



EUROPA-KOMMISSIONEN

BRUXELLES, DEN 16/06/2010

DET ALMINDELIGE BUDGET – REGNSKABSÅRET 2010
SEKTION III – KOMMISSIONEN AFSNIT 19, 40

BEVILLINGSOVERFØRSEL NR. **DEC 24/2010**

EUR

FRA

KAPITEL - 4002 Reserver til finansielle interventioner

KONTO - 40 02 41 01 Opdelte bevillinger (ikke-obligatoriske udgifter)

Forpligtelser - 20 000 000

TIL

KAPITEL - 1908 Den europæiske naboskabspolitik og forbindelserne med Rusland

KONTO - 19 08 02 03 EU-strategi for Østersøen

Forpligtelser 20 000 000

I. FORHØJELSE

a) Budgetpost

19 08 02 03 - EU-strategi for Østersøen

b) Tal pr. 4.6.2010

	Forpligtelser
1A. Regnskabsårets bevillinger (oprindeligt budget + ÆB)	p.m.
1B. Regnskabsårets bevillinger (EFTA)	0
2. Overførsler	0
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3. Regnskabsårets endelige bevillinger (1A+1B+2)	0
4. Udnyttelse af regnskabsårets endelige bevillinger	0
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5. Uudnyttede/disponible bevillinger (3-4)	0
6. Behov indtil regnskabsårets udgang	20 000 000
7. Foreslået forhøjelse	20 000 000
8. Forhøjelse i procent af regnskabsårets bevillinger (7/1A)	-
9. Summen af forhøjelser i henhold til finansforordningens artikel 23, stk. 1, litra b) og c), beregnet i overensstemmelse med artikel 17a i gennemførelsesbestemmelserne, i procent af regnskabsårets bevillinger	-

c) Indtægter fra inddrivelses (fremført) (C5)

	Forpligtelser
1. Disponible bevillinger ved årets begyndelse	0
2. Disponible bevillinger pr. 4.6.2010	0
3. Udnyttelsesgrad [(1-2)/1]	-

d) Nærmere begrundelse for forhøjelsen

Budgetmyndigheden har på grundlag af et ændringsforslag fra Europa-Parlamentet til budgettet for 2010 oprettet en ny budgetpost "EU-strategi for Østersøen" (19 08 02 03) under udgiftsområde 4. Der er henlagt 20 mio. EUR til reserveerne med henblik på at støtte strategiens eksterne dimension (navnlig den del, der vedrører Rusland). Midlerne skal anvendes i Østersøregionen til finansiering af aktiviteter, der på nuværende tidspunkt ikke er omfattet af programmerne under samhørighedsfondene eller ENPI. Bevillingen på 20 mio. EUR til forpligtelser og betalinger er blevet henlagt til reserveerne i afventning af et forslag fra Kommissionen til, hvordan midlerne kan anvendes (se bilag).

De bevilgede midler vil blive anvendt inden for rammerne af ENPI-forordningen og den nordlige dimension. Der vil navnlig blive tale om:

- a) Yderligere midler til den nordlige dimensions miljøpartnerskab (NDEP) i form af et tilskud til miljøfonden, der vil gøre det muligt at gennemføre miljøprojekter i Rusland og Belarus.

Det vil således blive foreslået at bevilge 12 mio. EUR til finansiering af aktioner, der er udvalgt i projektforslagene og videreudviklet i samarbejde med NDEP's eksperter på støtteområdet.

Der kunne også blive tale om en ekstrabevilling (ca. 2 mio. EUR) til Belarus, eftersom donorforsamlingen for NDEP fra november 2009 har berettiget Belarus til at modtage 5 mio. EUR i form af tilskud.

- b) Andre aktioner (ca. 6 mio. EUR) til støtte for aktiviteter med Rusland i henhold til handlingsplanen for Østersøstrategien kunne overvejes. De kunne vedrøre miljø, klimaændringer, energieffektivitet, sundhed og social sikring og muligvis omfatte bæredygtige og innovative transport- og logistikprojekter.

