



Council of the
European Union

157071/EU XXVII. GP
Eingelangt am 12/10/23

Brussels, 12 October 2023
(OR. en)

14103/23

**Interinstitutional File:
2023/0352(BUD)**

**FIN 1049
SOC 673**

PROPOSAL

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	5 October 2023
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2023) 470 final
Subject:	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers following an application from Belgium – EGF/2023/002 BE/Makro

Delegations will find attached document COM(2023) 470 final.

Encl.: COM(2023) 470 final



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 12.10.2023
COM(2023) 470 final

2023/0352 (BUD)

Proposal for a

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

**on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced
Workers following an application from Belgium – EGF/2023/002 BE/Makro**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

1. The rules applicable to financial contributions from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/691 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013¹.
2. On 3 July 2023, Belgium submitted an application EGF/2023/002 BE/Makro for a financial contribution from the EGF, following displacements in Makro Cash & Carry Belgium NV (Makro) in Belgium.
3. Following its assessment of this application, the Commission has concluded, in accordance with all applicable provisions of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, that the conditions for awarding a financial contribution from the EGF are met.

SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION

EGF application	EGF/2023/002 BE/Makro
Member State	Belgium
Region(s) concerned (NUTS ² level 2)	Provincie Antwerpen (BE21), Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen (BE23), Provincie Vlaams-Brabant (BE25), Province Hainaut (BE32), and Province Liège (BE33)
Date of submission of the application	3 July 2023
Date of acknowledgement of receipt of the application	3 July 2023
Date of request for additional information	17 July 2023
Deadline for provision of the additional information	8 August 2023
Deadline for the completion of the assessment	17 October 2023
Intervention criterion	Article 4(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2021/691
Primary enterprise	Makro Cash & Carry Belgium
Number of enterprises concerned	1
Sector(s) of economic activity (NACE Revision 2 division) ³	Division 47 (Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles)

¹ OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 48.

² Commission Delegated Regulation 2019/1755 of 8 August 2019 amending the Annexes to 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). OJ L 270, 24.10.2019, p. 1–56.

Reference period (four months):	10 January 2023 – 10 May 2023
Number of displacements during the reference period	1 431
Total number of eligible beneficiaries	1 431
Total number of targeted beneficiaries	421
Budget for personalised services (EUR)	3 233 822
Budget for implementing EGF ⁴ (EUR)	93 500
Total budget (EUR)	3 327 322
EGF contribution (85 %) (EUR)	2 828 223

ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

Procedure

- Belgium submitted application EGF/2023/002 BE/Makro within 12 weeks of the date on which the intervention criteria set out in Article 4(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2021/691 were met, on 3 July 2023. The Commission acknowledged receipt of the application and requested additional information from Belgium on 17 July 2023. Such additional information was provided within 15 working days of the request. The deadline of 50 working days 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 17 October 2023.

Eligibility of the application

Enterprises and beneficiaries concerned

- The application relates to 1 431 displaced workers whose activity has ceased in Makro. The enterprise operated in the economic sector classified under the NACE Revision 2 division 47 (Retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles). The redundancies are located in the NUTS 2 regions of Provincie Antwerpen (BE21), Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen (BE23), Provincie Vlaams-Brabant (BE25), Province Hainaut (BE32), and Province Liège (BE33).

Intervention criteria

- Belgium submitted the application under the intervention criteria of Article 4(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, which requires the cessation of activity of at least 200 displaced workers over a reference period of four months in an enterprise in a Member State, including workers displaced in suppliers and downstream producers and / or self-employed persons whose activity has ceased.
- The reference period of four months for the application runs from 10 January 2023 to 10 May 2023.
- There were 1 431 displaced workers in Makro during the reference period.

³ OJ L 393, 30.12.2006, p. 1.

⁴ In accordance with Article 7(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691.

Calculation of displacements and of cessation of activity

9. Pursuant to Article 6, first paragraph, point (a), in conjunction with Article 5, first paragraph, point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, the cessation of activities of the displaced workers during the reference period has been calculated from the date of the de facto termination of the contract of employment or its expiry.

