

Brussels, 1 March 2023 (OR. en)

6549/23

FIN 228

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council	
To:	Budget Committee	
Subject:	Estimate of expenditure and revenue for the financial year 2024 for the European Council and Council (Section II of the EU Budget) - Explanatory memorandum	

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

1. The budgetary procedure for the financial year 2024 will be carried out in conformity with the Inter-institutional Agreement on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources¹.

Inter-institutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28).

The draft Council conclusions on the budget guidelines for 2024, endorsed by the Committee of Permanent Representatives on 22 February 2023 and to be approved by the ECOFIN Council on 14 March 2023, stress the need for all Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies to respect and comply with all elements of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027² when establishing and implementing the budget for 2024, to maintain budgetary discipline and to budget only expenditure items considered necessary. It is reiterated that the ceiling for heading 7 of the MFF 2021-2027 is founded on the premise that all Union institutions adopt a comprehensive and targeted approach for stabilising the number of staff and reducing administrative expenditure.

- 2. The general inter-institutional framework for elaborating the proposals for the draft budget (DB) 2024 has been laid down in the Commission's letters dated 29/11/2022 and 16/12/2022, where all institutions were invited to prepare their estimates based on the following guidelines:
 - include 4,4 % for the adjustment of staff remuneration as of 01/07/2023 and 3,4 % as of 01/07/2024,
 - aim at a stable staffing policy,
 - aim at limiting the increase for all non-salary related expenditure to a maximum
 of 2 % compared to the 2023 level.

The Commission communicated an inflation forecast of 3,3 % for Brussels and 3,1 % for Luxembourg for the period December 2023 to December 2024.

6549/23 AM/SB/ns ORG.4.B

www.parlament.gv.at

-

Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 (OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 11).

3. Taking into account the above guidelines, the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) has elaborated a proposal for DB 2024 estimates for the European Council and Council (Section II of the EU budget).

While giving due consideration to the limit set by the Commission as regards the increase in non-salary related expenditure, the GSC considers that its energy needs should be addressed separately, outside the 2 % ceiling set out for non-salary related expenditure. In view of the sharp increase of energy prices observed in 2022, and the resulting pressure on the availability of appropriations since then, an adequate adjustment of the provisions for energy in the budget is necessary for the GSC to be able to continue supporting the European Council and Council in fulfilling their missions.

Setting energy aside, the proposed increase in all other areas of non-salary related expenditure has been kept down to a total of 2 %. In the current economic environment, even this represents a substantial loss of purchasing power and necessitates difficult choices.

- 4. Increases related to statutory or contractual obligations in the current high inflationary environment, and in domains, which are considered as essential for the proper functioning of the GSC, have been compensated by prioritising, reprogramming and scaling down other activities, as well as by postponing or cancelling projects and by seeking more efficient ways to manage the budget.
- 5. As a result, the GSC proposes DB 2024 estimates of EUR 682,6 million. This amount corresponds to an overall increase of EUR 34,7 million or 5,4 % compared to the voted budget 2023.

Salary related expenditure amounts to EUR 420,8 million - an increase of EUR 24,1 million or 6,1 %.

6549/23 AM/SB/ns 3
ORG.4.B

Non-salary related expenditure totals EUR 261,8 million - an increase of EUR 10,6 million or 4,2 % of non-salary expenditure compared to 2023 which consists of EUR 5,1 million (or 2,0 %) in expenditure excluding energy and EUR 5,5 million (or 2,2 %) in energy costs.

6. Table 1 presents the budget proposal for 2024 by category. More detailed comments on the development of each category are set out in Section II below.

Table 1: Proposal for a draft budget of the EC/C for 2024 (by category, EUR)

