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NOTE

From: Budget Committee
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject: Draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016
– *Council position*

I. INTRODUCTION

The draft general budget of the European Union for 2016 (**DB 2016**) as proposed by the European Commission amounts¹ to:

- EUR 153 832 460 781 in **commitment** appropriations;
- EUR 143 541 453 114 in **payment** appropriations.

Compared with the 2015 budget², these amounts represent a -5.01 % decrease in commitment appropriations and a +1.60 % increase in payment appropriations.

¹ These amounts include appropriations foreseen for specific instruments outside the multiannual financial framework, as well as letter of amendment No 1 to the draft general budget for 2016.

² Amending budgets No 1 to 5/2015 included.

II. APPROACH TAKEN

The Budget Committee carried out its examination of the DB 2016 during the months of May, June and July 2015 on the basis of the following principles:

- to work within the framework of the budget guidelines established for the 2016 budget in the Council conclusions adopted in February 2015¹;
- to follow an approach leading to a budget complying with budgetary discipline and sound financial management, as well as taking duly into account the ongoing economic and budgetary constraints in Member States;
- to provide adequate funding for the European Union's various priorities, determining appropriations on the basis of past and current budget implementation and realistic absorption capacities;
- to foresee the appropriations necessary to respect the agreement reached on a payment plan for 2015-2016;
- to comply with the agreement reached on the financing of the European Fund for Strategic Investments;
- to provide the appropriations necessary to implement the European Council conclusions of April and June 2015 on measures in the area of migration;
- to foresee the necessary appropriations enabling the smooth implementation of the new programmes in the third year of the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020;
- to leave adequate margins under the ceilings of the headings and sub-headings of the multiannual financial framework, with the exception of sub-heading 1b and heading 3, in order to be able to cope with unforeseen situations;

¹ Doc. 5310/15.

- to keep payment appropriations firmly under control in all headings and sub-headings of the MFF and to create a sufficient margin to cover unforeseen events, resulting in a reduction in payment appropriations in particular under (sub-)headings 1a, 1b, 2 and 4. A draft Council statement on payment appropriations is set out in ANNEX II.

As regards *administrative expenditure* of the institutions, the Budget Committee recalled the importance of limiting the increase in 2016 and of reducing staff in line with the -5 % target over the period 2013-2017 set in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management¹. A draft Council statement on 5 % staff reduction is set out in ANNEX II.

The Budget Committee examined the administrative budgets of the institutions on the following basis:

- to keep under strict control the volume of administrative expenditure of the institutions, in line with the approach followed by the Member States for their national civil services;
- to set the administrative budget of each institution at the appropriate level, taking into account their specificities and real and justified needs;
- to carry out targeted reductions and increase the standard flat rate abatement on salaries for some institutions and offices, taking into account their past and current budget implementation and vacancy rates;
- to apply the Commission's proposal to reduce staff by -1 % per year as from 2013.

This approach would result in an appropriate level of administrative expenditure ensuring a proper functioning of the institutions.

The Budget Committee also focused on administrative support expenditure linked to operational programmes and on appropriations for *executive agencies*. In this respect, it is suggested to carry out targeted reductions on the basis of the same principles as those followed for administrative expenditure of the institutions.

¹ OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

As regards *decentralised agencies*, it is suggested to reduce the overall level of contributions from the Union budget by -EUR 5.1 million in commitment appropriations and by -EUR 5.3 million in payment appropriations. Agencies at cruising speed for which contributions from the Union budget increased in comparison to their respective 2015 budgets would be affected by those reductions. The Budget Committee considered that the absorption capacities for these agencies will be lower than the forecasts made by the Commission.

III. OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS¹

On the basis of the above approach, the Budget Committee reached an agreement on the Council's position on DB 2016 that would amount² to:

- EUR 153 268 844 759 in **commitment** appropriations;
- EUR 142 119 617 807 in **payment** appropriations.

Compared to the 2015 budget³, these amounts would represent a -5.36 % decrease in commitment appropriations and a minor +0.59 % increase in payment appropriations.

In this respect, the Budget Committee suggests the following changes to the DB 2016⁴:

¹ A summary table of the outcome of proceedings is set out in ANNEX IV.

² These amounts include appropriations foreseen for specific instruments outside the multiannual financial framework, as well as letter of amendment No 1 to the draft general budget for 2016.

³ Amending budgets No 1 to 5/2015 included.

⁴ The detailed results of the examination are provided in Addenda 1 to 6 to this document relating to the various policy areas.

1. **Smart and inclusive growth** (heading 1 of the multiannual financial framework)

a) **Competitiveness for growth and jobs** (sub-heading 1a of the multiannual financial framework)

- establish the level of commitment appropriations, targeting a total reduction of -EUR 140.9 million in the appropriations requested in the DB 2016 on a number of specific budget lines including administrative support expenditure;
- this includes the use of the global margin for commitments for an amount of EUR 543.0 million under this sub-heading as proposed in letter of amendment No 1/2016;
- set the level of payment appropriations, reducing the appropriations requested in the DB 2016 by a total amount of -EUR 435.4 million, of which -EUR 110.0 million in Large Infrastructure Projects, -EUR 219.1 million in the Common Strategic Framework for Research and Innovation, -EUR 13.7 million in Employment and Social Innovation, -EUR 26.5 million in Customs, Fiscalis and Anti-Fraud, -EUR 21.4 million in the Connecting Europe Facility, -EUR 5.0 million in Energy projects to aid economic recovery, -EUR 17.5 million in actions financed under the prerogatives of the Commission and specific competences conferred to the Commission and -EUR 18.0 million in other programmes;
- the amounts mentioned above also take into account reductions in contributions to decentralised agencies for a total amount of -EUR 4.0 million in commitment appropriations and -EUR 4.1 million in payment appropriations under this sub-heading;
- the margin available under sub-heading 1a would be EUR 229.5 million.