Eligible beneficiaries

10. The total number of eligible beneficiaries is 1 431.

Description of the events that led to the displacements and cessation of activity

11. The event giving rise to these displacements is the bankruptcy of the enterprise.
12. In 1970, Makro Cash & Carry Belgium NV opened stores for self-employed, liberal profession practitioners, and hospitality professionals selling food and non-food products. In 2017, after about ten years of financial difficulties, the enterprise decided to open access of its Makro shops also to general customers, whilst its Metro shops remained limited to food and beverage services professionals (hotels, restaurants, and caterers).
13. Despite the decision, the losses amounted to EUR 67 million in the financial year 2018/2019 and EUR 44 million in 2019/2020⁵.
14. Makro's sales continued to decline: EUR 738 million in 2018/2019, EUR 714 million in 2019/2020, and EUR 646 million in 2020/2021⁶. During the pandemic, the hospitality sector stopped activity for several months, affecting Makro's sales line for food and beverage services professionals. Makro's sales line for general customers was affected as well, because of mandatory closures of non-food stores and non-food aisles in supermarkets, which led to a drop in sales and an increased use of e-commerce, that has continued after the restrictive measures were lifted.
15. On 1 September 2022, Makro applied for judicial reorganisation by transfer of undertakings under judicial authority to the Antwerp Business Court. A tender process for the enterprise started.
16. Makro sales line for food and beverage services professionals (branded as Metro) consisted of 11 stores, nine of which were sold to Sligro Food Group and one to food wholesaler Van Zon, at the end of 2022. All 400 jobs in Metro stores were saved, along with 100 jobs at headquarters. The employees of the one store that was not bought, were offered a job in the nearby Sligro-ISPC facility in Antwerp⁷.
17. Makro's sale line for general customers (branded as Makro) consisted in 6 stores. The receivers rejected the only offer for the Makro stores because it did not meet the

⁵ [RTBF.be](https://www.rtbfbelgium.be)

⁶ [MetroAG.de](https://www.metroag.de)

⁷ [Sligro-ISPC](https://www.slagro-ispc.be)

bidding requirements and was not sound⁸. Makro was declared bankrupt on 10 January 2023⁹ and 1 431 workers were made redundant.

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

18. Makro stores for general customers were in Flanders (four stores) and in Wallonia (two stores). The territories affected by the redundancies are the Flemish provinces of Antwerpen, Oost-Vlaanderen and Vlaams-Brabant and the Walloon provinces of Hainaut and Liège.
19. Due to the differences between the Flemish and the Walloon labour markets, the territorial impact of the redundancies varies.
20. Unemployment rate rose from 8,5% to 8,8% in Wallonia and declined from 3,3% to 3,1% in Flanders, in Q1 2023, compared with Q4 2022, whilst year over year variation shows an increase in both regions (by 0,4 percentage points in Wallonia and by 0,3 pp in Flanders)¹⁰.
21. At national level, half (50,5%) of the people who were unemployed in the first quarter of 2022 are still unemployed one year later; 26% are out of the labour market (inactive) and only 24% are back into employment. However, there are regional differences: the percentage of those still unemployed one year later is slightly higher in Wallonia (55,1%) than the national average but falls to 36,4% in Flanders¹¹¹².
22. In the first quarter of 2023, the employment rate in Flanders was 77,3% with a year-on-year change of 0,7 pp. The employment rate in Wallonia was 65% (12,3 pp lower than in Flanders) with a year-on-year decrease of 0,9 pp¹³.
23. Older workers are facing more obstacles to employment. In the first quarter of 2023, there is a difference of 18,7 pp between the employment rate for the age group 20-54 (76,4%) and the employment rate for the age group 55+ (56,8%). In the Walloon labour market, the registered job seekers aged fifty or more represent about 25% of the total job seekers in March 2023¹⁴. Two out of three Makro redundant workers (65%) are over 50 years old.

While the COVID-19 crisis has accelerated the search for more qualified workers in the Belgian labour market¹⁵, Makro workforce is essentially made up of cashiers and warehouse workers. For these workers, it is more difficult to re-integrate into employment.

24. Belgium applied for EGF co-financing only in support of former Makro workers in Wallonia. The Flemish regional authorities consider that there is no need to top-up

⁸ [Retaildetail.be](https://retaildetail.be)

⁹ Moniteur Belge N°15, 16.1.2023, p. 6674

¹⁰ [Statbel. Emploi et chômage \(14.6.2023\).](https://statbel.fgov.be/fr/themes/emploi/emploi-et-chomage/14.6.2023)

¹¹ In Brussels-Capital Region 61%.

¹² [Statbel. Transitions sur le marché du travail \(14.6.2023\).](https://statbel.fgov.be/fr/themes/emploi/emploi-et-chomage/14.6.2023)

¹³ [Statbel. Emploi et chômage \(14.6.2023\).](https://statbel.fgov.be/fr/themes/emploi/emploi-et-chomage/14.6.2023)

¹⁴ Le Forem, « Emploi du temps. Photo locale de la demande d'emploi ». Mars 2023.

