



COURT OF JUSTICE  
OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION

The President

Luxembourg, 10 October 2023

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt  
President of the Committee on Budgets  
European Parliament

Ms Esperanza SAMBLAS  
Secretary of State  
President in office  
Council of the European Union

**Re: 2024 Draft Budget – Observations of the Court of Justice of the European Union  
with the forthcoming Conciliation Committee in view**

*Dear President, Dear Secretary of State,*

*In view of the forthcoming meeting of the Conciliation Committee, the Court of Justice of the European Union ('the Court') wishes to make the following observations on the positions adopted by the Commission and by the budgetary authority on the Court's budget estimates for 2024.*

*In establishing its budgetary requests for 2024, the Court has adopted a responsible approach, seeking to reconcile the obligations arising from its judicial mission with the demands made on all EU institutions to apply a rigorous approach to administrative expenditure.*

*The Court's budget estimates for 2024 amount to EUR 508.3 million (+4.59% compared with the 2023 budget). Most of this increase is related to expenditure on salaries and other payments to persons working for the Institution, and is largely due to the automatic salary adjustment on the basis of the parameters communicated by the Commission. The most significant component of the remaining increase is related to energy consumption, where the needed appropriations rise by around EUR 46 million, in the context of the well-known situation of energy prices at international level.*

*There were no requests for new permanent posts and, except for the energy consumption, the non-salary part of the Court's statement of estimates respected the limit of the 2% increase, as requested by the Commission for this kind of expenditure.*

*The Commission proceeded to a series of cuts in the statements of estimates of all Institutions, in order to limit to a maximum of 2% the increase in all areas considered as non-salary expenditure. This no-exception approach resulted in a EUR 1.3 million cut of the Court's budget line used for paying the salaries of its Members (considered by the Commission as a non-salary type of expenditure), and one of EUR 4.6 million on the line used for paying energy consumption.*

*These cuts, subsequently endorsed by the Council, concern, however, budget lines on which the Court has very little margin, if any, to reduce its needs.*

*As for Members' salaries, they are indexed according to the same rules applicable to staff salaries, in a completely automatic process with adjustment rates currently well above 2% (the official estimations by the Commission are of an increase of 4.4% in 2023 and of 3.4% in 2024). The Court has calculated its request for the budget line by simply applying the Commission's parameters.*

*As for energy consumption, the estimated need is significantly higher than what was requested for 2023 since the events related to the current high prices of energy, i.e. the war in Ukraine, started after the preparation of the 2023 statement of estimates. In fact, the appropriations originally included for energy consumption in the 2023 budget have proved largely insufficient, and we have made some budget transfers in 2023 to be able to meet our payment obligations for our energy bills. The cuts proposed by the Commission would bring the appropriations for energy consumption in 2024 to their original 2023 level, which appears totally unrealistic.*

*Such cuts, if implemented, would have a severe negative impact on the Court's ability to properly carry out its mission, making it difficult to pay energy bills and Members' salaries in 2024.*

*For these reasons, the Court has raised its concerns with the European Parliament. The amendments approved by the Committee on Budgets, to be voted in the next plenary session, aim at reversing the cuts proposed by the Commission.*

*With the forthcoming Conciliation Committee in view, while taking into consideration the serious financial constraints which Member States are subject to for the establishment of their 2024 budget, the Court fully endorses, for the reasons set out above, the amendments approved by the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament and strongly advocates that its request for appropriations be accepted in full.*

*The Court's services remain at the disposal of the Conciliation Committee for any additional information that could be of use to achieve agreement on the budget for 2024.*

*Yours faithfully,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Lenaerts', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

*K. LENAERTS*

Cc: *Mr Nils Ušakovs, Rapporteur of the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament  
Ms Maria Luisa Lamela Díaz, Chair of the Budget Committee of the Council  
Ms Monika Strasser and Ms Elisa Daffarra, Secretariat of the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament  
Ms Eva Veivo – Secretariat of the Budget Committee of the Council  
Mr Johannes Hahn, Member of the European Commission  
Ms Stéphanie Riso and Ms Jennifer Brown – Budget DG of the European Commission*



Council of the European Union  
General Secretariat

---

---

**Interinstitutional files:  
2023/0264 (BUD)**

---

---

**Brussels, 10 October 2023**

**WK 12987/2023 INIT**

**LIMITE**

**FIN**

*This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.*

## **MEETING DOCUMENT**

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Budget Committee
Subject:	DB 2024: CJEU's executability letter

In view of the Conciliation on the budget 2024, delegations will find enclosed the Court of Justice of the European Union's executability letter.