



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 26 October 2023
(OR. en)

14619/23

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**FIN 1089
PE-L 42**

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	13960/23 (COM(2023) 530 final)
Subject:	Council position on draft amending budget No 4 to the general budget for 2023: Reduction in payment appropriations - Other adjustments and technical updates – <i>Adoption</i> – <i>Approval of a letter</i>

1. On 11 October 2023, the Commission submitted to the Council draft amending budget (DAB) No 4 to the general budget for 2023 concerning a reduction in payment appropriations and other adjustments and technical updates¹.

¹ Doc. 13960/23.

The aim of this proposal is to:

- reduce the appropriations of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project by EUR 280 million in commitment (c/a) and EUR 264 million in payment appropriations (p/a), due to the delays accrued in the implementation of the project, which will not be possible to be caught up later this year;
- decrease the level of p/a for the Digital Europe Programme (DEP), the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for a total amount of EUR 3 billion. These amounts could not be included in the redeployments proposed in the “Global transfer” (DEC 13/2023) submitted to Parliament and Council on 27 September 2023;
- adjust the level of administrative expenditure, pensions and expenditure for European Schools in heading 7 and increase the level of appropriations by EUR 32.5 million as a result of salary revision, higher number of pension beneficiaries, and continued high energy prices;
- allow the European External Action Service (EEAS) to recruit 20 cost-free seconded national experts for Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) without impact on the level of appropriations in 2023;
- adjust the EU contribution and the number of posts of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (the EPPO) to reinforce its security and cybersecurity;
- adjust the EU contribution to the European Environment Agency (EEA) to take account of the ongoing negotiations on the Nature restoration law proposal;

Overall, the net impact of this DAB on expenditure amounts to a decrease of EUR 247.5 million in c/a and of EUR 3 254.8 million in p/a.

2. In view of a timely adoption by the European Parliament of this draft amending budget before the end of the financial year 2023, the Council has to decide, considering the urgency of the matter, to shorten, in accordance with Article 3(3) of its Rules of Procedure, the eight-week period laid down in Article 4 of Protocol No 1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union.
3. The Budget Committee examined DAB No 4/2023 at its meetings on 19 and 24 October 2023, and was able to accept it without any changes.
4. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to advise the Council to:
 - adopt the Council’s position on DAB No 4/2023 as set out in point 3;
 - instruct the Presidency to prepare the budgetary documents to be sent to the European Parliament and to approve the draft letter in the annex to that effect; and
 - have the Council Decision adopting the Council’s position on draft amending budget No 4 of the European Union for the financial year 2023, as set out in 14621/23, published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
 - in view of the urgency of the matter, decide to derogate, on the basis of Article 3(3), second subparagraph, of the Council’s Rules of Procedure, from the eight-week period referred to in the first subparagraph of that article.

DRAFT LETTER

from : President of the Council

to : President of the European Parliament

Dear President,

I am forwarding under separate cover the Council's position on draft amending budget No 4 for the financial year 2023, adopted by the Council on 9 November 2023.

(Complimentary close).