¹⁵ Bodart, V. & B. Van der Linden (2022), Crise du COVID-19. Rebond économique et difficultés de recrutement en Belgique. Regards économiques 168, UCLouvain.

the support available to former Makro workers in Flanders with co-financing from the EGF, given the situation on its regional labour market.

Application of the EU Quality Framework for anticipation of change and restructuring (QFR)

25. Belgium has described how the recommendations set out in the EU Quality Framework for anticipation of change and restructuring have been taken into account.
26. Belgium has reported that national labour law¹⁶ on the active management of restructuring requires enterprises undergoing restructuring to set up an employment unit (*cellule pour l'emploi*)¹⁷, whose purpose is to provide workers laid off in the context of collective redundancies with 30 hours of outplacement services in a period of three months (60 hours in six months for workers aged 45+). However, this requirement does not apply in the event of bankruptcy.
27. Wallonia's regional legislation¹⁸ provides for specific support for redundant workers, in the form of a redeployment unit (*cellule de reconversion*)¹⁹ by the Regional Public Employment and Vocational Training Service (Forem), at the request of workers' representative organisations. The redeployment unit does not constitute an obligation for the employer, nor for Forem. The implementation of the EGF co-financed measures will be managed through such a redeployment unit.
28. Regarding the activities undertaken to assist the displaced workers, Belgium has reported that the redeployment unit was set up on 1 February 2023, shortly after the redundancies.

Complementarity with actions funded by national or Union funds

29. Belgium has confirmed that the measures described below receiving a financial contribution from the EGF will not receive financial contributions from other Union financial instruments.
30. The coordinated package of personalised services complements actions funded by other national or EU funds.

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

31. Belgium has indicated that the co-ordinated package of personalised services has been drawn up in consultation with targeted beneficiaries, their representatives, and the social partners, in compliance with Article 7(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691.
32. Aiming to prepare a sound package of tailored measures to support Makro workers' efforts to return to work, Forem, trade unions (FGTB²⁰ and CSC²¹), and other

¹⁶ The Royal Decree (Arrêté Royal) of 10 November 2006 amending the Royal Decree of 9 March 2006.

¹⁷ [Forem. Restructuring event: employment units.](#)

¹⁸ Wallonia Government Decree of 29 January 2004, as amended by the Decree of 30 April 2009.

¹⁹ [Forem. Restructuring event: redeployment units.](#)

²⁰ Fédération générale du travail de Belgique.

²¹ Confédération des syndicats chrétiens.

partners met on 27 January, 2 March, 20 March and 5 May 2023, to better understand workers' retraining needs. The social counsellors who accompanied the workers after their dismissal were also consulted. These meetings resulted in a coordinated package of EGF measures that complies with Article 7(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691.

Targeted beneficiaries and proposed measures

Targeted beneficiaries

33. The estimated number of displaced workers expected to participate in the measures is 421. Pursuant to Article 8(7), point (f), of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, the provided breakdown of these workers by gender, age group and educational level is as follows:

Category		Number of expected beneficiaries	
Gender:	Men:	189	(44,9 %)
	Women:	232	(55,1 %)
	Non-binary	0	(0,0 %)
Age group:	Below 30 years:	2	(0,5 %)
	30-54 years:	229	(54,4 %)
	Over 54 years:	190	(45,1 %)
Educational level	Lower secondary education or less ²²	87	(20,7 %)
	Upper secondary ²³ or post-secondary education ²⁴	297	(70,5 %)
	Tertiary education ²⁵	37	(8,8 %)

Proposed measures

34. Pursuant to Article 8(7), point (h) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, the personalised coordinated package to be provided to displaced workers consists of the following measures:

- Information services, occupational guidance and outplacement assistance: Workers will be offered individual guidance and job-search services along with support by social workers, throughout the implementation period. Particular attention will be paid to vulnerable people in a situation of psychological

²² ISCED 0-2

²³ ISCED 3

²⁴ ISCED 4

²⁵ ISCED 5-8

distress, indebtedness, or recognised disability through professionals specialised in assisting these groups.

