



Brussels, 27 August 2026
(OR. en)

12556/26

FIN 1181

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
On:	27 August 2026
To:	Budget Committee
Subject:	Letter of amendment to the draft budget for the financial year 2027 for the European Council and Council (Section II of the EU budget) in view of the accession of Montenegro - Explanatory memorandum

I. Framework

1. On 30 June 2026, the Commission published its Communication to the Council, “A financial package for the accession negotiations with Montenegro”¹. In the Communication, the Commission states that a possible accession of Montenegro could take place at some point after the beginning of next Multiannual financial framework (‘MFF’) 2028-2034, should the relevant conditions be met. The Commission presented the Communication to Coreper at its meeting on 8 July 2026.
2. As was the case in previous enlargements, in order to prepare for the accession of Montenegro in a timely manner, additional human resources for the Council will have to be foreseen already in 2027, notably for the lawyer-linguist review of the translation of the *acquis communautaire* into Montenegrin.
3. Before the Accession Treaty of a new EU member state may be signed, the Union *acquis* must be translated and revised in Montenegrin. The translations are prepared by the

¹ ST 11098/26.

candidate/acceding country, whilst the lawyer-linguist revision is carried out by the Union institutions. Traditionally, the Council lawyers-linguists revise the primary law.

The lawyer-linguist revision of EU secondary law is shared between the European Parliament, Council and Commission services. The Council lawyers-linguists will need to revise approximately 8'500 standard pages (6'000 Official Journal pages) of primary law consisting of the founding treaties, amending treaties, and supplementary agreements. Furthermore, they will need to revise, in collaboration with the Commission and the European Parliament services, 460'000 standard pages (330'000 Official Journal pages) of secondary law.

4. It is therefore necessary for the Council to request additional appropriations in the Draft Budget (DB) 2027, as it currently makes no provision for recruitment of lawyer-linguists for the Montenegrin language at the Council. This enlargement-related request is presented with a view to being integrated in a Commission's Letter of Amendment to the DB 2027.
5. For this reason, the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) proposes an addition of EUR 1.054.000 to the DB 2027.

II. Additional enlargement-related needs - expenditure for other staff

6. At this stage, the GSC proposes no changes to its the Establishment plan and will rely on contractual staff.
7. To conduct the lawyer-linguist review of the translation of the *acquis communautaire* into the Montenegrin language, the GSC proposes to include an additional provision of EUR 1.054.000 into the Draft Budget 2027. The amount covers the recruitment of 12 contractual staff (8 lawyers-linguists and 4 assistants) for lawyer-linguist revision, quality control and coordination with the Montenegrin authorities from 1/1/2027 onwards.
8. In addition, the GSC is currently conducting a comprehensive analysis of all the further needs related to the accession of Montenegro.

III. Conclusion

9. In view of the timely preparation of the accession of Montenegro, it is proposed to increase the appropriations for Section II (European Council and Council) of the general budget of the EU for the financial year 2027 as indicated in the Annex, containing a presentation of the additional expenditure by budget line.

10. Based on the results of the comprehensive analysis of the further needs referred to in point 8 above, additional staffing and budgetary requirements related to the accession to Montenegro may arise.

Letter of Amendment to the draft budget
For the financial year 2027
Section II - European Council and Council