b) **Economic, social and territorial cohesion** (sub-heading 1b of the multiannual financial framework)

- establish the level of commitment appropriations, targeting a total reduction by -EUR 3.1 million in the appropriations requested in the DB 2016 on a number of specific budget lines related to administrative support expenditure under this sub-heading;
- set the level of payment appropriations, reducing the appropriations requested in the DB 2016 for programmes under the new programming period by a total amount of -EUR 220.1 million, in particular in the field of Transition regions (-EUR 5.1 million), Competitiveness (More developed regions) (-EUR 109.7 million), the Cohesion fund (-EUR 42.2 million), European territorial cooperation (-EUR 43.5 million) and Technical assistance and innovative actions (-EUR 19.6 million);
- the margin available under sub-heading 1b would be EUR 18.5 million.

2. **Sustainable growth: natural resources** (heading 2 of the multiannual financial framework)¹

- reduce the level of commitment appropriations requested in the DB 2016 by -EUR 199.9 million on administrative support expenditure lines, on market-support expenditure lines and on operational lines under the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE);

¹ A further examination of the proposal will take place in the context of the annual letter of amendment updating the estimated needs and appropriations for agricultural expenditure.

- set the level of payment appropriations, reducing the appropriations requested in the DB 2016 by a total amount of -EUR 251.1 million, of which -EUR 198.9 million in the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund, -EUR 45.6 million in the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, -EUR 4.5 million in the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund, and -EUR 2.1 million in the LIFE programme;
- the amounts mentioned above also take into account reductions in contributions to decentralised agencies for an additional amount of -EUR 0.05 million in commitment and payment appropriations under this heading;
- the margin available under heading 2 would be EUR 1 357.5 million.

3. Security and citizenship (heading 3 of the multiannual financial framework)

- establish the level of commitment appropriations with a total reduction of -EUR 25.1 million of the appropriations requested in the DB 2016 on a number of budget lines concerning administrative support expenditure (-EUR 0.2 million) and operational expenditure for new programmes (-EUR 23.8 million);
- set the level of payment appropriations, including a total reduction of -EUR 33.6 million of the appropriations requested in the DB 2016 on a number of budget lines concerning administrative support expenditure (-EUR 0.2 million) and operational expenditure for new programmes (-EUR 32.3 million);
- the amounts mentioned above also take into account reductions in contributions to decentralised agencies of -EUR 1.1 million in commitment and payment appropriations under this heading;

- the margin under heading 3 is equal to zero and is left unchanged;
- therefore, the Flexibility Instrument is mobilised for an amount of EUR 98.9 million in commitment appropriations¹.

4. Global Europe (heading 4 of the multiannual financial framework)

- establish the level of commitment appropriations, targeting a total reduction by -EUR 163.4 million in the appropriations requested in the DB 2016 on a number of specific budget lines;
- set the level of payment appropriations, reducing the appropriations requested in the DB 2016 by a total amount of -EUR 450.4 million, of which -EUR 119.1 million in the Instrument for Pre-accession assistance, -EUR 100.3 million in the European Neighbourhood Instrument, -EUR 143.0 million in the Development Cooperation Instrument, -EUR 11.0 million in the Partnership instrument for cooperation with third countries, -EUR 25.1 million in the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, -EUR 44.1 million in the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, -EUR 2.3 million in the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, -EUR 0.05 million in the EU Aid Volunteers initiative and -EUR 5.6 million in other actions and programmes;
- the margin available under heading 4 would be EUR 424.7 million.

¹ The amount serves to complement the financing of the temporary and exceptional relocation over two years from the frontline Member States Italy and Greece to other Member States of 40 000 persons in clear need of international protection, pending the rapid adoption of the relevant instruments in the light of the European Council conclusions of June 2015, especially point 4 (a) and (b) thereof.

5. **Administration** (heading 5 of the multiannual financial framework)

A summary table of the appropriations suggested is recorded in ANNEX V.

a) **Section I - European Parliament**

For the European Parliament, it is suggested that the DB 2016 (Section I) be approved as it stands.

b) **Section II - European Council and Council**

An overall amount of EUR 545 054 000 is suggested for the European Council and Council's budget, representing an increase of +0.6 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, the standard flat rate abatement on salaries is suggested to be maintained at 5.5 % as proposed in the DB 2016.

c) **Section III - Commission**

An overall amount of EUR 3 306.3 million in commitment appropriations and of EUR 3 307.8 million in payment appropriations is suggested for the Commission's administrative expenditure (including OP, OLAF, EPSO, PMO, OIB and OIL), representing an increase of +1.06 % when compared to the 2015 budget.

Targeted reductions are suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to Institution officials temporarily assigned to national civil services, to international organisations or to public or private institutions or undertakings (-EUR 50 000), contract staff (-EUR 1 000 000), recruitment costs (-EUR 372 250), rent and purchase (-EUR 1 167 000), buildings (-EUR 1 750 000), security (-EUR 2 559 750), mission and representation (-EUR 46 000) and general equipment, vehicles and furniture (-EUR 11 000). These amounts include 25 % of the provisions requested to cover a possible deterioration of the Euro exchange rate.

