



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From:	Budget Committee
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024: Council position – <i>Statements</i>

STATEMENTS FOR ENTRY IN THE COUNCIL MINUTES

1. Statement on payments

In order to ensure the proper implementation of Union's programmes and to avoid an excessive increase of RAL in the final years of the current MFF, the Council invites the Commission to continue closely and actively monitoring, during the year 2024, the implementation of the programmes (particularly in sub-heading 2a and Rural Development).

To that end, taking into account the improved forecasts accuracy of the Member States where applicable and the payments margin in DB 2024 - mainly driven by sub-heading 2a, it expects the Commission to present in a timely manner updated figures concerning the state of affairs and estimates regarding 2024 payment appropriations.

If the figures show that the appropriations entered in the budget 2024 are insufficient to cover the justified needs, the Council invites the Commission to present as soon as possible an appropriate solution, *inter alia* a draft amending budget, with a view to allow the budgetary authority to take any necessary decisions as soon as possible without undue delay for justified needs.

Where applicable, the Council will take into account the urgency of the matter, shortening the eight-week period for a decision if deemed necessary. The same applies *mutatis mutandis* if the figures show that the appropriations entered in the budget 2024 are higher than needed.

The Council will carefully examine the letter of amendment concerning agriculture (including information on assigned revenue) in order to appropriately assess the level of resources under heading 3 (*Natural resources and environment*) in the budget 2024.

2. Statement on heading 7 (*European Public Administration*)

The Council welcomes the Commission's approach to limit horizontally all institutions' administrative expenditure in view of aiming to contain the expenditure under heading 7. The Council encourages the Commission to apply the horizontal and symmetric approach, equal to all institutions, whenever heading 7 requires collective efforts for adjustments.

The Council notes, however, that the Commission's measures are not sufficient to respect the ceiling as foreseen in the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for heading 7 in 2024, despite the Council statement of July 2022 calling the Commission to explore all measures and to submit any appropriate proposals to alleviate the pressure for administrative expenditure.

The Council regrets that the Commission is proposing to use the Single Margin Instrument to cover the gap despite the Council's March guidelines to ensure that the current ceilings of heading 7 of the MFF would not be exceeded and that the special instruments will not be mobilised for this heading.

The Council points out that the recent information suggests that the parameters the Commission has used when estimating the amounts necessary for the salary adjustment in 2024 may be too high. If this is confirmed in the forthcoming amending letter to the draft general budget for 2024, the Council expects that the amounts, thereby, becoming unnecessary in heading 7 will be fully reinstated into the Single Margin Instrument to cater for unforeseen needs during 2024.

In any case, the Council calls upon the Commission to first look for solutions which would not require using special instruments in heading 7 expenditure in 2024.
