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FIN 751
INST 238

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	Budget Committee
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. Cion doc.:	11884/20
Subject:	Transfer of appropriations No DEC 21/2020 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2020

1. On 14 October 2020, the Commission submitted to the Council proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 21/2020.

The purpose of this proposal is to transfer a total amount of EUR 74 102 116 in commitment (c/a) and EUR 74 million in payment appropriations (p/a) from Item 23 03 02 02 (*Rapid and efficient emergency response interventions in the event of a major disaster in third countries*) and Article 40 02 42 (*Emergency aid reserve*) to Article 23 02 01 (*Delivery of rapid, effective and needs-based humanitarian aid and food assistance*), as recorded in document 11884/20.

2. The purpose of this transfer is to reinforce the humanitarian aid budget as follows:
 - provide EUR 30.1 million in c/a and p/a to address the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, which is amplified due to impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on an already weak healthcare system and the escalation of the conflict in the context of the withdrawal of US troops; funding will go to health care, food security and nutrition and support to humanitarian frontline actors dealing with Afghan refugees returning from Iran;

- provide EUR 24 million in c/a and p/a to top-up the EU's response to the crisis in South Sudan and neighbouring countries; funding will be used for emergency food assistance, health and nutrition services, protection assistance to the most vulnerable and humanitarian logistic services to enable the scaling-up of the response; and
 - provide EUR 20 million in c/a and p/a to address intensifying conflict in Rakhine State and increase maritime movements of the Rohingya; funding will be used for health, food assistance and nutrition, protection services, the education sector and to mitigate tensions between refugees and their host communities, in particular, in the light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. The Budget Committee examined this proposal for a transfer at its meeting on 19 and 26 October 2020.
4. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
- confirm its agreement on the proposed transfer of appropriations as set out in document 11884/20; 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 Commission, 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).