The remaining 75 % of the amounts estimated to cover a possible exchange rate deterioration were placed in the reserve: recruitment costs (EUR 66 750), rent and purchase (EUR 1 251 000), security (EUR 179 250), mission and representation (EUR 138 000) and general equipment, vehicles and furniture (EUR 33 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 4.3 % for the Commission's headquarters (-EUR 10 750 064). For delegations, the standard flat rate abatement is maintained at 5.9 %, as proposed in the DB 2016.

An overall amount of EUR 1 812.6 million is suggested for pensions and European Schools, representing an increase of +5.43 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Publications Office (OP)

An overall amount of EUR 78 948 564 is suggested for OP's budget, representing a decrease of -1.12 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 4.8 % (-EUR 302 636).

European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)

An overall amount of EUR 58 699 020 is suggested for OLAF's budget, representing an increase of +1.65 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Targeted reductions are suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to officials and temporary staff (-EUR 130 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 2.1 % (-EUR 225 980).

European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO)

An overall amount of EUR 26 270 505 is suggested for EPSO's budget, representing a decrease of -1.42 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Targeted reductions are suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to officials and temporary staff (-EUR 90 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 0.7 % (-EUR 69 495).

Office for Administration and Payment of Individual Entitlements (PMO)

An overall amount of EUR 37 297 740 is suggested for PMO's budget, representing an increase of +0.74 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Targeted reductions are suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to officials and temporary staff (-EUR 130 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 2.9 % (EUR 92 260).

Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Brussels (OIB)

An overall amount of EUR 68 105 934 is suggested for OIB's budget, representing a decrease of -0.62 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Targeted reductions are suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to officials and temporary staff (-EUR 150 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 1.8 % (-EUR 184 066).

Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Luxembourg (OIL)

An overall amount of EUR 23 442 497 is suggested for OIL's budget, representing a decrease of -2.66 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Targeted reductions are suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to officials and temporary staff (-EUR 150 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 1.4 % (-EUR 65 503).

d) Section IV - Court of Justice of the European Union

An overall amount of EUR 375 893 000¹ is suggested for the Court of Justice's budget, representing an increase of +5.27 % compared to the 2015 budget.

A targeted reduction is suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to Security and surveillance of buildings (-EUR 440 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 3.2 % (-EUR 1 554 000).

e) Section V - Court of Auditors

An overall amount of EUR 134 362 100 is suggested for the Court of Auditors' budget, representing an increase of +1.10 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Targeted reductions are suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to other staff (-EUR 150 000), in-service training and staff exchanges (-EUR 58 000), missions (-EUR 200 000), limited consultations, studies and surveys (-EUR 100 000), documentation, library and archiving expenditure (-EUR 18 000) and publications of a general nature (-EUR 74 000).

¹ This amount takes into account the institution's contribution to accredited European Schools (Type 2) of EUR 21 000.

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 3.465 % (-EUR 525 000).

f) Section VI - European Economic and Social Committee

An overall amount of EUR 129 867 150 is suggested for the European Economic and Social Committee's budget, representing an increase of +0.63 % compared to the 2015 budget.

A targeted reduction is suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to travel and subsistence allowances, attendance at meetings and associated expenditure (-EUR 55 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 5.0 % (-EUR 249 325).

g) Section VII - Committee of the Regions

An overall amount of EUR 89 968 203 is suggested for the Committee of the Regions' budget, representing an increase of +1.24 % compared to the 2015 budget.

A targeted reduction is suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to security and surveillance of buildings (-EUR 200 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, the standard flat rate abatement on salaries is suggested to be maintained at 6.0 % as proposed in the DB 2016.

h) Section VIII - European Ombudsman

An overall amount of EUR 10 523 951¹ is suggested for the European Ombudsman's budget, representing an increase of +1.72 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Targeted reductions are suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to other staff (-EUR 20 000), graduate traineeships, grants and exchanges of officials (-EUR 30 000), and purchase, servicing and maintenance of equipment and software, and related work (-EUR 50 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 0.7 % (-EUR 35 000).

i) Section IX - European Data Protection Supervisor

An overall amount of EUR 9 153 043 is suggested for the European Data Protection Supervisor's budget, representing an increase of +3.03 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Targeted reductions are suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to mission expenses, travel expenses and other ancillary expenditure (-EUR 20 000), equipment (-EUR 15 000), translation and interpretation costs (-EUR 50 000) and expenditure on publishing and information (-EUR 15 000).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries at 0.7 % (-EUR 35 000).

¹ This amount takes into account the institution's contribution to accredited European Schools (Type 2) of EUR 275 000.

j) **Section X - European External Action Service**

An overall amount of EUR 625 663 750 is suggested for the European External Action Service's budget, representing an increase of +3.79 % compared to the 2015 budget.

Targeted reductions are suggested by applying a specific decrease to the appropriations related to cryptography and highly classified information and communications technology (-EUR 1 593 000), security of information and communication technology up the level "EU restricted" (-EUR 700 000), external staff and outside services (-EUR 1 120 250), other expenditure related to staff (-EUR 203 000), buildings and associated costs (-EUR 2 968 750) and other administrative expenditure (-EUR 427 250). These amounts include 25 % of the provisions requested to cover a possible deterioration of the Euro exchange rate.

The remaining 75 % of the amounts estimated to cover a possible exchange rate deterioration were placed in the reserve: external staff and outside services (EUR 3 360 750), other expenditure related to staff (EUR 609 000), buildings and associated costs (EUR 8 906 250) and other administrative expenditure (EUR 1 281 750).

Taking into account the current vacancy rate, it is suggested to set the standard flat rate abatement on salaries for headquarters at 5.0 % (-EUR 490 000) and for delegations at 3.0 % (-EUR 462 000).

The margin available under heading 5 would be EUR 605.5 million.

