



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 14 December 2020  
(OR. en)

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**Interinstitutional File:  
2020/0371(BUD)**

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**13892/20  
ADD 1**

**BUDGET 32**

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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Subject: Second draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year  
2021: Council position of 14 December 2020  
– Statements

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STATEMENTS**1. Joint statement by the European Parliament and the Council on payment appropriations**

"The Council and the Parliament call 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, the Council and the Parliament invite 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 and the Parliament invite the Commission to present as soon as possible an appropriate solution, *inter alia* a draft amending budget, with a view to allowing the European Parliament and the Council to take any necessary decisions in due time for justified needs. Where applicable, the Council and the Parliament 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."

**2. Joint statement by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on tackling the impact of the COVID-19 crisis**

"In order to tackle the impact of the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis in the best interest of the EU, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission are committed to taking the necessary measures to rapidly deploy the full potential of the new generation of EU programmes giving a particular attention to the sectors of the economy that are most hit by the crisis such as tourism and SMEs and to the people that are the most affected by the crisis such as children and young people."

3. **Joint statement by the European Parliament and the Council on Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR)**

"The European Parliament and the Council invite 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 in the financial year 2021. The European Parliament and the Council will take into account the urgency of the matter during their deliberations.

The European Parliament and the Council invite the Commission to present a draft amending budget, as soon as it is appropriate, to make available the necessary appropriations in the financial year 2021. The European Parliament and the Council will consider such a draft amending budget with due urgency."

4. **Unilateral statement by the European Commission on tackling child poverty under the European Social Fund+**

"Tackling child poverty will become even more important especially in the context of the current COVID-19 crisis and sufficient resources need to be devoted to it. The revised proposal for the European Social Fund+ (COM(2020) 447) includes a specific thematic concentration for addressing child poverty. It requires that each Member State shall allocate at least 5 % of their ESF+ resources under shared management to support targeted actions and structural reforms to tackling child poverty (Article 7(3)a). Given the currently foreseen national allocations, this represents almost EUR 5 billion in current prices for the 2021-27 programming period."

5. **Unilateral statement by the Commission on governance of the decentralised agencies**

"The Commission has a keen interest in making sure that the decentralised agencies of the EU deliver on their mandate, including strengthening and streamlining their governance, as well as supporting harmonised planning and reporting by all decentralised agencies. The Commission considers that the Special Report of the European Court of Auditors no 22/2020, and the replies thereto, could form the basis for collaborative follow-up which will require the support of Council and Parliament."

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