Item	Description	Voted Budget 2026	DB 2027	AL	DB 2027 after AL	% 2027/2026
TITLE 1 - Persons working with the Institution						
1000	Basic salary	465.000	477.000		477.000	3%
1001	Entitlements related to the post held	103.000	105.000		105.000	2%
1002	Entitlements related to the personal circumstances	16.000	16.000		16.000	0%
1003	Social security cover	24.000	24.000		24.000	0%
1004	Other management expenditure	1.650.000	1.855.000		1.855.000	12%
1006	Entitlements related to entering, transfer and leaving the service	0	0		0	
1007	Annual adjustment of the remuneration	0	0		0	
100	Remuneration and other entitlements	2.258.000	2.477.000	0	2.477.000	10%
1010	Transitory allowance	267.000	190.000		190.000	-29%
101	Termination of service	267.000	190.000	0	190.000	-29%
Total Chapter 10 - Members of the Institution		2.525.000	2.667.000	0	2.667.000	6%
1100	Basic salaries	343.985.187	351.508.321		351.508.321	2%
1101	Entitlements under the Staff Regulations related to the post held	1.989.000	2.024.000		2.024.000	2%
1102	Entitlements under the Staff Regulations related to the personal circumstances of the staff member	87.315.000	89.009.000		89.009.000	2%
1103	Social security cover	13.875.000	14.231.000		14.231.000	3%
1104	Salary weightings	161.000	161.000		161.000	0%
1105	Overtime	1.290.000	1.290.000		1.290.000	0%
1106	Entitlements under the Staff Regulations related to entering the service, transfer and leaving the service	2.195.000	2.195.000		2.195.000	0%
1107	Annual adjustment of the remuneration	7.626.000	5.273.000		5.273.000	-31%
110	Remuneration and other entitlements	458.436.187	465.691.321	0	465.691.321	2%
1110	Allowances in the event of retirement in the interests of the service	2.386.000	2.304.000		2.304.000	-3%
1112	Entitlements of the former Secretaries-General	0	0		0	
111	Termination of service	2.386.000	2.304.000	0	2.304.000	-3%
Total Chapter 11 - Officials and temporary staff		460.822.187	467.995.321	0	467.995.321	2%
1200	Other staff	14.022.000	14.450.000	1.039.000	15.489.000	10%
1201	National experts on secondment	1.524.000	1.517.154		1.517.154	0%
1202	Traineeships	999.000	1.116.000		1.116.000	12%
1203	External services	328.000	328.000		328.000	0%
1204	Supplementary services for the translation service	122.500	119.500		119.500	-2%
1207	Annual adjustment of the remuneration	233.000	163.000	15.000	178.000	-24%
120	Other staff and external services	17.228.500	17.693.654	1.054.000	18.747.654	9%
Total Chapter 12 - Other staff and external services		17.228.500	17.693.654	1.054.000	18.747.654	9%
1300	Miscellaneous expenditure on recruitment	163.000	163.000		163.000	0%
1301	Professional development	2.241.000	2.273.000		2.273.000	1%
130	Expenditure relating to staff management	2.404.000	2.436.000	0	2.436.000	1%
1310	Special assistance grants	24.000	25.000		25.000	4%
1311	Social contacts between members of staff	162.500	164.000		164.000	1%
1312	Supplementary aid for persons with disabilities	361.500	360.000		360.000	0%
1313	Other welfare expenditure	53.000	53.000		53.000	0%
131	Measures to assist the institution's staff	601.000	602.000	0	602.000	0%
1320	Medical service	425.000	373.000		373.000	-12%
1322	Crèches and childcare facilities	3.282.000	3.333.000		3.333.000	2%
1323	Interinstitutional cooperation in the field of staff management	1.460.000	1.460.000		1.460.000	0%
132	Activities relating to all persons working with the Institution	5.167.000	5.166.000	0	5.166.000	0%
1331	Mission expenses of the Council Secretariat	2.970.000	3.370.000		3.370.000	13%
1332	Travel expenses of staff related to the European Council	1.700.000	2.100.000		2.100.000	24%
133	Missions	4.670.000	5.470.000	0	5.470.000	17%
134	Schooling fees for Type II European schools	0	50.000		50.000	
Total Chapter 13 - Other expenditure relating to persons working with the institution		12.842.000	13.724.000	0	13.724.000	7%
TOTAL TITLE 1		493.417.687	502.079.975	1.054.000	503.133.975	2,0%

Letter of Amendment to the draft budget
For the financial year 2027
Section II - European Council and Council