6. Staff levels

With regard to staff levels, it is suggested to accept the establishment plans in the DB 2016 as proposed by the Commission.

7. Revenue

As regards revenue, it is suggested to accept the DB 2016 after the technical adjustments arising from the changes made to expenditure in the Council's position.

8. Nomenclature

As regards nomenclature, it is suggested to accept the DB 2016 as modified by letter of amendment No 1/2016.

9. Legal bases

Special care is taken to comply with the provisions of the Interinstitutional Agreement as regards legal bases.

10. Programme statements

Particular attention is given to the programme statements presented by the Commission.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Permanent Representatives Committee is asked to :

- advise the Council to
 - confirm the outcome of proceedings as set out in this document;
 - advise the Council to adopt the Council's position as set out in this document;
 - mandate the Presidency to forward the Council's position together with the explanatory memorandum to the European Parliament, in accordance with Article 314(3) TFEU, and to approve the draft letter in ANNEX III to that effect;
 - propose that the Council enter in its minutes the statements set out in ANNEX II;
 - have the Council's position published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* as set out in ANNEX I;
- agree, by unanimity, to the use of the written procedure for this purpose.

COUNCIL DECISION

**ADOPTING THE COUNCIL'S POSITION ON THE DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 314(3) thereof, in conjunction with the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community and in particular Article 106a thereof,

Whereas:

1. On 25 June 2015, the Commission submitted a proposal containing the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016¹,
2. On 26 June 2015, the Commission presented letter of amendment No 1 to the draft general budget for the financial year 2016²,
3. The Council examined the Commission proposal with a view to defining a position consistent, on the revenue side, with Council Decision 2007/436/EC, Euratom of 7 June 2007 on the system of the European Communities' own resources³, and, on the expenditure side, with Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020⁴,

¹ COM(2015) 300 final.

² COM(2015) 317 final.

³ OJ L 163, 23.6.2007, p. 17.

⁴ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Council's position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016 was adopted by the Council on 4 September 2015.

The full text can be accessed for consultation or downloading on the Council's website:

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/>

Done at Brussels, on 4 September 2015.

For the Council

The President

DRAFT STATEMENTS FOR ENTRY IN THE COUNCIL MINUTES

A. DRAFT COUNCIL STATEMENTS

1. Draft Council statement on payment appropriations

"The Council will carefully examine the letter of amendment for agriculture (including information on assigned revenue) in order to appropriately assess the level of resources under heading 2 (*Sustainable growth: natural resources*) in the 2016 budget.

In line with the joint statement on a payment plan 2015-2016¹, the Council calls on the Commission to continue closely scrutinizing the implementation of the 2014-2020 programmes. To that end, it invites the Commission to present in a timely manner updated figures concerning the state of affairs and estimates regarding 2016 payment appropriations with a view to allowing the budgetary authority to take any necessary decisions in due time for justified needs."

2. Draft Council statement on 5 % staff reduction

"The Council recalls the agreement reached between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to progressively render 5 % of the staff as in the establishment plan on 1 January 2013, to be effected between 2013 and 2017, as inscribed in Point 27 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management.

¹ Doc. 9115/15 FIN 369.

The Council takes note of the Commission's monitoring of the progress towards the 5 % staff reduction target already achieved to date by a number of institutions, bodies and agencies. It calls on all institutions and bodies to continue implementing the remaining staff reduction until the end of the five year period 2013-2017, as presented in the table in Annex 1. It invites the Commission to provide also comparable global data for decentralised and executive agencies in that presentation.

The Council recalls that the target year for the full implementation of the 5 % reduction of staff is approaching. It therefore strongly urges institutions still lagging behind in the implementation of the necessary staff reductions to step up their efforts aiming at meeting the 5 % target by 2017.

The Council also underlines the importance of monitoring closely the appropriations for all categories of external staff, against the backdrop of the additional capacity built up by the increase of working time to 40 hours per week. It welcomes the Commission's overview of consolidated data on all external staff employed by the Union, presented in Annex 2, in line with point (b) of Article 38(3) of the Financial Regulation. It invites the Commission to continue providing this information to the budgetary authority when presenting its draft budgets for future years.

The Council underlines that progress towards the 5 % staff reduction target should contribute to savings in the institutions' administrative expenditure."

Annex 1

ESTABLISHMENT PLAN POSTS – ALL INSTITUTIONS										
Evolution to date vis-à-vis the -5% reduction target over 5 years 2013-2017										
Institutions	2012 budget ¹	2013-2017 reduction target -5%	Annual reference target ² -1%	Post reduction implementation ³					Remaining distance to -5 % target	
				2013	2014	2015	2016	Total	Posts	% points
European Parliament	6 618	-331	-66	59	-17	-47	-9	-14	317	4,8%
European Council and Council	3 136	-157	-31	-46	-42	-22	-32	-142	15	0,5%
Commission	25 073	-1 254	-251	-250	-250	-263	-252	-1015	239	1,0%
Court of Justice of the European Union	1 952	-98	-20	-20	-20	-7	-20	-67	31	1,6%
Court of Auditors	885	-44	-9	-9	-9	-9	-9	-36	8	0,9%
European Economic and Social Committee	685	-34	-7	-7	-7	-7	-7	-28	6	0,9%
Committee of the Regions	500	-25	-5	-	-5	-5	-7	-17	8	1,6%
European Ombudsman	64	-3 ⁴	-1	-	-	-1	-1	-2	1	1,9%
European Data-Protection Supervisor	43	-2 ⁴	-	-	-	-1	-1	-2	0	0,3%
European External Action Service	1 679	-84	-17	-	-17	-17	-17	-51	33	2,0%
Total institutions	40 635	-2 032	-407	-273	-367	-379	-355	-1 374	658	1,6%

