



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 10 March 2021
(OR. en)

6905/21

FIN 177
COVID-19 76

COVER NOTE

From:	Mr Johannes HAHN, Member of the European Commission
date of receipt:	10 March 2021
To:	Ms Cláudia JOAQUIM, President of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 02/2021 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2021

Delegations will find attached Commission document DEC 02/2021.

Encl.: DEC 02/2021



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

BRUSSELS, 10/03/2021

GENERAL BUDGET - 2021
SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES: 14, 30

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° **DEC 02/2021**

FROM

CHAPTER - 3004 Solidarity mechanisms (Special instruments)

ARTICLE - 30 04 01 Solidarity and emergency aid reserve (SEAR)

Commitments	-100 000 000,00
Payments	-100 000 000,00

TO

CHAPTER - 1403 Humanitarian Aid

ARTICLE - 14 03 01 Humanitarian aid

Commitments	100 000 000,00
Payments	100 000 000,00

I. DECREASE

I.1

a) Heading

30 04 01 - Solidarity and emergency aid reserve (SEAR)

b) Figures at 04/03/2021

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 223 450 000,00	1 223 450 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	1 223 450 000,00	1 223 450 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	0,00	0,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	1 223 450 000,00	1 223 450 000,00
6 Decrease proposed	100 000 000,00	100 000 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	1 123 450 000,00	1 123 450 000,00
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	8,17 %	8,17 %
9 Decrease, as a percentage of the final appropriations for the year, in the sum of transfers referred to in Article 30(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation	n/a	n/a

c) Receipts arising from recovery (carried over from previous year)

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	0,00	0,00
2 Appropriations available on 04/03/2021	0,00	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	n/a	n/a

d) Detailed grounds for the decrease

According to article 9 of the Multiannual Financial Framework Regulation, the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) is intended to allow for

- (a) assistance to respond to emergency situations resulting from major disasters that are covered by the European Union Solidarity Fund, the objectives and scope of which are set out in Council Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 (6); and
- (b) rapid responses to specific emergency needs within the Union or in third countries following events which could not be foreseen when the budget was established, in particular for emergency responses and support operations following natural disasters not covered by point (a), man-made disasters, humanitarian crises in cases of large-scale public health, veterinary or phytosanitary threats, as well as in situations of particular pressure at the Union's external borders resulting from migratory flows, where circumstances so require.

II. INCREASE

II.1

a) Heading

14 03 01 - Humanitarian aid

b) Figures at 04/03/2021

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 416 512 450,00	1 820 000 000,00
2 Transfers	0,00	0,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	1 416 512 450,00	1 820 000 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	1 056 050 000,00	300 515 515,62
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	360 462 450,00	1 519 484 484,38
6 Increase requested	100 000 000,00	100 000 000,00
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6)	460 462 450,00	1 619 484 484,38
8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	7,06 %	5,49 %
9 Increase, as a percentage of the final appropriations for the year, in the sum of transfers referred to in Article 30(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation	n/a	n/a

c) Receipts arising from recovery (carried over from previous year)

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations available at start of the year	154 184,80	7 514,62
2 Appropriations available on 04/03/2021	144 184,80	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	6,49 %	100,00 %

d) Detailed grounds for the increase

The ongoing pandemic has exacerbated the dramatic humanitarian situation in many African countries, already plagued by conflict, climate-induced disasters, and systemic challenges. This situation mainly affects the most vulnerable, and the impact of the pandemic in terms of extreme poverty, food and nutrition, security, maternal and child health and education has greatly increased humanitarian needs. The pandemic is not under control, immunisation campaigns are severely underfunded and show limitations in terms of access. Meanwhile, humanitarian activities have been adapted to take into account prevention measures, but significant humanitarian needs are left unaddressed, due to a lack of funding or a lack of technical capacity. This is the case for needs in the sectors of health but also water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter, nutrition, protection and livelihoods as well as for preparedness and epidemiological surveillance.

EUR 100 million in commitment and in payment appropriations is needed to support the Africa Centre for Disease Control (ACfDC) and African Countries in rolling out the Covid-19 vaccination, in particular those affected by humanitarian crises or receiving vaccines under the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer. The support will address the major challenges related to the vaccination campaign (from the identification of the population groups to the logistics) and will build resilience to address future health crises and pandemics.

Moreover, additional funding will support targeted humanitarian operations to prepare for, facilitate and conduct in-country vaccination campaigns (such as risk communication and community engagement, awareness raising, referral systems, identification and registration of future vaccination beneficiaries, the provision of ancillary material and complementary services to the most vulnerable populations, equipment of local facilities).

Facilitating access to basic services could be necessary, in order to overcome the communities' potential reluctance to be vaccinated. This could imply introducing incentive measures (such as providing other services and assistance such as food and access to hygiene and safe water) and couple the response to the Covid-19 with response with other epidemics (measles, Ebola, malaria), which are killing millions of people.

The Commission has not been able to identify available resources in Heading 6. Therefore, it requests the mobilisation of the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve for a total of **EUR 100 million** in commitment and in payment appropriations to support the roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination in Africa.

ANNEX

COMMISSION TRANSFER PROPOSALS RELATED TO THE SOLIDARITY AND EMERGENCY AID RESERVE IN 2021

The table below shows the transfer proposals transmitted to the Budgetary Authority to date during 2021, which relate to the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR), and the remaining amount under the SEAR reserve following the approval of these proposals.

Transfer Ref	Content	Commitment Appropriations carried-over Reserve (EUR)	Commitment Appropriations 2021 Reserve (EUR)	Payment Appropriations 2021 Reserve (EUR)
	Initial appropriations	0	1 223 450 000	1 223 450 000
DEC 02	Mobilisation of the SEAR to support the roll out of Covid-19 vaccination in Africa	-	100 000 000	100 000 000
	Total transfer proposals	0	100 000 000	100 000 000
	Remainder	0	1 123 450 000	1 123 450 000
	Total remainder of commitment appropriations	1 123 450 000		