



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 14 May 2020
(OR. en)

7969/20

FIN 278

COVER NOTE

From:	Mr Johannes HAHN, Member of the European Commission
date of receipt:	14 May 2020
To:	Mr Zdravko MARIĆ, President of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 10/2020 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2020

Delegations will find attached Commission document DEC 10/2020.

Encl.: DEC 10/2020



BRUSSELS, 14/05/2020

GENERAL BUDGET - 2020
SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES: 19, 21, 23

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° DEC 10/2020

FROM

CHAPTER - 1904 Election observation missions (EU EOMs)

ARTICLE - 19 04 01 Improving the reliability of electoral processes, in particular by means of election observation missions	Commitments	-3 000 000,00
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CHAPTER - 2102 Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)

ARTICLE - 21 02 02 Cooperation with Asia	Commitments	-27 900 000,00
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ARTICLE - 21 02 04 Cooperation with the Middle East	Commitments	-10 000 000,00
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ARTICLE - 21 02 05 Cooperation with Afghanistan	Commitments	-15 000 000,00
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TO

CHAPTER - 2302 Humanitarian aid, food assistance and disaster preparedness

ARTICLE - 23 02 01 Delivery of rapid, effective and needs-based humanitarian aid and food assistance	Commitments	55 900 000,00
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I. DECREASE

I.1

a) Heading

19 04 01 - Improving the reliability of electoral processes, in particular by means of election observation missions

b) Figures at 05/05/2020

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	43 442 462,00
2 Transfers	-2 000 000,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	41 442 462,00
4 Appropriations already used	37 785 362,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	3 657 100,00
6 Decrease proposed	3 000 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	657 100,00
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	6,91 %
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	757 251,94
2 Appropriations available on 05/05/2020	757 251,94
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	0,00 %

d) Detailed grounds for the decrease

The Commission proposes the re-allocation of EUR 3 million from the budget line 19 04 01 - Improving the reliability of electoral processes, in particular by means of election observation missions - under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) to the Humanitarian aid budget line 23 02 01 to reinforce EU's support in Bosnia and Herzegovina related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, three planned election observation missions in Jordan, Suriname and Afghanistan can now not take place, leaving a surplus of EUR 5 million in the budget line for Election Observation Missions (EOM) under the EIDHR. The Commission therefore proposes EUR 3 million to be transferred to the Humanitarian aid to support to COVID-19 related actions. Another EUR 2 million have been re-allocated through an internal Commission transfer to an ongoing action under the Partnership Instrument to cover activities related to COVID-19 in Latin America.

Croatia has further tightened the border regime due to COVID-19 restrictions and Bosnia and Herzegovina is becoming a bottleneck for refugees and migrants with overstretched reception capacities for stranded migrants. The situation is further exacerbated by a lack of support to refugees and migrants by the local authorities, the worsening of the humanitarian situation in the Una Sana Canton and further restrictions on movement by the cantonal authorities.

This additional funding for Bosnia and Herzegovina will support the provision of comprehensive health and protection assistance for refugees and migrants accommodated in the temporary reception facilities, outreach assistance and child protection including adequate care for unaccompanied minors.

I.2

a) Heading

21 02 02 - Cooperation with Asia

b) Figures at 05/05/2020

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	821 480 778,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	821 480 778,00
4 Appropriations already used	162 500 000,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	658 980 778,00
6 Decrease proposed	27 900 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	631 080 778,00
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	3,40 %
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	1 362 620,87
2 Appropriations available on 05/05/2020	1 362 620,87
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	0,00 %

d) Detailed grounds for the decrease

The Commission proposes to re-allocate EUR 27,9 million in commitment appropriations from budget line 21 02 02 - Cooperation with Asia - under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) to the Humanitarian aid budget line 23 02 01 to reinforce the EU's response to the COVID-19 crisis in Pakistan.

As of 20 April, Pakistan had reported almost 8 500 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and approximately 175 associated deaths. A high number of infections is expected due to the weak healthcare system and the fact that a large part of the population already suffers from severe malnutrition. In the districts of Sindh and Baluchistan, which are most affected, there are more than 3 million people in phases classified as 'Food Crisis and Emergency' according to the Food and Agriculture Organization's Integrated Phase Classification on food insecurity.

