Council of the European Union

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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Council position on draft amending budget No 3 to the general budget for 2026: Adjustments in expenditure, update of revenues and other technical updates

1. On 9 October 2026, the Commission submitted to the Council draft amending budget (DAB) No 3 to the general budget for 2026 concerning adjustments in expenditure, an update of revenues and other technical updates[1].

[1] Doc. 14177/26.

The aim of this proposal is to update both the expenditure and revenue side of the budget:

(a) The proposed changes on the expenditure side of the budget concern the following elements:

- a reinforcement of payment appropriations (p/a) of EUR 4.2 billion, of which EUR 2 billion for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), EUR 2 billion for the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and EUR 0.2 billion for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD);

- a reintroduction in the budget of the budgetary commitments under three Hungarian operational programmes in Cohesion Policy that are still suspended under a measure established by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary, subject to the Council lifting that measure as proposed by the Commission in its proposal for a Council Implementing Decision pursuant to Article 7(2) of the Conditionality Regulation[2];

- an update of the needs for the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs), taking into account that several agreements and the related protocols will not be concluded in 2026, and of the needs for Regional Fisheries Management Organisations as the 2026 EU contribution to the respective budgets of these organisations is finalised;

- a reinforcement in commitment appropriations (c/a) and p/a for the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) to ensure the timely reimbursement of expenditure to Member States;

- a reinforcement of the emergency measures under the Food Chain strand of the Single Market Programme to co-finance measures implemented by Member States following outbreaks of animal diseases including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and African Swine Fever;

[2] Following the submission of the Commission's proposal on DAB No 3/2026, the Council adopted Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/2324 of 13 October 2026, lifting the above-mentioned suspension measure.

- a return from the reserve to the operational line of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) due to the delayed adoption of the Regulation on the return of third-country nationals;

- an adjustment of the EU contribution to several decentralised agencies, linked to implementation or other specific reasons, as follows:

    - a return in c/a and p/a from the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to the LIFE programme. Given the delays in the implementation of the One Substance One Assessment (OSOA) package, the agency will not need the corresponding appropriations,

    - a return in c/a and p/a to the EU4Health programme from the European Medicines Agency (EMA), due to reduced needs for the agency's implementation of the Critical Medicines Act,

    - a return in c/a and p/a to the Customs programme from the European Union Customs Authority (EUCA), due to delays in the agency's set-up, and

    - an increase in c/a and p/a for the European Union Agency for Railways (ERA) and an adjustment of its establishment plan following the adoption of the Regulation on the use of railway infrastructure capacity in the single European railway area.

Overall, the net impact of this DAB on expenditure amounts to an increase of EUR 2 180 million in c/a and an increase of EUR 4 162 million in p/a.

(b) On the revenue side, this DAB incorporates an additional EUR 4 765 million of definitive fines and penalty payments paid until 30 September 2026 and EUR 1 100 million of the estimated TOR surplus. The overall impact on the revenue side is thus a decrease in GNI contributions of EUR 1 703 million.

2. In order to allow the Council to adopt a position on this draft amending budget without delay, 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 3/2026 at its meetings on 12 and 27 October 2026 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 3/2026 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 ANNEX 2 to that effect;
- enter in its minutes the statement recorded in Addendum 1 to this document;
- have the Council's position on draft amending budget No 3 to the general budget for 2026, as set out in ANNEX 1, published in the *Official Journal of the European Union*; and
- 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.

ANNEX 1

Draft amending budget No 3 to the general budget for 2026: Adjustments in expenditure, update of revenues and other technical updates

COUNCIL POSITION

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast)[3], and in particular Article 44 thereof,

Whereas:

– the Union's budget for the financial year 2026 was definitively adopted on 26 November 2025[4];

– on 9 October 2026, the Commission submitted a proposal containing draft amending budget No 3 to the general budget for 2026;

[3] OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj.
[4] OJ L, 2026/72, 26.2.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/budget/2026/72/oj.

- the Council needs to proceed without delay with the adoption of its position on draft amending budget No 3 to the general budget for 2025, in view of urgently:

  (a) reinforcing the level of payment appropriations (p/a) for the *European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)*, the *European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)* and the *European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)*,

  (b) reintroducing in the budget the budgetary commitments under three Hungarian operational programmes in cohesion policy that had been suspended under Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506[5], following the adoption of Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/2324[6],

  (c) updating the needs for the *Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)*, taking into account that several agreements and the related protocols will not be concluded in 2026, and of the needs for *Regional Fisheries Management Organisations* as the 2026 EU contribution to the respective budgets of these organisations is finalised,

  (d) reinforcing the level of commitment (c/a) and p/a for the *European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF)* to ensure the timely reimbursement of expenditure to Member States,

  (e) reinforcing the emergency measures under the *Food Chain strand of the Single Market Programme* to co-finance measures implemented by Member States following outbreaks of animal diseases,

  (f) returning c/a and p/a from the reserve to the operational line of the *Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)* following the adoption of the Regulation on the return of third-country nationals,

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5 Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary (OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, page 94, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2022/2506/oj).

6 Council implementing Decision (EU) 2026/2324 of 13 October 2026 lifting measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary and repealing Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506 (OJ L, 2026/2324, 21.10.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2026/2324/oj).

(g) returning c/a and p/a from the *European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)* to the *LIFE programme* given the delays in the implementation of the One Substance One Assessment (OSOA) package,

(h) returning c/a and p/a from the *European Medicines Agency (EMA)* to the *EU4Health programme* due to reduced needs for the agency's implementation of the Critical Medicines Act,

(i) returning c/a and p/a from the *European Union Customs Authority (EUCA)* to the *Customs programme* due to delays in the agency's set-up,

(j) increasing c/a and p/a for the *European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)* and adjusting its establishment plan following the adoption of the Regulation on the use of railway infrastructure capacity in the single European railway area,

(k) updating the revenue side of the budget accordingly.

It is therefore justified to provide for an exception to the eight-week period referred to in Article 4 of Protocol No 1 on the role of national Parliaments in the European Union, annexed to the Treaty on European Union, to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Sole Article

The Council's position on draft amending budget No 3 to the general budget for 2026 was adopted on 9 November 2026.

The full text[7] is available for consultation or download on the Council's website:

https ://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents/public-register/public-register-search.

Done at Brussels, 9 November 2026.

For the Council

The President

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[7] Doc. 14883/26 + ADD 1.

ANNEX 2

DRAFT LETTER

from : President of the Council

to : President of the European Parliament

copy : President of the Commission

Madam,

I am forwarding under separate cover the Council's position on draft amending budget No 3 for the financial year 2026[8], adopted by the Council on 9 November 2026.

(Complimentary close).

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[8] Doc. 14883/26 + ADD 1.