Item	Description	Voted Budget 2026	DB 2027	AL	DB 2027 after AL	% 2027/2026
TITLE 2 - Buildings, equipment and operating expenditure						
2000	Rent	452.000	513.000		513.000	13%
2003	Fitting-out and installation work	10.745.000	11.160.690		11.160.690	4%
2004	Work to make premises secure	1.500.000	1.100.000		1.100.000	-27%
2005	Expenditure preliminary to the acquisition, construction and fitting-out of buildings	543.000	547.000		547.000	1%
200	Buildings	13.240.000	13.320.690	0	13.320.690	1%
2010	Cleaning and maintenance	22.413.000	22.143.000		22.143.000	-1%
2011	Water, gas, electricity and heating	6.931.000	6.982.000		6.982.000	1%
2012	Building security and surveillance	19.257.000	21.961.000		21.961.000	14%
2013	Insurance	831.500	831.500		831.500	0%
2014	Other expenditure relating to buildings	558.000	555.000		555.000	-1%
201	Costs relating to buildings	49.990.500	52.472.500	0	52.472.500	5%
Total Chapter 20 - Buildings and associated costs		63.230.500	65.793.190	0	65.793.190	4%
2100	Acquisition of equipment and software	16.465.500	17.550.000		17.550.000	7%
2101	Outside assistance for the operation and develop. of computer systems	30.409.000	32.403.000		32.403.000	7%
2102	Servicing and maintenance of equipment and software	7.196.500	7.752.000		7.752.000	8%
2103	Telecommunications	1.710.000	1.870.000		1.870.000	9%
210	Computer systems and telecommunications	55.781.000	59.575.000	0	59.575.000	7%
211	Furniture	1.055.500	1.055.500		1.055.500	0%
2120	Purchase and replacement of technical equipment and installations	2.037.000	726.750		726.750	-64%
2121	Outside assistance for the operation and development of technical equipment and installations	103.000	110.000		110.000	7%
2122	Rental, servicing, maintenance and repair of technical equipment and installations	1.336.500	406.500		406.500	-70%
212	Technical equipment and installations	3.476.500	1.243.250	0	1.243.250	-64%
213	Transport	2.068.500	2.260.750		2.260.750	9%
Total Chapter 21 - Computer systems, equipment and furniture		62.381.500	64.134.500	0	64.134.500	3%
2200	Travel expenses of delegations	15.505.000	15.505.000		15.505.000	0%
2201	Miscellaneous travel expenses	510.000	510.000		510.000	0%
2202	Interpreting costs	85.060.000	85.060.000		85.060.000	0%
2203	Representation expenses	191.000	191.000		191.000	0%
2204	Miscellaneous expenditure on meetings	5.662.000	5.505.000		5.505.000	-3%
2205	Organisation of conferences, congresses and meetings	2.421.000	2.416.000		2.416.000	0%
220	Meetings and conferences	109.349.000	109.187.000	0	109.187.000	0%
2210	Documentation and library expenditure	2.853.000	2.853.000		2.853.000	0%
2212	General publications	326.000	336.000		336.000	3%
2213	Information and public events	6.635.000	6.985.000		6.985.000	5%
221	Information	9.814.000	10.174.000	0	10.174.000	4%
2230	Office supplies	390.000	390.000		390.000	0%
2231	Postal charges	45.000	50.000		50.000	11%
2232	Expenditure on studies, surveys and consultations	45.000	45.000		45.000	0%
2234	Removals	33.000	33.000		33.000	0%
2235	Financial charges	0	15.000		15.000	#DIV/0!
2236	Legal expenses and costs, damages and compensation	556.000	556.000		556.000	0%
2237	Other operating expenditure	317.000	317.000		317.000	0%
223	Miscellaneous expenses	1.386.000	1.406.000	0	1.406.000	1%
Total Chapter 22 - Operating expenditure		120.549.000	120.767.000	0	120.767.000	0%
TOTAL TITLE 2		246.161.000	250.694.690	0	250.694.690	1,8%
TOTAL BUDGET		739.578.687	752.774.665	1.054.000	753.828.665	1,9%

Evolution of number of and expenditure on external staff

Council	Voted budget 2026		DB 2027 after AL	
Type of staff	Appropriations (EUR)	Estimated number of FTE (*) on the basis of authorised appropriations	Appropriations (EUR)	Estimated number of FTE (*) on the basis of requested appropriations
Contractual Agents	13.851.000	232	15.318.000	244
Seconded National Experts	1.524.000	22	1.517.154	22
Local Agents	0	0	0	0
Intérimaires	244.000	3	244.000	3
Parliamentary Assistants	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	15.619.000	257	17.079.154	269

* Full-time equivalent units