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COVER NOTE

From:	Mr Johannes HAHN, Member of the European Commission
date of receipt:	24 March 2021
To:	Ms Cláudia JOAQUIM, President of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 05/2021 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2021

Delegations will find attached Commission document DEC 05/2021.

Encl.: DEC 05/2021



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

BRUSSELS, 24/03/2021

GENERAL BUDGET - 2021
SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES: 06, 30

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° DEC 05/2021

FROM

CHAPTER - 3004 Solidarity mechanisms (special instruments)

ARTICLE - 30 04 01 Solidarity and emergency aid reserve (SEAR)

Commitments	-121 500 000,00
Payments	-121 500 000,00

TO

CHAPTER - 0607 Emergency support within the Union

ARTICLE - 06 07 01 Emergency support within the Union

Commitments	75 500 000,00
Payments	75 500 000,00

CHAPTER - 0610 Decentralised agencies

ARTICLE - 06 10 01 European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

Commitments	46 000 000,00
Payments	46 000 000,00

Faced with urgent needs related to the Covid-19 response in 2021, the Commission proposes to reinforce the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) and the EU contribution to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) for a total amount of EUR 337,7 million in commitment and EUR 329,6 million in payment appropriations.

In addition the Commission has been able to identify available resources for redeployment and financing within other instruments amounting to EUR 7,5 million in commitment and payment appropriations, as follows:

- In the context of the legislative proposal for the digital green certificates, the Commission has identified the possibility to finance an annual amount of EUR 3 million relating to the operation and maintenance of the system from the Digital Europe Programme, once its legal basis will have entered into force;
- A further amount of EUR 0,5 million for maintenance of the Passenger Locator Form exchange platform has been made available under the Commission prerogative budget line in the Transport area in 2021 (budget item 02 20 04 01);
- ECDC has been able to redeploy an amount of EUR 4 million within its current budget, to enable in particular the Member States with limited or no whole genome sequencing capacity to send samples to one or more commercial laboratories contracted by ECDC to do sequencing.

The reinforcement by EUR 337,7 million in commitment and EUR 329,6 million in payment appropriations is proposed to be covered by the mobilisation of the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve for EUR 121,5 million in commitment and payment appropriations for the most urgent needs, while EUR 216,2 million in commitment and EUR 208,1 million in payment appropriations are to be provided through the Draft Amending Budget 2/2021¹.

¹ COM(2021) 200, 24.3.2021

I. DECREASE

I.1

a) Heading

30 04 01 - Solidarity and emergency aid reserve (SEAR)

b) Figures at 18/03/2021

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 223 450 000,00	1 223 450 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	1 223 450 000,00	1 223 450 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	0,00	0,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	1 223 450 000,00	1 223 450 000,00
6 Decrease proposed	121 500 000,00	121 500 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	1 101 950 000,00	1 101 950 000,00
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	9,93 %	9,93 %
9 Decrease, as a percentage of the final appropriations for the year, in the sum of transfers referred to in Article 30(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation	n/a	n/a

c) Receipts arising from recovery (carried over from previous year)

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 18/03/2021	0,00	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the decrease

According to article 9 of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation², the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) is intended to allow for

- (a) assistance to respond to emergency situations resulting from major disasters that are covered by the European Union Solidarity Fund, the objectives and scope of which are set out in Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002; and
- (b) rapid responses to specific emergency needs within the Union or in third countries following events which could not be foreseen when the budget was established, in particular for emergency responses and support operations following natural disasters not covered by point (a), man-made disasters, humanitarian crises in cases of large-scale public health, veterinary or phytosanitary threats, as well as in situations of particular pressure at the Union's external borders resulting from migratory flows, where circumstances so require.

² Council Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020

II. INCREASE

II.1

a) Heading

06 07 01 - Emergency support within the Union

b) Figures at 18/03/2021

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	0,00	90 000 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	0,00	90 000 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	0,00	34 724 060,41
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	0,00	55 275 939,59
6 Increase requested	75 500 000,00	75 500 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6)	75 500 000,00	130 775 939,59
8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	n/a	83,89 %
9 Increase, as a percentage of the final appropriations for the year, in the sum of transfers referred to in Article 30(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation	n/a	n/a

c) Receipts arising from recovery (carried over from previous year)

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00	5 885,00
2 Appropriations available on 18/03/2021	0,00	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a	100,00 %

d) Detailed grounds for the increase

The Commission proposes to reinforce the Emergency Support Instrument by EUR 231,7 million, of which EUR 75,5 million in commitment and payment appropriations under the present transfer, as follows:

- EUR 31 million for the development, evaluation and adjustment of new Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) assays for each new emerging Covid-19 variant before they can be rolled out, while ensuring sufficient testing capacity in the Member States, as set out in the Commission Communication on the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Incubator³;
- EUR 2,5 million for further work in the context of the Passenger Locator Form exchange platform. In the current pilot phase of the project, the exchange platform is technically ready to connect with the digital repositories of three volunteering Member States. These additional amounts will allow increasing the number of connected Member States and providing a legal basis in EU law (an implementing act) for the cross-border exchange of personal data;

³ COM(2021) 78 of 17.2.2021

- EUR 11 million for wastewater monitoring, which has proved to be an effective, reliable and inexpensive instrument to identify the presence of a virus. As set out in the Commission Communication on the Covid-19: “A common path to safe and sustained re-opening”⁴, a common approach to establish a systematic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants in wastewaters in the EU allows for very early detection, which enables screening among large population groups in order to identify where more detailed analysis is needed;
- EUR 31 million for the preparatory work to establish a common framework for a Digital Green Certificate⁵ covering vaccination, testing and recovery, so as to put in place an EU level approach to issuing, verifying and accepting interoperable certificates to facilitate free movement during the Covid-19 pandemic.

