



Brussels, 24 June 2020

CM 2763/20

**PROCED
BUDGET**

COMMUNICATION

WRITTEN PROCEDURE

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Subject:

- Adoption of the Council's 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
- Approval of the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2020 to provide continued humanitarian support to refugees in Turkey
- *End of written procedure*

Delegations are informed that the written procedure, opened by CM 2665/20 of 17 June 2020 was completed on 24 June 2020 at 16:37 and that all delegations voted in favour of, except for the Cyprus delegation that voted against:

- (1) (a) the adoption of the Council Decision adopting the Council's position on draft amending budget No 5 of the European Union for the financial year 2020, as set out in document 8855/20, accepting the Commission proposal¹ without any changes, as explained in document 8854/20; and

¹ Doc. 8475/20.

- (b) the derogation, on the basis of the second subparagraph of Article 3(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, from the eight-week period referred to in the first subparagraph of that Article.

Therefore, the above Decision of the Council is adopted.

The Council agreed to derogate, on the basis of the second subparagraph of Article 3(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, from the eight-week period referred to in the first subparagraph of that Article.

- (2) the approval of the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2020 to provide continued humanitarian support to refugees in Turkey, as set out in document 8857/20.

Therefore, the above Decision is approved.

The statements by Cyprus and Italy are reproduced in the Annex to this CM.

The above statements will be included in the summary of acts adopted by the written procedure as statements to be entered in the Council minutes, in accordance with the third subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

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."

Statement by Italy

"L'Italia è favorevole alla cooperazione migratoria con i paesi terzi per la gestione dei flussi migratori verso l'Europa.

A tal fine, crediamo che le politiche volte agli stati vicini debbano essere considerate prioritarie e debbano ricevere adeguate risorse economiche, ai fini del contenimento della pressione anche lungo la rotta migratoria orientale.

È peraltro necessario che ogni eventuale nuovo sostegno UE a Paesi terzi in ambito migratorio sia inquadrato in un approccio onnicomprensivo, che tenga in debita considerazione le esigenze di tutte le differenti rotte."

(English courtesy translation provided by the Italian delegation)

"Italy is in favour of cooperation with third States to manage migration flows towards the European Union.

Because of this, we believe that policies to neighbouring States should be considered a priority, and should be funded adequately to the aim of containing migration flows on the oriental route.

However, it is important to frame any new European financial support to third Countries by taking a more holistic approach that takes in account all needs emerging along all different migration routes."