



**Brussels, 5 October 2020
(OR. en)**

11478/20

**FIN 697
INST 228**

'I' ITEM NOTE

From: Budget Committee
To: Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject: European Ombudsman's project to relocate its Brussels office to a new building

1. On 2 October 2020, the European Ombudsman submitted to the Council its project to relocate its Brussels office to a new building, in accordance with Article 266(3) of the Financial Regulation.
2. This request concerns the European Ombudsman's need to relocate its Brussels office. Since October 2012, the European Ombudsman has been sharing the MONTROYER 30 building with the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS); both institutions currently rent their respective building spaces under separate Framework Agreements on Cooperation with the European Parliament.

Following the adoption of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)² and the Regulation on the protection of data by the EU institutions, agencies, offices and bodies (EU DPR), the EDPS requires all available space within the MONTROYER 30 building to accommodate the newly created European Data Protection Board (EDPB).

As a result of the situation described above, the European Ombudsman has been asked to vacate the office building it currently shares with the EDPS and relocate its Brussels office to a different building.

3. The Budget Committee examined this project at its meeting on 5 October 2020 and was able to approve it, by a qualified majority.
4. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
 - confirm its agreement on the proposed building project; and
 - decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/430¹, that the Council uses the written procedure for its approval.

The General Secretariat of the Council will inform the European Ombudsman, as well as the European Parliament of the Council's decision.

¹ Council Decision (EU) 2020/430 of 23 March 2020 on a temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 88 I, 24.3.2020, p. 1).