¹ Authorised 2012 posts excluding Croatia enlargement (140 posts) with the following adjustments:

- 60 posts were added to the European Parliament and deducted from the European Economic and Social Committee (-36) and from the Committee of the Region (-24) in order to reflect the impact of the cooperation agreement signed on 5 February 2014 between those institutions.
- 10 posts were transferred from the Council to the EEAS in 2014.
- 2 posts were transferred from the EEAS to the Commission (PMO) in 2014.
- 1 post was transferred from the Court of Auditors to the Commission (PMO) in 2015.
- 1 post was transferred from the Council to the EEAS in 2015.
- 6 posts were transferred from the Council to the Commission (PMO) in 2015.
- 2 posts will be transferred from the European Parliament to the Commission in 2016.
- 1 post will be transferred from the Court of Auditors to the Commission in 2016.

² Linear projection over 5 years at 1 % per year, rounded figures.

³ Sources: authorised budgets 2013, 2014 and 2015 (including amending budgets), draft budget 2016.

⁴ By the end of 2017, the European Ombudsman and the European Data Protection Supervisor are expected to reduce their posts by 3 and 2 respectively.

EVOLUTION OF EXTERNAL STAFF IN ALL INSTITUTIONS 2012 - 2016																
Institution	B2012		B2013		B2014		B2015		DB2016		Evolution 2016 / 2015			Evolution 2016 / 2012		
	EUR (mn)	FTE	EUR (mn)	FTE	EUR (mn)	FTE	EUR (mn)	FTE	EUR (mn)	FTE	EUR	FTE	% FTE	EUR	FTE	% FTE
European Parliament	220,9	6.675	217,7	6.854	231,0	7.515	237,3	7.253	253,8	7.824	7,0%	571	7,9%	14,9%	1.149	17,2%
European Council and Council	8,9	220	10,7	240	9,9	234	10,2	234	10,2	234	0,6%	0	0,0%	15,1%	14	6,4%
Commission	452,6	8.570	455,5	8.412	448,9	8.313	449,2	8.162	454,0	8.040	1,1%	-123	-1,5%	0,3%	-530	-6,2%
Court of Justice of the European Union	5,2	142	6,1	158	6,2	163	6,4	171	6,7	177	4,9%	6	3,6%	29,9%	36	25,1%
Court of Auditors	3,5	77	3,5	74	3,4	69	3,5	71	3,9	76	10,7%	5	7,7%	9,7%	-1	-1,2%
European Economic and Social Committee	2,7	51	2,7	50	2,5	47	2,6	47	2,5	46	-1,4%	-1	-2,6%	-6,7%	-5	-9,4%
Committee of the Regions	2,6	88	2,6	88	2,5	88	2,5	55	2,7	59	7,6%	4	7,7%	3,0%	-29	-33,0%
European Ombudsman	0,2	4	0,3	6	0,4	9	0,5	10	0,5	11	4,8%	1	5,0%	143,8%	7	162,5%
European Data-Protection Supervisor	0,3	7	0,4	8	0,4	8	0,4	9	0,4	9	4,9%	0	0,0%	40,8%	2	28,9%
European External Action Service	79,2	1.816	83,1	1.853	80,6	1.894	81,3	1.828	85,9	1.760	5,6%	-68	-3,7%	8,5%	-56	-3,1%
Total institutions	776,1	17.649	782,6	17.743	785,7	18.338	793,8	17.840	820,6	18.235	3,4%	396	2,2%	5,7%	586	3,3%

B. UNILATERAL STATEMENT

Unilateral statement by Cyprus

"Regarding "heading 4: Global Europe – Instrument of financial support for encouraging the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2667/2000 of the European Agency for Reconstruction" - budget line 13 07 01, Cyprus would like to reiterate its request and strong support for increasing the appropriations allocated to the objective for "Reconciliation and Confidence Building Measures". Under this objective, maintaining the same level of funding as in previous years for supporting the humanitarian work of the Committee on Missing Persons (CMP) is of vital importance and bears great political significance in the framework of the efforts for facilitating the reunification of Cyprus."

DRAFT LETTER

from : President of the Council

to : President of the European Parliament

Sir,

Please find under separate cover the Council's position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016 as adopted by the Council.

(Complimentary close)

