



Brussels, 12 November 2020  
(OR. en)

12913/20

FIN 857  
INST 264

## 'I' ITEM NOTE

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From: Budget Committee  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee  
Subject: Transfer of appropriations No DEC 2/2020 within Section VII - Committee of the Regions - of the general budget for 2020

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1. On 14 October 2020, the Committee of the Regions submitted to the Council proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 2/2020.

The purpose of this proposal is to transfer a total amount of EUR 2 198 180 from Items 1 0 0 4 (*Travel and subsistence allowances, attendance at meetings and associated expenditure*) and 1 6 2 (*Missions*) to Items 2 1 0 0 (*Purchase, servicing and maintenance of equipment and software, and related work*), 2 1 0 2 (*Outside assistance for the operation, development and maintenance of software systems*), 2 6 0 0 (*Relationships with press, audio-visual support*), 2 6 0 2 (*Web and Social Media, print material*), 2 6 2 0 (*External expertise and studies*) and 2 6 2 2 (*Documentation and library expenditure*).

2. The Committee of the Regions proposes to reinforce 7 budget lines in order to upgrade its IT environment, as well as to provide a support package for the Committee of the Regions' contribution for the Conference on the Future of Europe, and to further strengthen external expertise capabilities.

3. The Budget Committee examined this proposal for transfer at its meeting on 26 October 2020 and at the informal videoconference of the members of the Budget Committee on 6 November 2020.
4. On these two occasions, a vast majority of delegations expressed concerns in relation to the proposed transfer on the grounds that basic budgetary principles, especially the principle of annuality, were affected, and that the specific rules on the principle of budgetary accuracy and sound financial management (economy, efficiency and effectiveness of expenditure), were not complied with. Taking into account the above mentioned considerations, the Presidency proposed to amend the Committee of the Regions' proposal for transfer of appropriations DEC 2/2020 in accordance with Article 31(8) of the Financial Regulation<sup>1</sup>.

The Presidency proposal to amend the amounts to be transferred is aimed at allowing only the financing of expenditure, which is strictly necessary to adapt the Committee of the Regions' budget to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Budget Committee examined this Presidency proposal through a written consultation, which ended on 12 November 2020 without any objections being raised. The changes in the Presidency proposal compared to the Committee of the Regions' proposal for transfer of appropriations DEC 2/2020 are recorded in the Annex.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

5. 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 point 4 above; 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 2020/430<sup>1</sup>, that the Council uses the written procedure for its approval.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

**Amendment of the amount of Committee of the Regions' transfer No DEC 2/2020<sup>1</sup>***(in EUR)*

			Debit	Credit
<u>From Title</u>	1			
From Chapter	10	Members of the institution		
From Item	1004	Travel and subsistence allowances, attendance at meetings and associated expenditure	<del>1 973 180</del> <b>798 180</b>	
From Chapter	16	Other expenditure relating to persons working with the institution		
From Item	162	Missions	225 000	
<u>Within Chapter</u>	10	Members of the institution		
To Item	105	Courses for Members of the institution		27 500
<u>To Title</u>	2			
To Chapter	21	Data processing, equipment and furniture: purchase, hire and maintenance		
To Item	2100	Purchase, servicing and maintenance of equipment and software, and related work		254 160
To Item	2102	Outside assistance for the operation, development and maintenance of software systems		<del>635 175</del> <b>510 175</b>
To Chapter	26	Expertise and information: acquisition, archiving, production and distribution		
To Item	2600	<del>Relationship with press, audio-visual support</del>		250 000
To Item	2602	<del>Web and Social Media, print material</del>		800 000
To Item	2620	External expertise and studies		216 395
To Item	2622	Documentation and library expenditure		14 950

<sup>1</sup> Changes in the Presidency proposal compared to Committee of the Regions' transfer No DEC 2/2020 are highlighted in **bold** and ~~strikethrough~~.