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7872/21

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COVID-19 147

'I' ITEM NOTE

From:	Budget Committee
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. Cion doc.:	7304/21 (COM(2021) 200 final)
Subject:	Council position on draft amending budget No 2 to the general budget for 2021 financing the COVID-19 response and including refinements and updates related to the final adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework

1. On 24 March 2021¹, the Commission submitted to the Council draft amending budget (DAB) No 2 to the general budget for 2021.

The purpose of DAB No 2/2021 is to provide additional funding for the prevention, preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic as proposed in the Commission Communications on the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Incubator², COVID-19: a common path to safe and sustained re-opening³ and the Digital Green Certificates⁴, and to provide room under the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) for the potential budgetary impact of further European initiatives related to the COVID-19 response.

¹ All language versions became available on 12 April 2021.

² Doc. 6375/21.

³ Doc. 7228/21.

⁴ Doc. 7128/21 + ADD 1.

Moreover, the DAB introduces the necessary technical changes to the 2021 budget stemming from the political agreements reached on sectoral legal bases following the adoption of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) in December 2020¹, as well as some adjustments in relation to the provisioning for the External Action Guarantee, as recorded in document 7304/21.

Additionally, taking into account the provisions under Article 10(1) of the 2014-2020 MFF Regulation², it is proposed to carry-over the unused portion of the 2020 commitment and payment appropriations of the EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) to the corresponding budget line in 2021.

Overall, the net impact of this DAB on expenditure in the 2021 budget is an amount of EUR 260 681 598 in commitment and EUR 252 581 598 in payment appropriations.

2. In order to allow the Council to adopt a position on DAB No 2/2021 without delay, the Council has to decide, considering the urgency of the matter, to shorten, in accordance with Article 3(3) of its Rules of Procedure, the eight-week period laid down in Article 4 of Protocol No 1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union.
3. The Budget Committee examined DAB No 2/2021 at its meetings on 30 March and 15 April and was able to accept it without any changes.
4. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
 - confirm its agreement on:
 - DAB No 2/2021 as set out in document 7304/21,
 - instructing the Presidency to prepare the budgetary documents to be sent to the European Parliament and to approve the draft letter in the Annex to that effect, and

¹ OJ L 433, 22.12.2020, p. 11.

² Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020, OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

- having the Council Decision adopting the Council's position on draft amending budget No 2 of the European Union for the financial year 2021, as set out in document 7873/21, published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
- decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/430¹, as further extended by Council Decision 2021/454², that the Council uses the written procedure for its adoption; and
- confirm its agreement that, in view of the urgency of the matter, the Council decides to derogate, on the basis of the second subparagraph of Article 3(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure, from the eight-week period referred to in the first subparagraph of that Article.



¹ 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).

² Council decision (EU) 2021/454 of 12 March 2021 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, (EU) 2020/1253, (EU) 2020/1659 and (EU) 2021/26, in view of the travel difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Union (OJ L 89, 16.3.2021, p. 15).

DRAFT LETTER

from : Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee

to : President of the European Parliament

Sir,

I am forwarding under separate cover the Council's position on draft amending budget No 2 for the financial year 2021, adopted by the Council on 23 April 2021.

(Complimentary close).