- Training, retraining and vocational training: Workers will have access to the standard training offer of Forem and its partners. In addition, after the profiling and agreement of individual projects with the vocational counsellor, specific training will be offered to cater for the identified needs.
- Support towards business creation. The measure aims at workers who wish to become self-employed. It will include a diagnosis and guidance phase, awareness-raising actions on entrepreneurship, information sessions on the potential for business creation through territorial economic diagnoses and networking with relevant entrepreneurs and with certified coaches in business creation.
- Contribution to business creation. The workers who start a business or an activity as self-employed persons will receive a contribution up to EUR 15 000. The contribution will be paid in two installments, based on supporting documents proving the start and development of the business activity.
- Incentives and allowances: (1) Job-search and training allowances. Workers will receive EUR 2 per hour of effective participation in training or job-search activities. (2) Bonus for improving IT skills. Workers, who follow the module for access to digital autonomy will receive a lump sum of EUR 400 conditional on their active participation and completion of the training. The bonus aims to reduce digital illiteracy by encouraging former Makro workers to improve their IT skills. (3) Bonus for improving languages skills. Workers who follow an intensive language training module organized by Forem or a language immersion course in an enterprise to improve their Dutch, English or German language skills as part of a specific job search will receive a lump sum of EUR 500. The objective of the bonus is to encourage the development of cross-disciplinary language skills to facilitate workers' reintegration into jobs. (4) Return-to-school allowance. A monthly allowance of EUR 350 will be granted to workers who embark on secondary and tertiary studies full-time for at least one year, or qualifying training of at least 3 months to acquire the necessary skills for jobs that are in demand and for which recruiting is difficult, linked to critical functions²⁶, or significantly gender-unbalanced. (5) Allowance towards business creation. To support the workers while setting up their business, a monthly allowance of EUR 350 for a maximum of 12 months will be granted.

35. Training to gain digital autonomy along with the bonus for improving IT skills mentioned above, together with a module on circular economy and efficient use of resources are in line with the requirements set out in Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691. The module on circular economy and efficient use of resources developed for former Swissport workers (EGF/2020/005 BE)²⁷ is now part of Forem's standard training offer co-financed by ESF+. Therefore, it is not budgeted in

²⁶ [List of jobs in demand and difficult to be covered or linked to critical functions. « Métiers en tension de recrutement en Wallonie. Liste des métiers/fonctions critiques et en pénurie ». Le Forem 2020.](#)

²⁷ COM(2021) 212

this proposal. Besides, resource efficient economy is at the core of the training offer of Forem 'environnement' training center²⁸.

36. The proposed actions, here described, constitute active labour market policy measures within the eligible actions set out in Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2021/691. These actions do not substitute passive social protection measures.
37. Regarding the activities already undertaken for the assistance of the displaced workers, Belgium informed that the employer's legal obligation to provide outplacement services to the redundant workers does not apply due to the enterprise's bankruptcy. However, support to the workers through the redeployment unit started three weeks after the redundancies.
38. Belgium has provided the required information on measures that are mandatory for the enterprise concerned by virtue of national law or pursuant to collective agreements. In accordance with Article 9(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, Belgium has confirmed that a financial contribution from the EGF will not replace such measures.

Estimated budget

39. The estimated total costs are EUR 3 327 322, comprising expenditure for personalised services of EUR 3 233 822 and expenditure for preparatory, management, information and publicity, control and reporting activities of EUR 93 500.
40. The total financial contribution requested from the EGF is EUR 2 828 223 (85 % of total costs).
41. Pursuant to Article 8(7), point (m), of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, Belgium has specified that the national pre-financing and co-funding is provided by Wallonia.

Measures	Estimated number of participants	Estimated cost per participant (EUR) ²⁹	Estimated total costs (EUR) ³⁰
Personalised services (measures under Article 7(2), second subparagraph, point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2021/691)			
Information services, occupational guidance and outplacement assistance (<i>reconversion: accompagnement/orientation/mobilisation</i>)	421	5 350	2 252 335
Training, retraining and vocational training (<i>formations et modules spécifiques</i>)	421	944	397 367

²⁸ www.formation-environnement.be

²⁹ To avoid decimals, the estimated costs per worker have been rounded. However, the rounding has no impact on the total cost of each measure, which remains as in the application submitted by Belgium.

³⁰ Totals do not tally due to rounding.

Support towards business creation (<i>dispositif d'accompagnement à l'entrepreneuriat</i>)	50	2 660	132 982
Contribution to business creation (<i>bourse de lancement</i>)	12	10 000	120 000
Sub-total (a): Percentage of the package of personalised services	—		2 902 684 (89,76 %)
Allowances and incentives (measures under Article 7(2), second subparagraph, point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2021/691)			
Incentives and allowances (<i>allocation de recherche d'emploi et de formation, prime numérique, prime langue, allocation de reprise d'études, allocation d'entrepreneuriat</i>)	421	787	331 138
Sub-total (b): Percentage of the package of personalised services:	—		331 138 (10,24 %)
Activities under Article 7(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691			
1. Preparatory activities	—		0 ³¹
2. Management	—		43 400
3. Information and publicity	—		15 000
4. Control and reporting	—		35 100
Sub-total (c): Percentage of the total costs:	—		93 500 (2,81 %)
Total costs (a + b + c):	—		3 327 322
EGF contribution (85 % of total costs)	—		2 828 223

42. The costs of the measures identified in the table above as measures under Article 7(2), second subparagraph, point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2021/691 do not exceed 35 % of the total costs for the coordinated package of personalised services. Belgium confirmed that these measures are conditional on the active participation of the targeted beneficiaries in job-search or training activities.