BREAKDOWN BY HEADING FOR "TOTAL EXPENDITURE" IN THE FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

	Description	1		2		2/1		3		4		4-1		4/1	
		Budget 2015 (AB No 1/2015 to AB No 5/2015 incl.)		DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Difference (%)		Council's Changes on DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Council's Position on DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Difference (amount)		Difference (%)	
		c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a
1	Smart and inclusive growth	77 954 679 684	66 853 308 910	69 743 081 847	66 578 193 962	-10,53%	-0,41%	- 143 997 887	- 655 511 089	69 599 083 960	65 922 682 873	- 8 355 595 724	- 930 626 037	-10,72%	-1,39%
	<i>global margin for commitments</i>			543 000 000					543 000 000						
	<i>ceiling</i>			69 304 000 000					69 304 000 000						
	<i>margin</i>			103 918 153					247 916 040						
1.a	Competitiveness for growth and jobs	17 551 688 425	15 728 578 894	18 921 431 584	17 518 123 082	+7,80%	+11,38%	- 140 897 887	- 435 411 089	18 780 533 697	17 082 711 993	+1 228 845 272	+1 354 133 099	+7,00%	+8,61%
	<i>global margin for commitments</i>			543 000 000					543 000 000						
	<i>ceiling</i>			18 467 000 000					18 467 000 000						
	<i>margin</i>			88 568 416					229 466 303						
1.b	Economic, social and territorial cohesion	60 402 991 259	51 124 730 016	50 821 650 263	49 060 070 880	-15,86%	-4,04%	- 3 100 000	- 220 100 000	50 818 550 263	48 839 970 880	- 9 584 440 996	- 2 284 759 136	-15,87%	-4,47%
	<i>ceiling</i>			50 837 000 000					50 837 000 000						
	<i>margin</i>			15 349 737					18 449 737						
2	Sustainable growth: natural resources	63 901 960 185	55 998 594 804	63 104 378 823	55 865 891 958	-1,25%	-0,24%	- 199 913 118	- 251 136 601	62 904 465 705	55 614 755 357	- 997 494 480	- 383 839 447	-1,56%	-0,69%
	<i>ceiling</i>			64 262 000 000					64 262 000 000						
	<i>margin</i>			1 157 621 177					1 357 534 295						
	Of which: European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) — Market related expenditure and direct payments	43 455 780 762	43 447 624 585	42 867 624 128	42 859 334 601	-1,35%	-1,35%	- 198 936 689	- 198 936 689	42 668 687 439	42 660 397 912	- 787 093 323	- 787 226 673	-1,81%	-1,81%
	<i>sub-ceiling</i>			44 624 000 000					44 624 000 000						
	<i>net transfer between eagf and eafrd</i>			- 674 000 000					- 674 000 000						
	<i>excluded when calculating the sub-margin (1)</i>			- 718 000					- 718 000						
	<i>sub-margin</i>			1 081 657 872					1 280 594 561						
3	Security and citizenship	2 432 848 847	1 929 165 795	2 669 966 698	2 258 959 739	+9,75%	+17,10%	- 25 111 438	- 33 594 038	2 644 855 260	2 225 365 701	+ 212 006 413	+ 296 199 906	+8,71%	+15,35%
	<i>flexibility instrument (3)</i>			123 966 698				- 25 111 438		98 855 260					
	<i>ceiling</i>			2 546 000 000					2 546 000 000						
	<i>margin</i>			0				- 25 111 438		0					
4	Global Europe	8 410 899 029	7 422 489 907	8 881 729 361	9 539 215 403	+5,60%	+28,52%	- 163 440 000	- 450 440 000	8 718 289 361	9 088 775 403	+ 307 390 332	+1 666 285 496	+3,65%	+22,45%
	<i>ceiling</i>			9 143 000 000					9 143 000 000						
	<i>margin</i>			261 270 639					424 710 639						
5	Administration	8 660 469 063	8 658 756 179	8 908 692 052	8 910 192 052	+2,87%	+2,90%	- 31 153 579	- 31 153 579	8 877 538 473	8 879 038 473	+ 217 069 410	+ 220 282 294	+2,51%	+2,54%
	<i>ceiling</i>			9 483 000 000					9 483 000 000						
	<i>margin</i>			574 307 948					605 461 527						

Description	1		2		2/1		3		4		4-1		4/1	
	Budget 2015 (AB No 1/2015 to AB No 5/2015 incl.)		DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Difference (%)		Council's Changes on DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Council's Position on DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Difference (amount)		Difference (%)	
	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a
Of which: Administrative expenditure of the institutions	6 941 188 663	6 939 475 779	7 096 096 572	7 097 596 572	+2,23%	+2,28%	- 31 153 579	- 31 153 579	7 064 942 993	7 066 442 993	+ 123 754 330	+ 126 967 214	+1,78%	+1,83%
<i>sub-ceiling</i>			7 679 000 000						7 679 000 000					
<i>sub-margin</i>			582 903 428						614 057 007					
6 Compensations	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.					p.m.	p.m.				
<i>ceiling</i>			0						0					
<i>margin</i>			0						0					
MFF Headings	161 360 856 808	140 862 315 595	153 307 848 781	143 152 453 114	-4,99%	+1,63%	- 563 616 022	-1 421 835 307	152 744 232 759	141 730 617 807	-8 616 624 049	+ 868 302 212	-5,34%	+0,62%
<i>flexibility instrument (3)</i>			123 966 698	45 700 000			- 25 111 438	- 45 700 000	98 855 260	0				
<i>global margin for commitments</i>			543 000 000						543 000 000					
<i>ceiling</i>			154 738 000 000	144 685 000 000					154 738 000 000	144 685 000 000				
<i>margin (2)</i>			2 097 117 917	1 578 246 886			- 25 111 438	- 45 700 000	2 635 622 501	2 954 382 193				
Appropriations as % of GNI (4)(5)	1,15%	1,01%	1,04%	0,97%			0,00%	-0,01%	1,04%	0,96%				

(1) This amount, resulting from the rounding for the calculations of the sub-ceiling and the net transfer, is excluded when calculating the sub-margin.

(2) These amounts are calculated not taking into account appropriations for special instruments (EAR, EGF, EUSF).

(3) The amount serves to complement the financing of the temporary and exceptional relocation over two years from the frontline Member States Italy and Greece to other Member States of 40.000 persons in clear need of international protection, pending the rapid adoption of the relevant instruments in the light of the European Council conclusions of June 2015, especially point 4 (a) and (b) thereof.

(4) The GNI for 2015 is based on the forecast of GNI issued after the Advisory Committee on Own Resources (ACOR) meeting held on 19 May 2014.

(5) The GNI for 2016 is based on the forecast of GNI issued after the Advisory Committee on Own Resources (ACOR) meeting held on 19 May 2015.

