



Brussels, 11 December 2020  
(OR. en)

13936/20

FIN 944  
INST 306

## 'I' ITEM NOTE

---

From: Budget Committee

To: Permanent Representatives Committee

---

Subject: Transfer of appropriations No DEC 1/2020 within Section X - European External Action Service - of the general budget for 2020

---

1. On 2 December 2020, the European External Action Service (EEAS) submitted to the Council proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 1/2020.

The purpose of this proposal is to transfer a total amount of EUR 14 300 000 from Items 1 4 0 0 (*Missions*), 1 3 0 1 (*Training*) and 3 0 0 2 (*Other expenditure related to staff - in delegations*) to Item 2 0 0 0 (*Rent and annual lease payments*).

2. The EEAS aims to avoid penalty payments for late payment of rent for its headquarters in case there would be shortage in the budget 2021 appropriations in January, if no agreement on the budget 2021 would be found in time and a regime of provisional twelves would apply. The rent has to be paid in December for the following year. Given that after definitive adoption of the budget 2021 there would then be an excess on the budget line for rent, the EEAS announced that it would present another transfer in 2021 to use that excess amount for infrastructure investments in delegation buildings, which had to be postponed mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. The Budget Committee examined this proposal for a transfer at its meeting on 8 December 2020.
4. A number of delegations requested further explanations for the proposed transfer, which were provided by email. On 10 December, an agreement on the final adoption of the multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 was found at political level, which paves the way for an adoption of the budget 2021 still in December. The members of the Budget Committee consider that the rationale for the requested transfer - to avoid the negative impact of provisional twelves on its obligation to pay rent - is, therefore, not met.

The Budget Committee members were consulted on the Presidency's proposal to consequently refuse the transfer request in a written consultation, which ended on 11 December 2020 without any objections being raised.

5. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
  - confirm its agreement to refuse the proposed transfer of appropriations; 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 to decide to refuse that transfer proposal.

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

---

<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).