Chapter / article /	Category of expenditure	Budget 2023	DB 2024	Difference	Change 2024/2023
item		1	2	3=2-1	4=3/1
10	Member of the Institution (President)	2.019.000	2.575.000	556.000	27,5%
11	Statutory staff (Establishment plan)	386.034.757	409.748.234	23.713.477	6,1%
12	Other staff and external services	15.601.000	15.893.000	292.000	1,9%
13	Other expenditure relating to personnel	12.449.000	12.790.000	341.000	2,7%
TITLE 1	Persons working with the Institution	416.103.757	441.006.234	24.902.477	6,0%
200, 201	Buildings (including energy)	59.203.000	65.457.000	6.254.000	10,6%
210	Computer systems	52.823.000	53.994.000	1.171.000	2,2%
211	Furniture	1.051.000	1.091.000	40.000	3,8%
212	Technical equipment	3.577.000	3.253.000	-324.000	-9,1%
213	Transport	2.080.000	2.174.000	94.000	4,5%
2200	Travel expenses of delegations	15.505.000	15.505.000	0	0,0%
2202	Interpreting costs	80.000.000	81.600.000	1.600.000	2,0%
2201, 2203, 2204, 2205	Meetings and conferences	7.090.000	7.531.000	441.000	6,2%
2210, 2212, 2213	Information	9.104.000	9.633.000	529.000	5,8%
223	Miscellaneous	1.372.000	1.387.000	15.000	1,1%
TITLE 2	Buildings, equipment and operating expenditure	231.805.000	241.625.000	9.820.000	4,2%
TITLE 10	Reserve	p.m	p.m	n/a	n/a
TOTAL BUDGET		647.908.757	682.631.234	34.722.477	5,4%
	Salary related expenditure	396.659.757	420.785.234	24.125.477	6,1%
	Non-salary related expenditure	251.249.000	261.846.000	10.597.000	4,2%
TOTAL BUDGET		647.908.757	682.631.234	34.722.477	5,4%

ORG.4.B

II. COMMENTS BY CATEGORY OF EXPENDITURE

1. Member of the Institution, President (Chapter 10)

The increase of the appropriations related to the function of the President of the European Council (PEC) (28 %) is mainly due to travel expenses in view of the continuing intense international activity following the war of aggression of Russia against Ukraine.

2. Officials and temporary staff (Chapter 11)

The change of 6 % (EUR 23,7 million) in the level of appropriations for the budget headings relating to the establishment plan is mainly determined by the following factors:

a) Salary adjustment

The salary adjustment (EUR 16,7 million) reflects the Commission guidance set out in Section 1.2 above. The final percentage for the 2023 and 2024 adjustments will become available in December 2023 and in December 2024 respectively.

b) Improvement of occupancy rate in the establishment plan

The GSC estimates that the 2024 occupancy rate will be 98 % on average. This represents a decrease in the flat-rate reduction of 0,5 percentage points resulting in an increase of EUR 2,1 million compared to what is budgeted for in 2023, as a consequence of more efficient recruitment procedures.

Continuing previous years' efforts to adapt staff profiles to changing job requirements, it is proposed to transform 10 AST posts into 10 AD posts and 10 AST posts into 10 SC posts.

6549/23 AM/SB/ns ORG.4.B

3. Other staff and external services (Chapter 12)

The total change of 2 % (EUR 0,3 million) in appropriations within this chapter is mainly related to the estimated salary adjustments in 2023 and 2024 (EUR 0,06 million) and to the request for four additional Full Time Equivalents (FTE) of contractual staff (EUR 0,4 million). The latter is linked to the need to ensure more flexible recruitment possibilities, e.g. for compensating temporary leave (Annex III).

The budget related to the Seconded National Experts (SNE) increases by 8 % (EUR 0,1 million) to cover expenses for the indexation of allowances, linked to the level of indexation of salaries of officials. As in previous years, 22 FTE SNEs are budgeted.

4. Other expenditure relating to persons working with the institution (Chapter 13)

The budget on this Chapter increases by 3 % (EUR 0,3 million). The increase is mainly due to items 1322 (*Crèches and childcare facilities*), 1323 (*Inter-institutional cooperation in the field of staff management*) and 1332 (*Travel expenses of staff related to the European Council*). The increase corresponds to the higher costs of childcare services, as well as other services linked to staff management, provided by the Commission, and charged to the Council, which are budget neutral at the level of the EU budget. It results also from the expected travel expenses of staff accompanying the PEC (see Section II.1 above).

- 5. Buildings and associated costs (Chapter 20)
 - a) Buildings (Article 200)

The budget for the functioning of the buildings is reduced by -12 % (-EUR 1,6 million), due to scaling down of the number of building projects planned for 2024. This scaling down has been necessary to compensate for the inflationary pressure, which, together with indexation of the labour-intensive services, is having a significant impact on the overall building costs.

6549/23 AM/SB/ns

www.parlament.gv.at

ORG.4.B

b) Costs relating to buildings (Article 201)

The overall budget for the operating and maintenance costs of buildings is increased by 17 % (EUR 7,9 million), driven on one hand by higher prices for gas and electricity (EUR 5,5 million) and on the other hand by higher costs of maintenance, cleaning, surveillance, and safety services (EUR 2,4 million).