The re-allocation is proposed because of Humanitarian aid's capacity to react quickly thanks to the immediate operational capacity of the humanitarian aid partners. The funds will help address Pakistan's immediate needs by supporting activities such as medical procurement (including Personal Protective Equipment), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) items and hygiene promotion activities, as well as communication outreach and awareness raising. EUR 5 million will be used for emergency food distribution. Special attention will be paid to vulnerable groups, including Afghan refugees, whose number is estimated at 3 million.

I.3

a) Heading

21 02 04 - Cooperation with the Middle East

b) Figures at 05/05/2020

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	243 843 466,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	243 843 466,00
4 Appropriations already used	121 861 398,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	121 982 068,00
6 Decrease proposed	10 000 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	111 982 068,00
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	4,10 %
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 05/05/2020	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the decrease

The Commission proposes to re-allocate EUR 10 million in commitment appropriations from the budget line 21 02 04 - Cooperation with the Middle East - under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) to the Humanitarian aid budget line 23 02 01 to reinforce the programme in support of the Iraq National Health Security Action Plan, implemented through the World Health Organisation.

The COVID-19 outbreak is adding yet another layer of vulnerability to the complex situation in Iraq. As of 20 April, the country reported 1 539 confirmed cases, but the scale of the pandemic is likely to be significantly under-reported, also due to very limited testing capacity. The entire health system is under heavy strain and there are major concerns about the impact of the virus on the most vulnerable groups, in particular refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in and out of camps, low-income families depending on daily and seasonal employment, and people in prisons and detention centres. Vulnerable refugees and IDPs have been severely affected, as the restrictions on movement adopted by the authorities to slow the spread of the virus have drastically reduced day job opportunities, depleted their cash reserves and food supplies. Camps lock down and inability to access food markets are worsening the food security conditions in the IDPs camps.

The re-allocation is proposed because of Humanitarian aid's capacity to react quickly thanks to the immediate operational capacity of the humanitarian aid partners. The funds will go to support:

- Health: supporting the Iraqi health system to respond to the outbreak through centralised procurement of protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies, testing capacities, detection, referrals, isolation and treatment capacities, awareness raising and capacity building;
- Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) measures, with a specific focus on IDPs camps, as well as prisons and detention centres, through hygiene and community awareness activities and provision of prevention and hygiene kits;
- Food security: addressing and mitigating the immediate socio-economic consequences of the pandemic for the most vulnerable groups, with a specific focus on IDPs in camps, through cash based interventions and emergency food rations.

I.4

a) Heading

21 02 05 - Cooperation with Afghanistan

b) Figures at 05/05/2020

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	199 417 199,00
2 Transfers	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	199 417 199,00
4 Appropriations already used	100 000 000,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	99 417 199,00
6 Decrease proposed	15 000 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	84 417 199,00
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	7,52 %
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 05/05/2020	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the decrease

The Commission proposes to re-allocate EUR 15 million in commitment appropriations from the budget line 21 02 05 - Cooperation with Afghanistan - under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) to the Humanitarian aid budget line 23 02 01 to reinforce EU's response to the COVID-19 crisis in Afghanistan. As of 20 April, 996 confirmed cases have been reported.

The re-allocation is proposed because of Humanitarian aid's capacity to react quickly thanks to the immediate operational capacity of the humanitarian aid partners, as well as the need to also support activities in Taliban controlled areas. The Commission humanitarian partners have access in these areas and can thus ensure effective control over the dissemination of the virus.

The additional funds will finance the following activities, among others:

- Procurement of protective equipment/tests/laboratory supply, expanding the bed capacity in isolation centres, with a focus on Western regions;
- Ensuring infection control measures/triage/referrals are enforced within the Afghan Red Crescent network of mobile clinics/health facilities. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will coordinate on this action.
- Reinforcing the support to Primary Health care providers to ensure infection control measures/triage/referrals/health promotion and communication at primary health care level.

II. INCREASE

II.1

a) Heading

23 02 01 - Delivery of rapid, effective and needs-based humanitarian aid and food assistance

b) Figures at 05/05/2020

	Commitments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 042 234 779,00
2 Transfers	58 607 984,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	1 100 842 763,00
4 Appropriations already used	1 027 632 384,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	73 210 379,00
6 Increase requested	55 900 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6)	129 110 379,00
8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	5,36 %
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	1 024 638,59
2 Appropriations available on 05/05/2020	1 024 638,59
3 Implementation rate $[(1-2)/1]$	0,00 %

d) Detailed grounds for the increase

Please see the explanations provided with the justifications on the budget lines proposed to be decreased.