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COVER NOTE

From:	Mr Johannes HAHN, Member of the European Commission
date of receipt:	14 September 2021
To:	Ms Irena DRMAŽ, President of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 17/2021 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2021

Delegations will find attached Commission document DEC 17/2021.

Encl.: DEC 17/2021



BRUSSELS, 14/09/2021

GENERAL BUDGET - 2021
SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES: 14, 30

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° **DEC 17/2021**

FROM

CHAPTER - 3004 Solidarity mechanisms (special instruments)

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

Commitments	-30 000 000,00
Payments	-30 000 000,00

TO

CHAPTER - 1403 Humanitarian Aid

ARTICLE - 14 03 01 Humanitarian aid

Commitments	30 000 000,00
Payments	30 000 000,00

The conflict in Tigray has taken a dramatic turn in the last few weeks with the parties to the conflict launching new offensives. On 28 June, Tigrayan Defense Forces (TDF) took Tigray's capital Mekelle after the departure of the interim administration and the Ethiopian National Defense Forces (ENDF). Since July, the military confrontation between the TDF and the ENDF supported by Amhara militias and other armed groups has been spreading to the neighbouring regions (Afar and Amhara). Local actors state that the conflict in Amhara and Afar has displaced between 300 000 and 1 000 000 more people. With the recent involvement of Turkey and Iran, the conflict is likely to intensify in the coming weeks.

Close to ten months into the conflict, violence against civilians including brutal and widespread rape, as well as the systematic and deliberate destruction of basic services, water systems, crops, and livelihoods has created a massive protection and food security crisis. Approximately 91% of the region's population, i.e. 5,5 million people, are now in need of emergency assistance, including an estimated 2 million displaced people, while needs are increasing as the conflict spreads to neighbouring regions. Even more worryingly, famine is looming for an estimated 400 000 to 900 000 people according to analyses, and another one million is one-step below famine.

The Tigray region is still largely under a de facto humanitarian blockade. Overland access into Tigray now depends on a single route, through the Afar region, which involves passing through numerous checkpoints in a context of active hostilities. Humanitarian organisations require roughly 100 trucks worth of assistance and supplies to reach Mekelle every day. To provide access to Tigray, the EU is organising a Humanitarian Air Bridge, which was authorised by the Government of Ethiopia in late August. The first flight is scheduled on 8 September. This Air Bridge is essential to end the de facto blockage of Tigray by opening access by air and eventually by road; it will help position key commodities as soon as possible and to rapidly scale up access to the most immediate life-saving services.

According to the northern Ethiopia response plan (issued by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on 9 June), the requirements are EUR 723 million (May-December 2021). This response plan is facing a funding gap of EUR 366,6 million until the end of the year (May-December 2021). In addition, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has urgently appealed for an additional EUR 25,4 million to reach nearly 1,2 million of the most food insecure people in northern Ethiopia. To date, only EUR 6,2 million have been pledged for this purpose.

I. DECREASE

I.1

a) Heading

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

b) Figures at 02/09/2021

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 223 450 000,00	1 223 450 000,00
2 Transfers	-853 043 750,00	-853 043 750,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	370 406 250,00	370 406 250,00
4 Appropriations already used	0,00	0,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	370 406 250,00	370 406 250,00
6 Decrease proposed	30 000 000,00	30 000 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	340 406 250,00	340 406 250,00
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	2,45 %	2,45 %
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 02/09/2021	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 Regulation, 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.

II. INCREASE

II.1

a) Heading

14 03 01 - Humanitarian aid

b) Figures at 02/09/2021

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 416 512 450,00	1 820 000 000,00
2 Transfers	314 000 000,00	324 000 000,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	1 730 512 450,00	2 144 000 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	1 593 130 000,00	1 737 105 279,10
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	137 382 450,00	406 894 720,90
6 Increase requested	30 000 000,00	30 000 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6)	167 382 450,00	436 894 720,90
8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	2,12 %	1,65 %
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	154 184,80	7 514,62
2 Appropriations available on 02/09/2021	141 184,80	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	8,43 %	100,00 %

d) Detailed grounds for the increase

EUR 30 million in commitment and in payment appropriations is requested in addition to the EUR 18 million already programmed for this crisis for 2021. Additional funding will be used for the provision of multi-sectoral response including health services and food to previously inaccessible areas within Tigray, who have been cut from external assistance since November 2020.

As of the end of August 2021, the overall implementation rate of commitment appropriations of the humanitarian aid chapter 14 03 was at 92,3% of available appropriations and the implementation in payment appropriations was at 80%. Following the call for an emergency response in Afghanistan, for which significant redeployment was achieved in Heading 6, the Commission has not been able to identify any further available resources in Heading 6. Therefore, it requests the mobilisation of the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve for a total of EUR 30 million in commitment and in payment appropriations for the crisis in the Tigray region.

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		-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			
DEC 12	Mobilisation of the SEAR related to famine and food insecurity in Yemen, Africa, Afghanistan and Venezuela		204,000,000			204,000,000	
DEC 17	Mobilisation of the SEAR for Tigray		30,000,000			30,000,000	
	Total DEC transfer proposals	0	883,043,750	121,500,000	427,543,750	334,000,000	0
	Remainder	0	340,406,250	21,763,125	0	280,625	318,362,500
	Total remainder of commitment appropriations	340,406,250					

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		-50,000,000		
	DAB2 carryover EUSF	47,981,598			47,981,598		
	DAB2 mobilisation EUSF	-47,981,598			-47,981,598		
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	Remainder	0	340,406,250	21,763,125	0	280,625	318,362,500
	Total remainder of payment appropriations	340,406,250					