⁴ COM(2021) 129 of 17.3.2021

⁵ COM(2021) 130 of 17.3.2021

II.2

a) Heading

06 10 01 - European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

b) Figures at 18/03/2021

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	78 525 714,00	78 525 714,00
2 Transfers	0,00	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	78 525 714,00	78 525 714,00
4 Appropriations already used	78 525 714,00	13 530 694,43
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	0,00	64 995 019,57
6 Increase requested	46 000 000,00	46 000 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6)	46 000 000,00	110 995 019,57
8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	58,58 %	58,58 %
9 Increase, as a percentage of the final appropriations for the year, in the sum of transfers referred to in Article 30(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation	n/a	n/a

c) Receipts arising from recovery (carried over from previous year)

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	1 469 305,57	1 469 305,57
2 Appropriations available on 18/03/2021	0,00	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	100,00 %	100,00 %

d) Detailed grounds for the increase

The Commission proposes to reinforce the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) by EUR 106 million, of which EUR 46 million in commitment and payment appropriations under the present transfer.

ECDC has already set up an emergency framework contract enabling in particular the Member States with limited or no whole genome sequencing capacity to send samples to one or more commercial laboratories contracted by ECDC to do sequencing, for which ECDC has been able to redeploy an amount of EUR 4 million within its current budget. The present reinforcement will allow the Centre to make this capacity more widely available to all Member States.

The additional appropriations will also be used to cover costs related to the transport of viral samples for sequencing, as well as to support capacity building in the Member States, ahead of the creation of the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA).

ANNEX

COMMISSION TRANSFER PROPOSALS RELATED TO THE SOLIDARITY AND EMERGENCY AID RESERVE IN 2021

The tables below show the transfer proposals transmitted to the Budgetary Authority to date during 2021, which relate to the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR), and the remaining amount under the SEAR reserve following the approval of these proposals.

Transfer Ref	Content	Commitment Appropriations carried-over Reserve (EUR)	Commitment Appropriations 2021 Reserve (EUR)				
			Total	Internal (excluding EUSF)	EUSF	External	End-of-Year Cushion (25%)
	General Budget 2021 - Initial appropriations	0	1,273,450,000	143,263,125	477,543,750	334,280,625	318,362,500
	General Budget 2021 - EUSF advances (Article 4a (4) EUSF Regulation)				-50,000,000		
	DAB2 carryover EUSF	47,981,598			47,981,598		
	DAB2 mobilisation EUSF	-47,981,598			-47,981,598		
DEC 02	Mobilisation of the SEAR to support the roll out of Covid-19 vaccination in Africa	-	100,000,000			100,000,000	
DEC 03	Mobilisation of the EUSF to provide assistance to Greece and France in relation to regional natural disasters and to Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain in response to the major public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020		427,543,750		427,543,750		
DEC 05	Mobilisation of the SEAR for new Covid-19 actions under ESI and ECDC		121,500,000	121,500,000			
	Total transfer proposals	0	649,043,750	121,500,000	427,543,750	100,000,000	0
	Remainder	0	624,406,250	21,763,125	0	234,280,625	318,362,500
	Total remainder of commitment appropriations	624,406,250					

Transfer Ref	Content	Payment Appropriations carried-over Reserve (EUR)	Payment Appropriations 2021 Reserve				
			Total	Internal (excluding EUSF)	EUSF	External	End-of-Year Cushion (25%)
	General Budget 2021 - Initial appropriations	0	1,273,450,000	143,263,125	477,543,750	334,280,625	318,362,500
	General Budget 2021 - EUSF advances (Article 4a (4) EUSF Regulation)				-50,000,000		
	DAB2 carryover EUSF	47,981,598			47,981,598		
	DAB2 mobilisation EUSF	-47,981,598			-47,981,598		
DEC 02	Mobilisation of the SEAR to support the roll out of Covid-19 vaccination in Africa	-	100,000,000			100,000,000	
DEC 03	Mobilisation of the EUSF to provide assistance to Greece and France in relation to regional natural disasters and to Albania, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain in response to the major public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020		427,543,750		427,543,750		
DEC 05	Mobilisation of the SEAR for new Covid-19 actions under ESI and ECDC		121,500,000	121,500,000			
	Total transfer proposals	0	649,043,750	121,500,000	427,543,750	100,000,000	0
	Remainder	0	624,406,250	21,763,125	0	234,280,625	318,362,500
	Total remainder of payment appropriations	624,406,250					