43. In accordance with Article 7(2), fourth subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, Belgium confirmed that the costs of investments for self-employment, business start-ups and employee take-overs will not exceed EUR 22 000 per beneficiary.

³¹ Preparatory activities are financed by Forem's operating budget for collective reconversions. No co-financing is requested.

Period of eligibility of expenditure

44. Belgium started providing the personalised services to the targeted beneficiaries on 1 February 2023. The expenditure on the measures will therefore be eligible for a financial contribution from the EGF from 1 February 2023 until 24 months after the date of the entry into force of the Financing Decision.
45. Belgium started incurring the administrative expenditure to implement the EGF on 1 January 2023. The expenditure for preparatory, management, information and publicity, control and reporting activities shall therefore be eligible for a financial contribution from the EGF from 10 January 2023 until 31 months after the date of the entry into force of the Financing Decision.

Management and control systems

46. The application contains a description of the management and control system required under Article 23 of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, which specifies the responsibilities of the bodies involved. Belgium has notified the Commission that the financial contribution will be managed and controlled by the same bodies that manage and control the ESF+.

Commitments provided by the Member State concerned

47. Belgium has provided all necessary assurances regarding the following:
- the principles of equality of treatment and non-discrimination will be respected in access to the proposed measures and their implementation,
 - the requirements laid down in national and EU legislation concerning collective redundancies have been complied with,
 - any double financing will be prevented,
 - the financial contribution from the EGF will comply with the procedural and material Union rules on State aid.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION

Budgetary proposal

48. The EGF shall not exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 186 million (in 2018 prices), as laid down in Article 8 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027³².
49. Having examined the application in respect of the conditions set out in Article 13(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, and having taken into account the number of targeted beneficiaries, the proposed measures and the estimated costs, the Commission proposes to mobilise the EGF for the amount of EUR 2 828 223,

³² OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 11.

representing 85 % of the total costs of the proposed measures, in order to provide a financial contribution for the application.

50. The proposed decision to mobilise the EGF will be taken jointly by the European Parliament and the Council pursuant to Article 15(1), first subparagraph, second sentence, of Regulation (EU) 2021/691 and, as laid down in point 9 of the Interinstitutional 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 resources³³.

Related acts

51. 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 to transfer to the relevant budgetary line the amount of EUR 2 828 223.
52. At the same time as it adopted this proposal for a decision to mobilise the EGF, the Commission adopted a decision on a financial contribution that constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046³⁴. That financing decision will enter into force on the date on which the Commission is notified of the approval of the budgetary transfer by the European Parliament and the Council pursuant to Article 15(2), first subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) 2021/691.

³³ OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 29.

³⁴ 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

Proposal for a

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers following an application from Belgium – EGF/2023/002 BE/Makro

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) 2021/691 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013³⁵, and in particular Article 15(1), first subparagraph, thereof,

Having regard to the Interinstitutional 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 resources³⁶, and in particular point 9 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) aims to demonstrate solidarity and promote decent and sustainable employment in the Union by providing support for workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activity has ceased in the case of major restructuring events and assisting them in returning to decent and sustainable employment as soon as possible.
- (2) The EGF is not to exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 186 million (in 2018 prices), as laid down in Article 8 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093³⁷ and Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2021/691.
- (3) On 3 July 2023, Belgium submitted an application to mobilise the EGF in accordance with Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, in respect of worker's displacements in Makro Cash & Carry Belgium NV in Belgium. It was supplemented by additional information provided in accordance with Article 8(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691. That application is considered to comply with the conditions for providing a financial contribution from the EGF as laid down in Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, on

³⁵ OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 48.

³⁶ OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 29

³⁷ Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 (OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 11).

the basis of the assessment made by the Commission in the Proposal for a mobilisation decision of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁸

- (4) The EGF should, therefore, be mobilised in order to provide a financial contribution of EUR 2 828 223 in respect of the application submitted by Belgium.
- (5) 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 2023, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers shall be mobilised to provide the amount of EUR 2 828 223 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

³⁸

COM(2023) 470

*

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