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COVER NOTE

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| From: | Mr Piotr SERAFIN, Member of the European Commission |
| date of receipt: | 21 February 2025 |
| To: | Mr Paweł KARBOWNIK, President of the Council of the European Union |
| Subject: | Proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 02/2025 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2025 |

Delegations will find attached Commission document DEC 02/2025.

Encl.: DEC 02/2025



BRUSSELS, 21/02/2025

GENERAL BUDGET - 2025
SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES: 16, 30

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° **DEC 02/2025**

FROM

CHAPTER - 3004 Solidarity mechanisms (special instruments)

ITEM - 30 04 01 01 European Solidarity Reserve

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Commitments | -100 000 000,00 |
| Payments | -100 000 000,00 |

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 | 100 000 000,00 |
| Payments | 100 000 000,00 |

I. DECREASE

I.1

a) Heading

30 04 01 01 - European Solidarity Reserve (Appropriations carried over to commit up to 31/12)

b) Figures at 12/02/2025

| | Commitments | Payments |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Appropriations in budget (Appropriations carried over to commit up to 31/12) | 181 389 165,00 | 181 389 165,00 |
| 2 Transfers | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2) | 181 389 165,00 | 181 389 165,00 |
| 4 Appropriations already used | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 5 Appropriations available (3-4) | 181 389 165,00 | 181 389 165,00 |
| 6 Decrease proposed | 100 000 000,00 | 100 000 000,00 |
| 7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6) | 81 389 165,00 | 81 389 165,00 |
| 8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1) | 55,13 % | 55,13 % |
| 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 12/02/2025 | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1] | 0% | 0% |

d) Detailed grounds for the decrease

Pursuant to Article 9 of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation, the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) is constituted of two instruments which may be used to finance, respectively:

(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 (the "European Solidarity Reserve"); 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 (the "Emergency Aid Reserve")

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.

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) (Appropriations carried over to commit up to 31/12)

b) Figures at 12/02/2025

| | Commitments | Payments |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Appropriations in budget (Appropriations carried over to commit up to 31/12) | 12 926 997,00 | 12 926 997,00 |
| 2 Transfers | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2) | 12 926 997,00 | 12 926 997,00 |
| 4 Appropriations already used | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 5 Appropriations available (3-4) | 12 926 997,00 | 12 926 997,00 |
| 6 Increase requested | 100 000 000,00 | 100 000 000,00 |
| 7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6) | 112 926 997,00 | 112 926 997,00 |
| 8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1) | 773,57 % | 773,57 % |
| 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 12/02/2025 | 0,00 | 0,00 |
| 3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1] | 0% | 0% |

d) Detailed grounds for the increase

Following the floods caused by the torrential rains that hit several areas of eastern Spain (DANA floods) in October 2024, Spain applied for assistance under the "major disaster" criterion of the EUSF Regulation and requested an advance payment.

Under the EUSF Regulation, advance payments to Member States are capped at 25% of the anticipated financial contribution and cannot exceed EUR 100 000 000. To facilitate this request, a transfer of EUR 100 000 000 in commitment and payment appropriations from the European Solidarity Reserve to the EUSF operational budget line is necessary.

In addition to the amount carried over from the financial year 2024 of EUR 12 926 997, the operational budget line includes, in both commitment and payment appropriations, an amount of EUR 50 000 000 already inscribed in the General Budget 2025. Considering the advance payment of EUR 10 663 578 requested by Austria for the floods of September 2024, the transfer of EUR 100 000 000 from the European Solidarity Reserve will allow to award the advance payment to Spain while leaving on the budget line a total of EUR 52 263 419 to cover potential new applications for advances.

ANNEX

COMMISSION TRANSFER PROPOSALS RELATED TO THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY RESERVE IN 2025

The table below shows the transfer proposals transmitted to the Budgetary Authority to date during 2025, which relate to the European Solidarity Reserve (ESR), and the remaining amount under the ESR reserve following the approval of these proposals, including any carried over appropriations.

| Content | TOTAL | European Solidarity Reserve | European Solidarity Fund operational line |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| (1) General Budget 2025 - Initial appropriations | 1.361.380.800 | 1.298.453.803 | 62.926.997 |
| <i>(2) Out of which, voted budget 2025, main allocation</i> | 825.298.478 | 825.298.478 | |
| <i>(3) Out of which, voted budget 2025 - EUSF advances (Article 4a EUSF Regulation)</i> | 50.000.000 | | 50.000.000 |
| <i>(4) Out of which, carried over appropriations</i> | 194.316.162 | 181.389.165 | 12.926.997 |
| <i>(5) Out of which, end of year cushion (until 30/09)</i> | 291.766.160 | 291.766.160 | |
| (6) Advance payments | -110.663.578 | -100.000.000 | -10.663.578 |
| <i>(7) Out of which, DEC 02/2025 transfer proposal</i> | | -100.000.000 | +100.000.000 |
| <i>(8) Out of which, payment of advances to Spain</i> | -100.000.000 | | -100.000.000 |
| <i>(9) Out of which, payment of advances to Austria (*)</i> | -10.663.578 | | -10.663.578 |
| Remainder (1) + (6) | 1.250.717.222 | 1.198.453.803 | 52.263.419 |

(*) On 29 November 2024, Austria requested an advance payment of EUR 10 663 578 from the EUSF in relation to the floods occurred in September 2024. This amount can be deployed directly from the appropriations already available on the EUSF operational budget line.