6. Computer systems, equipment, and furniture (Chapter 21)

a) IT expenditure (Article 210)

The increase of the budget for IT is limited to 2 % (EUR 4,0 million).

b) Furniture (Article 211)

The budget for rental and renewing of furniture is increasing slightly (4 % or EUR 0,04 million) compared to 2023. This increase aims at maintaining a minimum level of stock renewal in the context of rising prices.

c) Technical equipment and installation (Article 212)

The budget for replacing and renewing technical equipment and installations has been reduced by -9 % (-EUR 0,3 million) compared to 2023. This decrease is an effort to compensate for increases in other areas where outside factors such as inflation and high prices make it impossible to remain within the 2 % increase limit.

d) Transport (Article 213)

The budget on this article increases by 5 % (EUR 0,1 million) due to transportation for multilateral summits in Brussels.

6549/23 AM/SB/ns 7
ORG.4.B

7. Operating expenditure (Chapter 22)

a) Travel expenses of delegations (Item 2200)

The budget for the travel expenses of delegations remains unchanged compared to 2023.

b) Interpretation (Item 2202)

The increase by 2 % (EUR 1,6 million) is explained by the evolution of the price of SCIC services. The announced increase for 2024 is 3,9 %.

The proposal for the interpretation breaks down as follows:

- EUR 34,4 million for general interpretation including contingencies,
- EUR 47,2 million for on-request envelopes (EUR 2,05 million/envelope).
- c) Meetings and conferences (Items 2201, 2203, 2204, 2205)

The budget for meetings and conferences, i.e. catering and related administrative expenditure, has been increased by 6 % (EUR 0,4 million) compared to 2023 to cover some additional needs for multilateral summits.

d) Information (Article 221)

The increase of 6 % (EUR 0,5 million) is linked to enhanced needs in audio-visual activities following requests from stakeholders (Council presidencies, PEC). The GSC's Communication service has compensated this increase with an equivalent decrease in the budget lines related to the purchase and replacement of technical equipment (Article 212).

6549/23 AM/SB/ns 8
ORG.4.B

e) Miscellaneous expenses (Article 223)

The budget on this article increases by 1 % (EUR 0,015 million) due to slightly higher insurance costs.

8. More detailed information is provided in the annexes:

Annex I: Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure for the financial year 2024

Annex II: Establishment plan 2024

Annex III: Evolution of number of and expenditure on external staff

Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure For the financial year 2024 Section II - European Council and Council % 2024/2023 Description Outturn 2022 Budget 2023 DB 2024 Item Persons working with the Institution Entitlements related to the post held 82 00 10% 1002 Entitlements related to the personal circumstances 24.593 39.000 43.000 10% 1003 Social security cover 13.970 20.000 22.000 10% 1.757.639 1.478.000 1.985.000 34% Entitlements related to entering, transfer and leaving the 1006 1007 Annual adjustment of the remuneration 27% 100 2.238.078 2.019.000 2.555.000 Remuneration and other entitlements 1010 Transitory allowance 20.000 101 Termination of service 20.000 2.575.000 Total Chapter 10 - Members of the Institution 28% Entitlements under the Staff Regulations related to the post 1101 2% Entitlements under the Staff Regulations related to the personal circumstances of the staff member Social security cover 1102 68.935.317 72.824.000 77.279.000 6% 1103 11.095.75 11.934.000 12.377.000 4% 1104 Salary weightings 153.000 0% 1105 1.290.000 0% Overtime 967.362 1.290.000 Entitlements under the Staff Regulations related to entering 1106 1.985.000 2.075.000 5% the service, transfer and leaving the service 1107 4.899.000 6.775.000 38% 110 Remuneration and other entitlements 358.554.151 383.771.757 407.418.234 6% Allowances in the event of retirement in the interests of the 3% Termination of service 1.921.471 2.263.000 2.330.000 3% Total Chapter 11 - Officials and temporary staff 360 475 622 386.034.757 400 748 234 1200 Other staff 11 372 21 12 554 000 12 928 000 3% National experts on secondment 1.052.98 1.334.000 1.439.000 8% 4% 1203 226.724 326.000 External services 322.000 1% 1204 159.723 406.000 125.000 -69% Supplementary services for the translation service 1207 160.000 215.000 34% 120 15.601.000 15.893.000 2% Total Chapter 12 - Other staff and external services 13.566.179 15.601.000 15.893.000 2% 1300 Miscellaneous expenditure on recruitment 103.907 158.000 161.000 2% Further training 1301 2.158.055 2.518.000 2.214.000 -12% 130 Expenditure relating to staff management 2.261.962 2.676.000 2.375.000 -11% 10.795 Special assistance grants 25.00 0% 4% Social contacts between members of staff 49.000 190.596 248.000 1312 Supplementary aid for the disabled 250.000 -1% 1313 Other welfare expenditure 36.600 74.000 1% 1% 131 Measures to assist the institution's staff 286.991 482.000 486.000 1320 380,203 720.000 598.000 -17% 1322 2.775.000 2.956.000 3.259.000 10% Interinstitutional cooperation in the field of staff management 875.773 1.260.000 16% 132 4.030.976 4.936.000 5.317.000 8% Activities relating to all persons working with the li 1331 Mission expenses of the Council Secretariat 2.694.847 2.855.000 2.912.000 2% 1332 Travel expenses of staff related to the European Council 1.800.000 1.500.000 1.700.000 13% Missions 4.494.847 4.355.000 4.612.000 6% Total Chapter 13 - Other expenditure relating to persons 11.074.775 12.449.000 12.790.000 3% orking with the institution **TOTAL TITLE 1** 387.354.655 416.103.757 441.006.234 6,0%

Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure For the financial year 2024 Section II - European Council and Council

ltem	Description	Outturn 2022	Budget 2023	DB 2024	% 2024/2023
TI	TLE 2 - Buildings, equi	pment and	d operatin	g expend	liture
2000	Rent	257.266	444.000	444.000	0%
2003	Fitting-out and installation work	9.008.388	10.171.000	8.437.000	-17%
2004	Work to make premises secure	2.970.527	2.142.000	2.126.000	-1%
2005	Expenditure preliminary to the acquisition, construction and	309.492	1.083.000	1.210.000	12%
200	fitting-out of buildings Buildings	12.545.673	13.840.000	12.217.000	-12%
2010	Cleaning and maintenance	18.369.904	19.036.000	21.141.000	11%
2011	Water, gas, electricity and heating	15.845.002	6.302.000	11.828.000	88%
2012	Building security and surveillance	17.184.996	18.758.000	19.133.000	2%
2013	Insurance	587.383	622.000	630.000	1%
2014	Other expenditure relating to buildings	442.277	645.000	508.000	-21%
201	Costs relating to buildings	52.429.562	45.363.000	53.240.000	17%
Total Chap	ter 20 - Buildings and associated costs	64.975.235	59.203.000	65.457.000	11%
2100	Acquisition of equipment and software	16.630.807	14.085.001	14.679.000	4%
2101	Outside assistance for the operation and develop. of computer systems	29.594.966	29.376.000	29.278.000	0%
2102	Servicing and maintenance of equipment and software	6.975.475	7.866.999	8.361.000	6%
2103	Telecommunications	1.716.305	1.495.000	1.676.000	12%
210	Computer systems and telecommunications	54.917.552	52.823.000	53.994.000	2%
211	Furniture	980.995	1.051.000	1.091.000	4%
2120	Purchase and replacement of technical equipment and installations	2.291.800	2.150.000	1.793.000	-17%
2121	Outside assistance for the operation and development of technical equipment and installations	73.537	100.000	102.000	2%
2122	Rental, servicing, maintenance and repair of technical equipment and installations	958.421	1.327.000	1.358.000	2%
212	Technical equipment and installations	3.323.758	3.577.000	3.253.000	-9%
213	Transport	2.513.248	2.080.000	2.174.000	5%
Total Chap	ter 21 - Computer systems, equipment and furnitu	61.735.553	59.531.000	60.512.000	2%
2200	Travel expenses of delegations	5.579.200	15.505.000	15.505.000	0%
2201	Miscellaneous travel expenses	267.673	500.000	509.000	2%
2202	Interpreting costs	61.391.389	80.000.000	81.600.000	2%
2203	Representation expenses	142.772	195.000	185.000	-5%
2204	Miscellaneous expenditure on internal meetings	4.241.653	5.305.000	5.185.000	-2%
2205	Organisation of conferences, congresses and meetings	2.920.537	1.090.000	1.652.000	52%
220	Meetings and conferences	74.543.224	102.595.000	104.636.000	2%
2210	Documentation and library expenditure	2.760.606	2.885.000	2.823.000	-2%
2210	Documentation and library expenditure	2.760.606	2.865.000	2.823.000	-270
2212	General publications	345.000	268.000	310.000	16%
2213	Information and public events	5.185.217	5.951.000	6.500.000	9%
221	Information	8.290.823	9.104.000	9.633.000	6%
2230	Office supplies	503.676	398.000	398.000	0%
2231	Postal charges	50.000	35.000	35.000	0%
2232	Expenditure on studies, surveys and consultations	15.000	45.000	45.000	0%
2234	Removals	30.478	33.000	33.000	0%
	Financial charges	8.000	20.000	15.000	-25%
2235	-	850.000	550.000	550.000	0%
2235 2236	Legal expenses and costs, damages and compensation	000.000			
	Legal expenses and costs, damages and compensation Other operating expenditure	233.920	291.000	311.000	7%
2236 2237			291.000 1.372.000	311.000 1.387.000	
2236 2237 223	Other operating expenditure	233.920 1.691.074	1.372.000		1%
2236 2237 223 Total Chap	Other operating expenditure Miscellaneous expenses	233.920		1.387.000	7% 1% 9% 4,2%
2236 2237 223 Total Chap	Other operating expenditure Miscellaneous expenses ter 22 - Operating expenditure	233.920 1.691.074 84.525.121	1.372.000 113.071.000	1.387.000 115.656.000	1% 9%

