



Brussels, 2 February 2023
(OR. en)

5956/23

LIMITE

FIN 120
INST 10
PE-L 4

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: Budget Committee

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Council's decision contrary to the European External Action Service's request to lease a residence for the Head of the EU delegation to the UK (London) (Art. 266(3) FR)

- *Approval*
- *Approval of a letter*

1. On 20 January 2023, the European External Action Service (EEAS) submitted to the Council, in accordance with Article 266(3) and (5) of the Financial Regulation¹, its request to lease a residence for the Head of the EU delegation to the UK (London)².
2. The Council had already been informed by the EEAS of its intention to rent or purchase a residence for the Head of the EU delegation to the UK on 8 October 2021³, as provided for in Article 266(2) of the Financial Regulation.

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU, and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

² Doc. WK 885/2023.

³ Doc. WK 12080/2021.

3. The Budget Committee analysed the request at its meeting on 26 January 2023 and requested additional information from the EEAS. On 2 February 2023, the EEAS presented this additional information to the Budget Committee⁴.
4. Most Member States were of the view that the substantive cost increase for the EEAS was not justifiable and that the EEAS should have considered alternative, more cost-efficient options.
5. The Budget Committee therefore agreed, by a qualified majority, to suggest that the Permanent Representatives Committee advise the Council:
 - to take a decision contrary to the EEAS request to lease a residence for the Head of the EU delegation to the UK (London) on the basis of Article 266(3) of the Financial Regulation;
 - to approve the draft letter in the ANNEX to that effect.

⁴ Doc. WK 885/2023 ADD 2.

DRAFT LETTER

from: President of the Council
to: High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security
copy: President of the European Parliament

Sir,

In accordance with Article 266(3) of the Financial Regulation of 18 July 2018⁵, I inform you that the Council has taken a decision contrary to the request of the European External Action Service, received on 20 January 2023, to lease a residence for the Head of the EU delegations to the UK (London). The Council considers that the building project would lead to a significant and unwarranted increase of total costs for the European External Action Service compared to the current situation and is of the view that alternative, more cost-efficient solutions should have been sought.

In accordance with Article 266(3), fifth subparagraph, of the Financial Regulation, the European External Action Service is therefore to withdraw its proposal, but may submit a new one.

(Complimentary close).

⁵ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014 and Decision No 541/2014/EU, and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).