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COVER NOTE

From:	Mr Johannes HAHN, Member of the European Commission
date of receipt:	17 March 2023
To:	Ms Johanna LYBECK LILJA, President of the Council of the European Union
Subject:	Proposal for transfer of appropriations No DEC 05/2023 within Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2023

Delegations will find attached Commission document DEC 05/2023.

Encl.: DEC 05/2023

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

BRUSSELS, 16/03/2023

GENERAL BUDGET - 2023
SECTION III - COMMISSION TITLES: 14, 30

TRANSFER OF APPROPRIATIONS N° **DEC 05/2023**

FROM

CHAPTER - 3004 Solidarity mechanisms (special instruments)

ARTICLE - 30 04 01 Solidarity and emergency aid reserve (SEAR)	Commitments	-162 785 463,00
	Payments	-162 785 463,00

TO

CHAPTER - 1403 Humanitarian Aid

ARTICLE - 14 03 01 Humanitarian aid	Commitments	162 785 463,00
	Payments	162 785 463,00

The present transfer proposes to reinforce the Humanitarian Aid by EUR 162,8 million in commitment and payment appropriations to:

- give emergency assistance to the earthquake victims in Türkiye and in Syria (EUR 45 million);
- alleviate the suffering and worsening humanitarian situation in Ukraine (EUR 55 million);
- address the consequences of the deteriorating humanitarian and security situation in the eastern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (EUR 32,8 million);
- scale-up the ongoing emergency multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to address the escalating needs of the affected population in Ethiopia and Kenya (EUR 25 million);
- provide for multi-sectoral interventions in Cameron and Niger to newly displaced population (EUR 5 million).

This transfer will exhaust the remaining amount of the external strand under the Solidarity and Emergency Aid reserve (SEAR) available until 1 September.

As of 7 March 2023, the overall implementation rate of commitment appropriations of the humanitarian aid chapter 14 03 was 91.3 %, and the implementation rate of payment appropriations was 9.7 %.

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 162,8 million in commitment and in payment appropriations to provide humanitarian assistance in Türkiye, Syria, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Lake Chad Basin.

I. DECREASE

I.1

a) Heading

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

b) Figures at 10/03/2023

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 274 897 000,00	1 274 897 000,00
2 Transfers	-185 000 000,00	-185 000 000,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	1 089 897 000,00	1 089 897 000,00
4 Appropriations already used	0,00	0,00
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	**1 089 897 000,00**	**1 089 897 000,00**
6 Decrease proposed	**162 785 463,00**	**162 785 463,00**
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5-6)	**927 111 537,00**	**927 111 537,00**
8 Decrease as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	12,77 %	12,77 %
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 10/03/2023	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; 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 10/03/2023

	Commitments	Payments
1 Appropriations in budget (Initial Budget + AB)	1 687 002 967,00	1 747 484 500,00
2 Transfers	185 000 000,00	185 000 000,00
3 Total appropriations for the year (1+2)	1 872 002 967,00	1 932 484 500,00
4 Appropriations already used	1 708 252 967,00	185 964 108,63
5 Appropriations available (3-4)	**163 750 000,00**	**1 746 520 391,37**
6 Increase requested	**162 785 463,00**	**162 785 463,00**
7 Total appropriations up to year end (5+6)	**326 535 463,00**	**1 909 305 854,37**
8 Increase as percentage of appropriations in budget (6/1)	9,65 %	9,32 %
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	1 738 235,22	18 411,83
2 Appropriations available on 10/03/2023	1 729 235,22	0,00
3 Implementation rate [(1-2)/1]	0,52 %	100,00 %

d) Detailed grounds for the increase

The Commission requests the mobilisation of the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve for a total of EUR 162,8 million in commitment and in payment appropriations to provide humanitarian assistance in Türkiye, Syria, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Lake Chad Basin as detailed below.

- TÜRKIYE AND SYRIA – EUR 45 MILLION

On 6 February 2023, two major earthquakes struck Türkiye and caused severe damage in Syria. They have caused catastrophic devastation, with at least 18 million people directly impacted. The situation in the region was already difficult, as Türkiye hosts a large refugee community of around 15.6 million people.