(Se vedlagte detaljerede tekniske bilag)

II. FRAFØRSEL

a) Budgetpost

40 02 41 01 - Opdelte bevillinger (ikke-obligatoriske udgifter)

b) Tal pr. 4.6.2010

	Forpligtelser
1A. Regnskabsårets bevillinger (oprindeligt budget + ÆB)	209 320 000
1B. Regnskabsårets bevillinger (EFTA)	0
2. Overførsler	-64 820 000
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3. Regnskabsårets endelige bevillinger (1A+1B+2)	144 500 000
4. Udnyttelse af regnskabsårets endelige bevillinger	0
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5. Uudnyttede/disponible bevillinger (3-4)	144 500 000
6. Behov indtil regnskabsårets udgang	124 500 000
7. Foreslået fraførsel	20 000 000
8. Fraførsel i procent af regnskabsårets bevillinger (7/1A)	9,55 %
9. Summen af fraførsler i henhold til finansforordningens artikel 23, stk. 1, litra b) og c), beregnet i overensstemmelse med artikel 17a i gennemførelsesbestemmelserne, i procent af regnskabsårets endelige bevillinger	-

c) Indtægter fra inddrivelses (fremført) (C5)

	Forpligtelser
1. Disponible bevillinger ved årets begyndelse	0
2. Disponible bevillinger pr. 4.6.2010	0
3. Udnyttelsesgrad [(1-2)/1]	-

d) Nærmere begrundelse for overførslen

Se begrundelsen under punkt I, d).

Proposal for action in follow-up to the European Parliament Amendment concerning cooperation with Third Countries in the framework of the Baltic Sea Strategy

The purpose of this document is to outline a Commission proposal on how to use the 20 million euro in the 2010 Budget for the 'EU Baltic Sea Strategy' cooperation with third countries, in order to lift the current reserve on the appropriation.

1. Background

Based on an amendment by the European Parliament to the 2010 budget the Budgetary Authority introduced a new budget line "EU Baltic Sea Strategy" (19 08 02 03) under Heading 4. EUR 20 million have been placed in reserve for support of the external dimension of the Strategy. These funds are intended to finance activities in the Baltic Sea Region not covered currently by the programmes under cohesion funds or the ENPI instrument¹. The appropriation of EUR 20 million in commitments and payments has been put in reserve pending a proposal by the Commission on how the funds can be used.

The Baltic Sea Programme is an ERDF-funded transnational programme with a special ENPI Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) element. However, the Russian Federation has not signed the related Financing Agreement, and thus was not included in the programme, which creates a drawback in its functioning. The other option for channelling the funds is the contribution through the Northern Dimension, identified by the EU Baltic Sea Strategy Action Plan as a platform that provides the basis for external aspects of the Strategy. Also other actions involving third countries and supporting the objectives of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy Action Plan can be envisaged.

However, there is a need to ensure that the funds can be mobilised within the commitment deadline of end 2010 and contracting deadline end 2011.

Given

- a) the delays experienced in agreeing with Russia on previous Financing Agreements and their entry into force²,
- b) the requests by the Russian authorities for reciprocity related to financial audit and control (presenting challenges for Member States) and equal co-financing, and
- c) indications that the Russian government would not support Russia's inclusion in the Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) Baltic Sea Region programme,

it is recommended not to use the new funds for this ongoing regional CBC programme.

Having examined the above options, the Commission concludes that, *it is preferable to channel the funds through other existing mechanisms, particularly the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) and the Baltic Sea Strategy Action Plan which do not depend on a Financing Agreement with the Russian Government.*

2. The Northern Dimension as the framework for action

The EU Baltic Sea Strategy Action Plan identified the **Northern Dimension** (ND) as a platform for external aspects of the Strategy. Against the background described above, the Commission thus suggest using the Northern Dimension as the framework for activities which can absorb the additional budget provided through the Budget Authority in a targeted and timely manner.

1 The idea is to "fund coordination and information, as well as pilot projects in any of the four pillars of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region Action Plan, with emphasis on reducing nutrient inputs and maintaining a natural biodiversity, promoting research, innovation, and maritime safety and security".

2 For example the CBC Financing Agreements signed at the EU-Russia Summit in Stockholm in November 2009 are not yet ratified by the Russian Duma.

The main objectives of the policy are to provide a common framework for the promotion of dialogue and concrete cooperation, strengthen stability and well-being, intensify economic cooperation, promote economic integration, competitiveness and sustainable development in Northern Europe. Geographically the ND focuses increasingly on northwest Russia, Kaliningrad, the Baltic and the Barents Seas, the Arctic and Sub-Arctic areas. Thematically, the environment and nuclear waste management are two of the focal points.

