



Council of the
European Union

**Brussels, 29 September 2020
(OR. en)**

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BUDGET 29

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Subject: Draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021:
Council position of 29 September 2020
– *Statements*

STATEMENTS FOR ENTRY IN THE COUNCIL MINUTES

1. Statement on the Council position on the draft budget for 2021

The Council notes that with a view to giving a mandate to the Presidency for the budget conciliation, it will re-evaluate its position in the light of the final text of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027 and of the letter of amendment expected from the Commission later in the procedure, as appropriate, both for the commitment and the payment appropriations.

In this respect, the Council urges the Commission to present the letter of amendment as soon as possible, and at the latest on 31 October 2020, in order to facilitate the work of the two arms of the budgetary authority and to ensure a timely adoption of the 2021 budget.

2. Statement on the Brexit Adjustment Reserve

The Council recalls the European Council conclusions of 17-21 July and invites the Commission to submit a proposal for the relevant instrument necessary to operationalise the Brexit Adjustment Reserve without delay, in view of ensuring that a sufficient amount of appropriations can be made available for mobilisation as from the beginning of the financial year 2021.

3. Statement on staff of agencies

The Council notes that all EU institutions, bodies, agencies and their administrations should conduct a regular staff screening that ensures the optimisation of staff resources at the current level and should continue to seek efficiency gains in non-salary related expenditure, including by deepening interinstitutional cooperation, such as in the area of IT, procurement and buildings, and freezing non-salary related expenditure.

In this context, the Council calls on the Commission to assess and propose, in the up-coming letter of amendment to the draft budget for 2021, how these principles can best be applied in the case of the decentralised agencies, in particular with regard to optimising staff resources at the current level.

For the purpose of the Council position, and pending a further assessment by the Commission in its letter of amendment, 140 posts are provisionally reduced from the Commission establishment plan to offset the increases in the decentralised agencies of the EU.

4. Statement on payments

The Council will carefully examine the letter of amendment concerning agriculture (including information on assigned revenue) in order to appropriately assess the level of resources under heading 3 (*Natural resources and environment*) in the 2021 budget.

The Council calls on the Commission to continue closely and actively monitoring during the year 2021 the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes (particularly in sub-heading 2a and Rural Development). To that end, it invites the Commission to present in a timely manner updated figures concerning the state of affairs and estimates regarding 2021 payment appropriations. If the figures show that the appropriations entered in the 2021 budget are insufficient to cover the needs, the Council invites the Commission to present as soon as possible an appropriate solution, *inter alia* a draft amending budget, with a view to allow the budgetary authority to take any necessary decisions in due time for justified needs. Where applicable, the Council will take into account the urgency of the matter, shortening the eight-week period for a decision if deemed necessary. The same applies *mutatis mutandis* if the figures show that the appropriations entered in the 2021 budget are higher than needed.