BREAKDOWN FOR "SPECIAL INSTRUMENTS"

Description	1		2		2/1		3	4		4-1		4/1	
	Budget 2015 (AB No 1/2015 to AB No 5/2015 incl.)		DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Difference (%)		Council's Changes on DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)	Council's Position on DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Difference (amount)		Difference (%)	
	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	Appropriation	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a
Emergency Aid Reserve (EAR)	303 000 000	150 000 000	309 000 000	309 000 000	+1,98%	+106,00%		309 000 000	309 000 000	+ 6 000 000	+ 159 000 000	+1,98%	+106,00%
European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)	162 365 000	25 000 000	165 612 000	30 000 000	+2,00%	+20,00%		165 612 000	30 000 000	+ 3 247 000	+ 5 000 000	+2,00%	+20,00%
European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF)	116 505 850	243 230 818	50 000 000	50 000 000	-57,08%	-79,44%		50 000 000	50 000 000	- 66 505 850	- 193 230 818	-57,08%	-79,44%
Special Instruments	581 870 850	418 230 818	524 612 000	389 000 000	-9,84%	-6,99%		524 612 000	389 000 000	- 57 258 850	- 29 230 818	-9,84%	-6,99%

GLOBAL AMOUNTS FOR "TOTAL EXPENDITURE" IN THE MFF HEADINGS AND "SPECIAL INSTRUMENTS"

Description	1		2		2/1		3		4		4-1		4/1	
	Budget 2015 (AB No 1/2015 to AB No 5/2015 incl.)		DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Difference (%)		Council's Changes on DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Council's Position on DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Difference (amount)		Difference (%)	
	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a
MFF Headings	161 360 856 808	140 862 315 595	153 307 848 781	143 152 453 114	-4,99%	+1,63%	- 563 616 022	-1 421 835 307	152 744 232 759	141 730 617 807	-8 616 624 049	+ 868 302 212	-5,34%	+0,62%
Special Instruments	581 870 850	418 230 818	524 612 000	389 000 000	-9,84%	-6,99%			524 612 000	389 000 000	- 57 258 850	- 29 230 818	-9,84%	-6,99%
Grand total	161 942 727 658	141 280 546 413	153 832 460 781	143 541 453 114	-5,01%	+1,60%	- 563 616 022	-1 421 835 307	153 268 844 759	142 119 617 807	-8 673 882 899	+ 839 071 394	-5,36%	+0,59%
Appropriations as % of GNI (1)(2)	1,16%	1,01%	1,05%	0,98%			0,00%	-0,01%	1,04%	0,97%				

(1) The GNI for 2015 is based on the forecast of GNI issued after the Advisory Committee on Own Resources (ACOR) meeting held on 19 May 2014.

(2) The GNI for 2016 is based on the forecast of GNI issued after the Advisory Committee on Own Resources (ACOR) meeting held on 19 May 2015.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE

