

Amending Budget No 5/2020

Continuation of support to refugees in response to the Syria crisis

Draft Amending Budget No 5/2020 (DAB 5/2020) accompanies the proposed decision of the European Parliament and of the Council to mobilise the Contingency Margin in order to continue support to refugees and host communities in response to the Syria crisis. Under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) heading 4, 'Global Europe', €100 million in commitment and payment appropriations is proposed as resilience support to refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon, whereas €485 million in commitment appropriations and €68 million in payment appropriations is proposed as urgent humanitarian support to refugees in Turkey under the Contingency Margin. The European Parliament is expected to vote on the Council position on DAB 5/2020 and the proposal to mobilise the Contingency Margin during its July plenary session.

Background

Due to the ongoing conflict in Syria, its neighbours Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey have been hosting the largest number of refugees per capita in the world. Coronavirus has further aggravated their situation. Under the [EU-Turkey Statement](#), the EU and its Member States committed €6 billion in EU aid to refugees in Turkey for 2016-2019, delivered through the [Facility for Refugees in Turkey](#). These funds have been fully committed, as well as the €214 million planned for 2020 for Lebanon and Jordan. However, further resilience support for Jordan and Lebanon and urgent humanitarian support for Turkey, in particular reinforcing the '[Emergency Social Safety Net](#)' and '[Conditional Cash Transfer for Education](#)', is still needed. The Contingency Margin is the 'last resort instrument' of the current MFF Regulation, which allows mobilisation for up to 0.03 % of EU-28 gross national income (GNI) to react to unforeseen circumstances if other options are exhausted.

European Commission proposal

On 3 June 2020, the Commission concluded in its [proposal](#) for a decision on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2020 that no further redeployments were possible under heading 4 ('Global Europe') for 2020. The available unallocated margin (€103.4 million) allows the financing of only €100 million in commitment appropriations to support Jordan and Lebanon. To cover the humanitarian support needed in Turkey, and since the envelopes of the MFF's other two special instruments (Global Margin for Commitments and Flexibility Instrument) are also exhausted, the Commission proposes to use the remaining margin of €3.4 million and mobilise the Contingency Margin for a total of €481.6 million. [DAB No 5/2020](#) proposes to allocate €100 million in commitment and payment appropriations under heading 4 as resilience support to refugees and host communities in Jordan and Lebanon, as well as €485 million in commitment and €68 million in payment appropriations for urgent humanitarian support to refugees in Turkey under the Contingency Margin, with a corresponding offset against the margins available under headings 5 'Administration' (€16.2 million) and 2 'Sustainable growth: Natural resources' (€465.3 million). The payments will be covered under the available margin for payments.

European Parliament position

On 24 June 2020, Parliament's Committee on Budgets (BUDG) adopted its two linked reports on the [Council position](#) on DAB 5/2020 and on the [proposal](#) for a decision on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2020, approving both. Parliament is expected to vote on both the proposal and on Council's position on DAB 5/2020 during its July plenary session.

Budgetary procedure: [2020/2092\(BUD\)](#) and [2020/2094\(BUD\)](#); Committee responsible: BUDG; Rapporteur: Monika Hohlmeier (EPP, Germany).