ESTABLISHMENT PLAN 2024 Section II - European Council and Council

Budget 2023				
	Permanent	Temporary posts		
Category and grade	posts	President EC	Others	
HC	1	0	0	
AD16	8	1	0	
AD15	33 1)	1	0	
AD14	145 2)	2	1	
AD 13	140	3	0	
AD 12	208	7	1	
AD11	92	2	0	
AD10	177	2	0	
AD9	263	0	0	
AD8	161	0	0	
AD7	158	1	0	
AD6	70	1	0	
AD5	69	0	0	
Sub-total AD	1524	20	2	
A ST 11	42	0	0	
A ST 10	49	0	0	
AST 9	191	7	0	
AST 8	88	2	0	
AST 7	148	0	0	
AST 6	206	0	0	
AST 5	284	1	0	
AST 4	180	0	0	
AST 3	45	2	0	
AST 2	8	1	0	
AST 1	28	0	0	
Sub-total AST	1269	13	0	
SC 6	0	0	0	
SC 5	0	0	0	
SC4	8	0	0	
SC3	16	0	0	
SC2	71	0	0	
SC1	105 0		0	
Sub-total SC	200	0	0	
Total	2994	33	2	
Overall total		3029		

Draft budget 2024				
Catagoniand		Temporary posts		
Category and grade	Permanent posts	President EC	Others	
HC	1	0	0	
AD16	8	1	0	
AD15	33 3)	1	0	
AD 14	145 4)	2	1	
AD13	140	3	0	
AD 12	214	7	1	
AD11	102	2	0	
AD10	192	2	0	
AD9	250	0	1	
AD8	150	0	0	
AD7	146	1	0	
AD6	67	1	0	
AD5	86	0	0	
Sub-total AD	1533	20	3	
AST11	42	0	0	
A ST 10	49	0	0	
AST 9	191	7	0	
AST 8	88	2	0	
AST 7	154	0	0	
AST 6	216	0	0	
AST 5	275	1	0	
AST 4	160	0	0	
AST 3	46	2	0	
AST 2	10	1	0	
AST 1	18	0	0	
Sub-total AST	1249	13	0	
SC 6	0	0	0	
SC 5	1	0	0	
SC4	9	0	0	
SC 3	21	0	0	
SC 2	72	0	0	
SC 1	107	0	0	
Sub-total SC	210	0	0	
Total	2993	33	3	
Overall total		3029		

¹⁾ Including 4 agents of grade AD16 ad personam.

Including 7 agents of grade AD15 ad personam.
 Including 4 agents of grade AD16 ad personam.
 Including 7 agents of grade AD15 ad personam.

Evolution of number of and expenditure on external staff

Council	Voted bud	lget 2023	Statement of estimates 2024		
Type of staff	Appropriations (EUR)	Estimated number of FTE (*) on the basis of authorised appropriations	Appropriations (EUR)	Estimated number of FTE (*) on the basis of requested appropriations	
Contractual Agents	12.386.000	232	12.760.000	236	
Seconded National Experts	1.334.000	22	1.439.000	22	
Local Agents	0	0	0	0	
Intérimaires	237.000	3	242.000	3	
Parliamentary Assistants	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Total	13.957.000	257	14.441.000	261	

^{*} Full-time equivalent units