



Brussels, 13 October 2023
(OR. en)

14060/23

FIN 1041
INST 385
PE-L 36

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	Budget Committee
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Transfers of appropriations DEC 1/2023, INF 3/2023 and INF 4/2023 within Section VII - Committee of the Regions - of the general budget for 2023

1. On 26 September 2023, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) submitted to the Council proposal for transfer of appropriations DEC 1/2023, in accordance with Article 31(1) of the Financial Regulation (FR)¹.

The purpose of this proposal is to transfer a total amount of EUR 525 000 from Items 1 0 0 4 (*Travel and subsistence allowances, attendance at meetings and associated expenditure*), 1 2 2 0 (*Allowance for staff retired in the interest of the service*) and 1 4 0 0 (*Other staff*) to Article 2 1 4 (*Technical equipment and installations*) and Items 2 6 0 0 (*Relationships with press and audio-visual support*), 2 6 0 1 (*Permanent dialogue mechanism*) and 2 6 0 2 (*Web and social media and print material*).

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), 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. The reinforcement of these budget lines is needed in order to:
- purchase, hire, maintain and repair technical equipment and installations to allow the CoR to provide full interpretation onsite during its Summit of Regions and Cities planned in Mons, Belgium in March 2024;
 - fund media partnerships, journalists' participation and productions focusing on the core messages before, during and beyond the Summit;
 - support the organisational aspects of the Summit including registration, onsite management of participants, moderators and stage-setting; and
 - cover the costs for the production of web, social media, digital and printed content, through the funding of a 4-language (EN, FR, NL and DE) website and social media campaign to reach out to local and regional politicians across the EU ahead of the Summit.
3. On the same date, the CoR informed the Council of two additional transfers of appropriations, INF 3/2023 and INF 4/2023, in accordance with Article 29(2) of the Financial Regulation (FR). The two transfers have the following purpose:
- INF 3/2023 is to transfer a total amount of EUR 115 788 from Item 1 0 0 4 (*Travel and subsistence allowances, attendance at meetings and associated expenditure*) to Article 2 1 4 (*Technical equipment and installations*); and
 - INF 4/2023 is to transfer a total amount of EUR 15 000 from Item 1 4 0 0 (*Other staff*) to Article 2 6 0 2 (*Web and social media and print material*).
4. The reinforcement of these budget lines is needed in order to:
- allow the CoR to continue to gradually upgrade and renovate its meeting rooms; and
 - to allow the CoR to ensure the security related services during the “European Week of the Regions” and last Plenary sessions of year 2023.

5. The Budget Committee discussed these transfers for the first time on 2 October 2023. At that meeting, delegations questioned the respect of the principles of annuality and specification in relation to transfer DEC 1/2023, notably in light of the fact that the envisaged expenditure relates to an event that will take place in 2024. Considering that transfer DEC 1/2023 had been submitted together with transfers INF 3/2023 and INF 4/2023 (Article 29 FR), which are instrumental in reinforcing the same budgetary lines, the questions raised by delegations were considered to be extended to the two other transfers and were qualified as “duly justified objections” for which a transfer under the threshold is subject to the approval according to the procedure laid down in Article 31 FR. Therefore, the three transfers are subject to approval by the Council and dealt with as a single package.
6. The Budget Committee re-examined these proposals for transfers at its meeting on 10 October 2023 and agreed, by a qualified majority, to suggest that the Permanent Representatives Committee advise the Council to approve:
- the proposed transfers of appropriations;
 - the draft letter in the ANNEX to that effect.
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DRAFT LETTER

from : President of the Council

to : President of the Committee of the Regions

copy : President of the European Parliament

Sir,

In accordance with Article 31(6) of the Financial Regulation of 18 July 2018¹, I inform you that the Council has approved transfer of appropriations DEC 1/2023 within Section VII - Committee of the Regions - of the general budget for 2023.

Furthermore, in accordance with Article 29(2) of the Financial Regulation, the Council has considered that transfers of appropriations INF 3/2023 and INF 4/2023 within Section VII - Committee of the Regions - of the general budget for 2023 raised justified objections and required to be dealt with according to the procedure laid down in Article 31 of the Financial Regulation. In that regard, I also inform you that the Council has approved in accordance with Article 31(6) of the Financial Regulation the transfers of appropriations INF 3/2023 and INF 4/2023 within Section VII - Committee of the Regions - of the general budget for 2023.

(Complimentary close).

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).