



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 8 July 2021
(OR. en)

10541/21

FIN 570
INST 256
PE-L 20

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: Budget Committee

To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: Transfer of appropriations No DEC 1/2021 within Section VII - Committee of the Regions - of the general budget for 2021

1. On 21 June 2021, the Committee of the Regions submitted to the Council proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 1/2021.

The purpose of this proposal is to transfer a total amount of EUR 2 540 377 from Item 1 0 0 4 (*Travel and subsistence allowances, attendance at meetings and associated expenditure*) and Article 1 6 2 (*Missions*) to Items 2 1 0 2 (*Outside assistance for the operation, development and maintenance of software systems*), 2 5 4 2 (*Organisation of events in partnership with local and regional authorities, associations and European Institutions*), 2 6 0 0 (*Relationships with press and audio-visual support*) and 2 6 0 2 (*Web and social media and print material*).

2. The Committee of the Regions proposes to reinforce these 4 budget lines in order to further strengthen the implementation of the IT Digital strategy, to ensure business continuity of the IT external developers, and to strengthen the communication and outreach activities, with a view to confirming the digital support and the new ways of communication already put in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. The Budget Committee examined this proposal for a transfer at its meeting on 5 July 2021. While generally supportive of the investments in IT tools, services and solutions in view of the new digital ways of working, several delegations expressed criticism towards the planned projects for new media partnerships, video production, as well as the wide-ranging outreach and communication activities, which in their view exceeded the Committee of the Regions' mission and role. While the Budget Committee was in favour of approving the transfer, it considered that, for the purpose of the 2022 budgetary exercise, part of the appropriations under the proposed transfer should be regarded as frontloaded from the financial year 2022.
4. Following the examination, the Budget Committee agreed, by a qualified majority, to suggest that the Permanent Representatives Committee advise the Council to approve:
- the proposed transfer of appropriations;
 - the draft letter in the ANNEX to that effect.
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DRAFT LETTER

from : President of the Council
to : President of the Committee of the Regions
copy : President of the European Parliament

Sir,

In accordance with Article 31(6) of the Financial Regulation of 18 July 2018¹, I inform you that the Council has approved transfer of appropriations No DEC 1/2021 within Section VII - Committee of the Regions - of the general budget for 2021.

(Complimentary close).

¹ 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).