Description	1		2		2/1		3	4		4-1		4/1	
	Budget 2015 (AB No 1/2015 to AB No 5/2015 incl.)		DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Difference (%)		Council's Changes on DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)	Council's Position on DB 2016 (incl. LA 1/2016)		Difference (amount)		Difference (%)	
	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	Appropriation	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a	c/a	p/a
Pensions and European Schools	1 719 280 400	1 719 280 400	1 812 595 480	1 812 595 480	+5,43%	+5,43%		1 812 595 480	1 812 595 480	+ 93 315 080	+ 93 315 080	+5,43%	+5,43%
Pensions	1 559 377 435	1 559 377 435	1 640 510 000	1 640 510 000	+5,20%	+5,20%		1 640 510 000	1 640 510 000	+ 81 132 565	+ 81 132 565	+5,20%	+5,20%
<i>Staff Pensions</i>	<i>1 539 997 000</i>	<i>1 539 997 000</i>	<i>1 618 958 000</i>	<i>1 618 958 000</i>	<i>+5,13%</i>	<i>+5,13%</i>		<i>1 618 958 000</i>	<i>1 618 958 000</i>	<i>+ 78 961 000</i>	<i>+ 78 961 000</i>	<i>+5,13%</i>	<i>+5,13%</i>
<i>Pensions of former Members</i>	<i>19 380 435</i>	<i>19 380 435</i>	<i>21 552 000</i>	<i>21 552 000</i>	<i>+11,20%</i>	<i>+11,20%</i>		<i>21 552 000</i>	<i>21 552 000</i>	<i>+ 2 171 565</i>	<i>+ 2 171 565</i>	<i>+11,20%</i>	<i>+11,20%</i>
European Schools	159 902 965	159 902 965	172 085 480	172 085 480	+7,62%	+7,62%		172 085 480	172 085 480	+ 12 182 515	+ 12 182 515	+7,62%	+7,62%
Administrative expenditure of the institutions	6 941 188 663	6 939 475 779	7 096 096 572	7 097 596 572	+2,23%	+2,28%	- 31 153 579	7 064 942 993	7 066 442 993	+ 123 754 330	+ 126 967 214	+1,78%	+1,83%
Section III - Commission	3 274 965 000	3 273 252 116	3 325 601 200	3 327 101 200	+1,55%	+1,65%	- 19 296 004	3 306 305 196	3 307 805 196	+ 31 340 196	+ 34 553 080	+0,96%	+1,06%
<i>Commission, excluding Offices</i>	<i>2 981 096 000</i>	<i>2 979 383 116</i>	<i>3 031 247 000</i>	<i>3 032 747 000</i>	<i>+1,68%</i>	<i>+1,79%</i>	<i>- 17 706 064</i>	<i>3 013 540 936</i>	<i>3 015 040 936</i>	<i>+ 32 444 936</i>	<i>+ 35 657 820</i>	<i>+1,09%</i>	<i>+1,20%</i>
<i>Annex 2 - Publications Office</i>	<i>79 839 000</i>	<i>79 839 000</i>	<i>79 251 200</i>	<i>79 251 200</i>	<i>-0,74%</i>	<i>-0,74%</i>	<i>- 302 636</i>	<i>78 948 564</i>	<i>78 948 564</i>	<i>- 890 436</i>	<i>- 890 436</i>	<i>-1,12%</i>	<i>-1,12%</i>
<i>Annex 3 - European Anti-Fraud Office</i>	<i>57 746 000</i>	<i>57 746 000</i>	<i>59 055 000</i>	<i>59 055 000</i>	<i>+2,27%</i>	<i>+2,27%</i>	<i>- 355 980</i>	<i>58 699 020</i>	<i>58 699 020</i>	<i>+ 953 020</i>	<i>+ 953 020</i>	<i>+1,65%</i>	<i>+1,65%</i>
<i>Annex 4 - European Personnel Selection Office</i>	<i>26 648 000</i>	<i>26 648 000</i>	<i>26 430 000</i>	<i>26 430 000</i>	<i>-0,82%</i>	<i>-0,82%</i>	<i>- 159 495</i>	<i>26 270 505</i>	<i>26 270 505</i>	<i>- 377 495</i>	<i>- 377 495</i>	<i>-1,42%</i>	<i>-1,42%</i>
<i>Annex 5 - Office for Administration and Payment of Individual Entitlements</i>	<i>37 025 000</i>	<i>37 025 000</i>	<i>37 520 000</i>	<i>37 520 000</i>	<i>+1,34%</i>	<i>+1,34%</i>	<i>- 222 260</i>	<i>37 297 740</i>	<i>37 297 740</i>	<i>+ 272 740</i>	<i>+ 272 740</i>	<i>+0,74%</i>	<i>+0,74%</i>
<i>Annex 6 - Office for Infrastructure and Logistics — Brussels</i>	<i>68 528 000</i>	<i>68 528 000</i>	<i>68 440 000</i>	<i>68 440 000</i>	<i>-0,13%</i>	<i>-0,13%</i>	<i>- 334 066</i>	<i>68 105 934</i>	<i>68 105 934</i>	<i>- 422 066</i>	<i>- 422 066</i>	<i>-0,62%</i>	<i>-0,62%</i>
<i>Annex 7 - Office for Infrastructure and Logistics — Luxembourg</i>	<i>24 083 000</i>	<i>24 083 000</i>	<i>23 658 000</i>	<i>23 658 000</i>	<i>-1,76%</i>	<i>-1,76%</i>	<i>- 215 503</i>	<i>23 442 497</i>	<i>23 442 497</i>	<i>- 640 503</i>	<i>- 640 503</i>	<i>-2,66%</i>	<i>-2,66%</i>
Other institutions	3 666 223 663	3 666 223 663	3 770 495 372	3 770 495 372	+2,84%	+2,84%	- 11 857 575	3 758 637 797	3 758 637 797	+ 92 414 134	+ 92 414 134	+2,52%	+2,52%
Section I - European Parliament	1 794 729 112	1 794 729 112	1 838 448 600	1 838 448 600	+2,44%	+2,44%		1 838 448 600	1 838 448 600	+ 43 719 488	+ 43 719 488	+2,44%	+2,44%
Section II - European Council and Council	541 791 500	541 791 500	545 054 000	545 054 000	+0,60%	+0,60%		545 054 000	545 054 000	+ 3 262 500	+ 3 262 500	+0,60%	+0,60%
Section IV - Court of Justice of the European Union	357 062 000	357 062 000	377 866 000	377 866 000	+5,83%	+5,83%	- 1 994 000	375 872 000	375 872 000	+ 18 810 000	+ 18 810 000	+5,27%	+5,27%
Section V - Court of Auditors	132 906 000	132 906 000	135 487 100	135 487 100	+1,94%	+1,94%	- 1 125 000	134 362 100	134 362 100	+ 1 456 100	+ 1 456 100	+1,10%	+1,10%
Section VI - European Economic and Social Committee	129 055 970	129 055 970	130 171 475	130 171 475	+0,86%	+0,86%	- 304 325	129 867 150	129 867 150	+ 811 180	+ 811 180	+0,63%	+0,63%
Section VII - Committee of the Regions	88 867 199	88 867 199	90 168 203	90 168 203	+1,46%	+1,46%	- 200 000	89 968 203	89 968 203	+ 1 101 004	+ 1 101 004	+1,24%	+1,24%
Section VIII - European Ombudsman	10 091 105	10 091 105	10 383 951	10 383 951	+2,90%	+2,90%	- 135 000	10 248 951	10 248 951	+ 157 846	+ 157 846	+1,56%	+1,56%
Section IX - European Data Protection Supervisor	8 883 891	8 883 891	9 288 043	9 288 043	+4,55%	+4,55%	- 135 000	9 153 043	9 153 043	+ 269 152	+ 269 152	+3,03%	+3,03%
Section X - European External Action Service	602 836 886	602 836 886	633 628 000	633 628 000	+5,11%	+5,11%	- 7 964 250	625 663 750	625 663 750	+ 22 826 864	+ 22 826 864	+3,79%	+3,79%
5 — Administration	8 660 469 063	8 658 756 179	8 908 692 052	8 910 192 052	+2,87%	+2,90%	- 31 153 579	8 877 538 473	8 879 038 473	+ 217 069 410	+ 220 282 294	+2,51%	+2,54%