



Brussels, 7 January 2021  
(OR. en)

5095/21

FIN 10  
INST 5  
PE-L 1

### 'I' ITEM NOTE

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From: Budget Committee

To: Permanent Representatives Committee

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Subject: Commission's project for the acquisition of a new conference centre (CC2.0) and its financing through two loans

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1. On 21 December 2020, the European Commission submitted to the Council for prior approval a request to finance a building project through loans, in accordance with Article 266(6) of the Financial Regulation.
2. This request concerns the purchase of a new conference centre in Brussels and its financing through two loans.
3. The Budget Committee examined this request at its meeting on 7 January 2021. At the conclusion of the debate, the Budget Committee was able to agree to the request and invited the Commission to explore the possibility of advance payments under the loan contracts relating to the conference center, with the aim of reducing the payable interest meaningfully and consequently the financial burden relating to future payments.

4. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
- advise the Council to approve:
    - the European Commission's request to finance the purchase of a new conference centre in Brussels through two loans, and
    - the draft letter in the ANNEX to that effect;
  - 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>, as further extended by Council Decision 2020/1659<sup>2</sup>, that the Council uses the written procedure for this approval.

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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).

<sup>2</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2020/1659 of 6 November 2020 further extending the temporary derogation from the Council's Rules of Procedure introduced by Decision (EU) 2020/430, and extended by Decisions (EU) 2020/556, (EU) 2020/702, (EU) 2020/970 and (EU) 2020/1253, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 376, 10.11.20, p. 3)

DRAFT LETTER

from: President of the Council  
to: President of the European Commission  
copy: President of the European Parliament

Sir,

In accordance with Article 266(6) of the Financial Regulation of 18 July 2018<sup>1</sup>, I inform you that the Council has approved the request of the European Commission, received on 21 December 2020, to finance the purchase of a new conference centre in Brussels through two loans.

(Complimentary close).

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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).