



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 17 June 2020
(OR. en)

8854/20
ADD 1

FIN 367
PE-L 14

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Council position on draft amending budget No 5 to the general budget for 2020: Continuation of the support to refugees and host communities in response to the Syria crisis in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey – Statement

STATEMENT TO BE RECORDED IN THE COREPER MINUTES

Statement by Cyprus on Commission's DAB No 5/2020: Continuation of the support to refugees and host communities in response to the Syria crisis in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey

The Republic of Cyprus wishes to express its disagreement both with the procedure followed and the content of this draft Amending Budget proposal.

While Cyprus has fully supported and continues to support assistance to Syrian refugees, given, *inter alia*, its position as the closest geographically EU Member State to Syria, and the fact that, proportionately, it hosts a very large number of Syrian asylum seekers, we regret the manner in which the proposal was prepared, presented and brought forward to Coreper.

Regarding the procedure in particular, we are deeply disappointed that a Council political discussion did not precede the presentation of the proposal by the Commission. We also regret the fact that the proposal was drafted without taking into due consideration the wider geopolitical context, including the recent weaponization of refugees by Turkey, the fact that this country is a major conduit for illegal migrants to EU Member States, the country's negative role in Syria and Libya, and Turkey's overall attitude towards the EU and its Member States. Regrettably, Turkey did not take the necessary measures to prevent new sea or land routes for illegal migration from Turkey to the EU, and has not cooperated with Cyprus and other Member States to that effect. Furthermore, whereas the proposal was to be discussed at Coreper of 24 June, the process has been unjustifiably expedited in complete disregard of the views of a number of delegations which had asked for more time to examine the documentation.

With regards to the substance of the proposal, we are of the view that a more balanced approach should have been adopted, given that it provides for significantly larger support to refugees in Turkey, at the expense of Jordan and Lebanon, while these countries bear an equally important burden in hosting the largest number of refugees in the world relative to their populations.

In view of these considerations, Cyprus expresses its disagreement with the Council Position on DAB No 5/2020 (Continuation of the support to refugees and host communities in response to the Syria crisis in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) and the Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption thereof. Cyprus also expresses its disagreement with the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2020 to continue humanitarian support to refugees in Turkey and the Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption thereof.