) Heading

07 02 04 - Contribution to multilateral and international environment agreements

b) Figure at 14/09/2018

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	3 900 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	3 900 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	3 497 256,57
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	402 743,43
6 Decrease proposed	402 743,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	0,43
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (7/1)	10,33 %
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)

	Commitments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 14/09/2018	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the transfer

EUR 0,4 million will not be needed in 2018 due to substantial savings achieved from the exchange rate and the non-use of the foreseen reserve. This amount can therefore be made available.

I.4

a) Heading

14 02 02 - Membership of international organisations in the field of customs

b) Figure at 14/09/2018

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 152 375,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	1 152 375,00
4 Appropriations already used	1 113 136,98
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	39 238,02
6 Decrease proposed	5 301,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	33 937,02
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (7/1)	0,46 %
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)

	Commitments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 14/09/2018	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the transfer

The Union's annual contribution to the World Customs Organisation has been committed and paid in full. No further commitments will be made and the balance of EUR 39 238 can therefore be made available, out of which EUR 5 301 will be used for this transfer.

I.5

a) Heading

23 03 01 02 - Disaster prevention and preparedness in third countries

b) Figure at 14/09/2018

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	5 729 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	5 729 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	4 013 710,53
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	1 715 289,47
6 Decrease proposed	750 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	965 289,47
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (7/1)	13,09 %
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)

	Commitments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 14/09/2018	0,00
3 Implementation rate[(1-2)/1]	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the transfer

After revision of the needs until the end of 2018, and based on results of the calls for grants and the number of requests of advisory missions, the amount of EUR 0,75 million can be made available.

I.6

a) Heading

23 03 02 02 - Rapid and efficient emergency response interventions in the event of major disasters in third countries

b) Figure at 14/09/2018

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	10 392 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	10 392 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	7 050 000,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	3 342 000,00
6 Decrease proposed	3 000 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	342 000,00
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (7/1)	28,87 %
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)

	Commitments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	296 444,91
2 Appropriations available on 14/09/2018	296 444,91
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	0,00 %

d) Detailed grounds for the transfer

The number of activations of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism during the year is unpredictable by nature, since it depends fully on the emergencies that will occur and the number of transports interventions that will be requested. The needs for 2018 have so far been lower than initially predicted. After keeping an adequate level of appropriations in case of crises occurring until the end of the year, an amount of EUR 3,0 million can be made available.

I.7

a) Heading

34 02 04 - Contribution to multilateral and international climate agreements

b) Figure at 14/09/2018

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	920 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	920 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	861 181,20
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	58 818,80
6 Decrease proposed	58 818,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	0,80
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (7/1)	6,39 %
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)

	Commitments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 14/09/2018	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the transfer

All the commitments and payments to multilateral and international climate agreements due for 2018 have been made. Hence, the remaining appropriations of EUR 58 819 are no longer needed and can be made available.

II. INCREASE

II.1

a) Heading

22 04 01 04 - Support to the peace process and financial assistance to Palestine and to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

b) Figure at 14/09/2018

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	299 379 163,00
2 Transfers	9 020 838,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	308 400 001,00
4 Appropriations already used	237 050 000,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	71 350 001,00
6 Increase requested	20 000 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6)	91 350 001,00
8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (7/1)	6,68 %
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)

	Commitments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	3 156,32
2 Appropriations available on 14/09/2018	3 156,32
3 Implementation rate $[(1-2)/1]$	0,00 %

d) Detailed grounds for the transfer

The Commission proposes to reinforce the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) budget with EUR 20 million in commitment appropriations in order to provide an additional contribution to the Programme Budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and help sustain the Agency's operations until the end of 2018.

This additional contribution is granted in light of the earlier reduction of the United States' contribution to UNRWA by USD 300 million, which has resulted in a major financing gap for the institution. This gap currently stands at USD 217 million in total, with USD 123 million under the Programme Budget and USD 94 million under the Emergency Appeal. Without additional contributions, UNRWA runs the risk of not being able to maintain essential operations until the end of the year.

UNRWA's operations provide a critical lifeline for millions of Palestine Refugees. The continuing support to the Agency is a key element in the EU's strategy of contributing to the promotion of stability in the Middle East and for the viability of the two-state solution. This support is particularly relevant in the context of the migration challenges, as well as EU efforts to prevent radicalisation.

The EU has contributed annually to UNRWA's Programme Budget since 1971. For the period 2018-2020, contributions to UNRWA's Programme Budget are framed by the EU-UNRWA Joint Declaration, jointly signed in Brussels on 7 June 2017 by Commissioner Hahn, HRVP Mogherini and UNRWA Commissioner-General Krähenbühl. Though not mentioning the level of EU financial support, this agreement provides the agency with the much needed predictability of EU support in sustaining its core programmes. The EU contribution to UNRWA Programme Budget for the period 2018-2020 amounts to EUR 249 million.

When granting this extraordinary additional support to UNRWA, the EU will emphasise the need to make further efforts to reform both the revenue and expenditure sides of the Agency's budget.

Additional payment appropriations are not requested as the needs can be met by the available appropriations in the ENI budget.