The **Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP)** is a result-focused initiative responding to calls from the international community - including Russia and Belarus - for concerted action to tackle some of the most pressing environmental problems in the Northern Dimension Area covering the Baltic and Barents Seas region.

The NDEP promotes coordination between the European Commission, partner governments (Russia, France, Canada, Germany, Sweden, Finland, UK, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Belgium, Belarus) and international financial institutions (EBRD, Nordic Investment Bank, EIB, Nordic Environment Finance Corporation and World Bank) to facilitate optimal financing structures combining loans, grants and local budget funding for implementation of its priority projects. The grants offer an extra incentive for environmental projects that may not be otherwise financially viable and unable to achieve satisfactory environmental targets without that intervention.

The present EU funding for the environmental window totals EUR 30 million in addition to a contribution of EUR 40 million by the Russian Federation as well as EUR 57.6 million from other Partner Countries (Germany, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway and Belarus). The projects being proposed consist of environmental projects in water and wastewater treatment, management of municipal and agricultural waste, energy efficiency. The NDEP thus delivers real benefits to the environment – and the people – of the Baltic Sea Region.

3. Proposal for action

For 2010, the Commission suggests to allocate the funds currently in reserve through the Northern Dimension framework, in particular:

- a) **Further financing of the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP)** through a contribution to its Environmental Support Fund managed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, enabling the implementation of environmental projects in Russia and Belarus. This form of cooperation would be entirely in line with the Amendment's objectives to strengthen the Baltic Sea Strategy. The fund manager, EBRD, confirms that a number of high quality projects to contract a significant part of the proposed EUR 20 million has already been identified or can be created. These projects include waste water and solid waste treatment, ultimately reducing nutrient inputs in the Baltic Sea. The Commission has a longstanding cooperation with the EBRD in the form of Contribution Agreements.

A contribution at the level of EUR 12 million will therefore be proposed for financing several proposed projects and further elaborated with the NDEP support experts. An additional contribution (approximately EUR 2 million) for the benefit of **Belarus** would follow as the decision by the Assembly of the NDEP Contributors from November 2009 entitled Belarus to receive EUR 5 million in the form of grants.

- b) Also **other actions** (approximately 6 million euro) supporting the Baltic Sea Strategy Action Plan activities with Russia and Belarus could be envisaged. They could entail environment, climate change, energy efficiency, health and social protection, and possibly projects in Transport and Logistics, under the concept of sustainable development and innovation. This support can take the form of Service contracts or grants (Technical Assistance, exchange of good practices, studies, seminars, study visits etc.) At this moment the process of identifying the projects is in a drafting phase.

4. Legal Base and budget line

The ENPI offers a solid political and regulatory framework with established dialogue between the EU and Partner Countries. It provides a coherent multiannual programming platform and ensures that the activities will be treated in harmony within the ENPI and with other programming instruments.

The legal basis for the use of funds would therefore be the ENPI Regulation. The Country Strategies 2007 – 2013 and the multiannual Indicative Programmes for Russia (2007 – 2010) and Belarus (2007 – 2011) already identify sectoral priorities that are in line with the Baltic Sea Strategy Action Plan. Moreover, the ENPI Regional East Country Strategy 2007 – 2013 and its Indicative Programme (2010 – 2013) identify the Northern Dimension under *Sub-Priority: Support the implementation of the Black Sea Synergy and the Northern Dimension (Priority Area 4: Advancing integration with the EU and promoting regional cooperation)*.

In order to implement these actions under the ENPI regulation, the Commission will transfer the appropriations from budget line 19 08 02 03 EU Baltic Sea Strategy to budget line 19 08 01 03 European Neighbourhood Policy and relations with Russia by means of internal transfer immediately after the release of the reserve. This budget line provides an unambiguous legal base linked to well-established decision making procedures.

The above projects will require time-intensive preparations with the concerned authorities of the third countries and possibly some Member States. First disbursements will only take place in 2011. No Payment Appropriations are therefore required in 2010.

5. Conclusion

Based upon the existing legal framework, this proposal fulfils the objectives of the Amendment, presenting a politically and environmentally sound solution for the sustainable cooperation with Third States in the region. It substantiates the further development of the EU Baltic Sea Strategy and its integration into the overall policy for the Baltic Sea region. As extensive negotiations with third parties will have to precede the Financing Decision, the Budget Authority is requested to lift the reserve so that the corresponding commitment appropriations will be available on the operational budget line in due time.