



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 25 March 2021
(OR. en)

7306/21

FIN 208
COVID-19 105

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 03/2021 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2021

Delegations will find attached Commission document DEC 03/2021.

Encl.: DEC 03/2021



BRUSSELS, 24/03/2021

GENERAL BUDGET - 2021
SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES: 16, 30

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° DEC 03/2021

FROM

CHAPTER - 3004 Solidarity mechanisms (Special instruments)

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

Commitments	-427 543 750,00
Payments	-427 543 750,00

TO

CHAPTER - 1602 Mobilisation of solidarity mechanisms (Special instruments)

ITEM - 16 02 01 01 Assistance to Member States in relation to events eligible under the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)

Commitments	414 470 698,00
Payments	414 470 698,00

ITEM - 16 02 01 02 Assistance to countries negotiating for accession in relation to events eligible under the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)

Commitments	13 073 052,00
Payments	13 073 052,00

The present transfer relates to the proposal for Decision on the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund to provide assistance to Greece and France in relation to 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.

I. DECREASE

I.1

a) Heading

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

b) Figures at 09/03/2021

	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	427 543 750,00	427 543 750,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	795 906 250,00	795 906 250,00
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	34,95 %	34,95 %
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 09/03/2021	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 Regulation¹, 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.

Point 10 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation on budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (IIA), lays down the modalities for the mobilisation of the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) in the context of the SEAR.

¹ Council Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020

II. INCREASE

II.1

a) Heading

16 02 01 01 - Assistance to Member States in relation to events eligible under the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)

b) Figures at 09/03/2021

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	50 000 000,00	50 000 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	50 000 000,00	50 000 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	8 674 493,00	5 932 500,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	41 325 507,00	44 067 500,00
6 Increase requested	414 470 698,00	414 470 698,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6)	455 796 205,00	458 538 198,00
8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	828,94 %	828,94 %
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	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 09/03/2021	0,00	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the increase

The reinforcement of EUR 414,5 million in commitment and in payment appropriations is necessary to cover the needs arising from the Commission proposal to mobilise the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF):

1) for the applications presented by Greece and France in response to four regional natural disasters (floods, cyclone Ianos, earthquake, storm Alex) in 2020. In line with the EUSF Regulation, the amount of the advances has been taken into account for calculating the balance of the contributions to the aforementioned Member States. The total amount for the balance payments of these four applications is EUR 78,1 million;

2) for the applications presented by Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania and Spain in response to the major public health emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020. In line with the EUSF Regulation, the amount of the advances has been taken into account for calculating the balance of the contributions to the aforementioned Member States. The total amount for the balance payments to the above mentioned Member States is EUR 384,4 million, of which EUR 336,4 million are covered by the present transfer, and EUR 48 million are covered by the Commission proposal to carry over to 2021 the EUSF reserve not mobilised under the previous MFF (Draft Amending Budget 2).

II.2

a) Heading

16 02 01 02 - Assistance to countries negotiating for accession in relation to events eligible under the European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)

b) Figures at 09/03/2021

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	0,00	0,00
2 Transfers	0,00	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	0,00	0,00
4 Appropriations already used	0,00	0,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	0,00	0,00
6 Increase requested	13 073 052,00	13 073 052,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6)	13 073 052,00	13 073 052,00
8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	n/a	n/a
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	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 09/03/2021	0,00	0,00
3 Implementation rate $[(1-2)/1]$	n/a	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the increase

The reinforcement of EUR 13,1 million in commitment and in payment appropriations is necessary to cover the needs arising from the Commission proposal to mobilise financial contribution from the European Union Solidarity Fund for the applications presented by **Albania, Montenegro and Serbia** in response to the major public health emergency caused by the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020.

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%)
	Initial appropriations	0	1,223,450,000	143,263,125	427,543,750	334,280,625	318,362,500
	DAB2 carryover EUSF	47,981,598					
	DAB2 mobilisation EUSF	-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		
	Total transfer proposals	0	527,543,750	0	427,543,750	100,000,000	0
	Remainder	0	695,906,250	143,263,125	0	234,280,625	318,362,500
	Total remainder of commitment appropriations	695,906,250					

Transfer Ref	Content	Payment Appropriations carried-over Reserve (EUR)	Payment Appropriations 2021 Reserve				
			Total	Internal (excluding EUSF)	EUSF	External	End-of-Year Cushion (25%)
	Initial appropriations	0	1,223,450,000	143,263,125	427,543,750	334,280,625	318,362,500
	DAB2 carryover EUSF	47,981,598					
	DAB2 mobilisation EUSF	-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		
	Total transfer proposals	0	527,543,750	0	427,543,750	100,000,000	0
	Remainder	0	695,906,250	143,263,125	0	234,280,625	318,362,500
	Total remainder of payment appropriations	695,906,250					