EUR 15 million and EUR 30 million in commitment and payment appropriations will be used to address the lifesaving needs of the earthquake victims in Türkiye and in Syria respectively.

- UKRAINE – EUR 55 MILLION

One year after the outbreak of the war, the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection is estimated at 17.6 million, according to the Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan published on 15 February 2023.

Destruction of civilian infrastructure by Russia since October 2022 has worsened the situation, as people lack access to electricity and heating. Very severe humanitarian needs are observed in newly liberated areas whose population is facing a shortage of water, electricity, food and medicine. Furthermore, there are critical needs in protection and mental health and psycho-social support.

The currently delivered assistance is insufficient. EUR 55 million in commitment and payment appropriations will be used to further alleviate the suffering of the war-affected population.

- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC) – EUR 32,8 MILLION

The situation in the eastern provinces of the DRC is deteriorating rapidly. Ongoing armed conflict has created an increasingly volatile situation.

There are now over 2.26 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in North Kivu province alone. Many families who fled the fighting face multiple needs, including food, healthcare, and shelter. Another consequence of the conflict is an uptick in disease outbreaks, notably. cholera.

The funding of EUR 32,8 million in commitment and payment appropriations will be used for scaling-up the emergency response in the areas most affected by forced displacement, high food insecurity, high protection needs, including against sexual and gender-based violence, and urgent needs for health services, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, etc.

- ETHIOPIA, KENYA – EUR 25 MILLION

The humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa region has deteriorated, with over 34 million people expected to be in need of assistance in 2023.

The countries are affected by the 6th failed rain season in a row. The severity of food insecurity is expected to further deteriorate. Early mobilisation of funding is critical to address the escalating needs.

In Ethiopia, the additional funding will be consistent with the increased humanitarian access in the Northern region following the ceasefire in November 2022. It will also address additional needs for new crisis (refugees in Somali region) or deepening crisis (Oromia).

EUR 25 million in commitment and payment appropriations will be used to scale-up the multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance.

- LAKE CHAD – EUR 5 MILLION

The Lake Chad Basin is affected by a protracted crisis. The displacements and vulnerability of civilians resulting from the conflict are now compounded by the impact of climate change.

Data show a worsening of the humanitarian situation in the region, with 9 million people projected to require assistance in Cameroon and Niger in 2023 (+15 % compared to 2022).

EUR 5 million in commitment and payment appropriations will be used for multisectoral interventions in Cameron and Niger to newly displaced population.

ANNEX I

COMMISSION TRANSFER PROPOSALS RELATED TO THE SOLIDARITY AND EMERGENCY AID RESERVE IN 2023

The table below shows the transfer proposals transmitted to the Budgetary Authority to date during 2023, which relate to the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR), and the remaining amount under the SEAR reserve following the approval of these proposals.

Commitment Appropriations 2023 Reserve (EUR)								
Transfer Ref	**Content**	**TOTAL**	*carried over*	*voted budget*	***Internal*** *(excluding EUSF)*	***EUSF***	***External***	*End-of-Year Cushion (25%)*
	General Budget 2023 - Initial appropriations	**1 324 897 000**	*0*	*1 324 897 000*	***149 050 912***	***496 836 375***	***347 785 463***	***331 224 250***
	General Budget 2023 - EUSF advances *(Article 4a EUSF Regulation)*	-50 000 000		*-50 000 000*		-50 000 000		
DEC 03	Mobilisation of the SEAR for the food crises in Africa and in Yemen as well as the multisectoral crisis in Venezuela	185 000 000		*185 000 000*			185 000 000	
DEC 05	Mobilisation of the SEAR for the humanitarian assistance in Türkiye, Syria, Ukraine, DRC, Ethiopia and Lake Chad	162 785 463		162 785 463			162 785 463	
	Total DEC transfer proposals	**347 785 463**	*0*	*347 785 463*	**0**	**0**	**347 785 463**	**0**
	Remainder	**927 111 537**	***0***	***927 111 537***	**149 050 912**	**446 836 375**	**0**	**331 224 250**