



IL-KUMMISSJONI EWROPEA

BRUSSELL, 16/06/2010

BAĠIT ĠENERALI - 2010
TAQSIMA III - TITOLI TAL-KUMMISSJONI 19, 40

TRASFERIMENT TA' APPROPJAZZJONIJIET Nru **DEC 24/2010**

EUR

MINN

KAPITOLU - 4002 Riżervi għal interventi finanzjarji

PARTITA - 40 02 41 01 Approprjazzjonijiet differenzjati (nefqa mhux obligatorja)

Impenji

- 20 000 000

GĦAL

KAPITOLU – 1908 Il-Politika Ewropea tal-Viċinat u r-relazzjonijiet mar-Russja

PARTITA - 19 08 02 03 Strategija tal-UE għall-Baħar Baltiku

Impenji

20 000 000

I. ŻIEDA

a) Intestatura

19 08 02 03 - Strateġija tal-UE għall-Baħar Baltiku

b) Ċifri fl-04/06/2010

	Impenji
1A. Approprjazzjoni fil-baġit (baġit inizjali + BE)	p.m.
1B. Approprjazzjoni fil-baġit (EFTA)	0
2. Trasferimenti	0
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3. Approprjazzjoni finali għas-sena (1A+1B+2)	0
4. Utilizzazzjoni tal-approprjazzjoni finali	0
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5. Ammont mhux użat/disponibbli (3-4)	0
6. Ftigijiet sa tmiem is-sena	20 000 000
7. Żieda proposta	20 000 000
8. Żieda bħala perċentwali tal-approprjazzjoni fil-baġit (7/1A)	Mhux applikabbli
9. Żieda, bħala perċentwali tal-approprjazzjoni finali tas-sena, fis-somma tat-trasferimenti msemmija fl-Artikolu 23(1)(b) u (c) tar-Regolament Finanzjarju, ikkalkulata skont l-Artikolu 17a tar-regoli tal-implimentazzjoni	Mhux applikabbli

c) Dħul minn irkupru (trasferit) (C5)

	Impenji
1. Approprjazzjoni disponibbli fil-bidu tas-sena	0
2. Approprjazzjoni disponibbli fl-04/06/2010	0
3. Rata ta' utilizzazzjoni [(1-2)/1]	Mhux applikabbli

d) Raġunijiet dettaljati għaż-żieda

Fuq il-bażi ta' emenda mill-Parlament Ewropew fil-baġit tal-2010, l-Awtorità Baġitarja introduċiet linja baġitarja ġdida "Strateġija għall-Baħar Baltiku" (19 08 02 03) taħt Intestatura 4. Ġew impoġġija EUR 20 miljun fir-riżerva biex tiġi appoġġjata d-dimensjoni esterna tal-Istrateġija (speċjalment bl-involviment tar-Russja). Dawn il-fondi huma maħsuba biex jiffinanzjaw attivitajiet fir-Regjun tal-Baħar Baltiku li bħalissa mhumiex koperti mill-programmi taħt il-Fondi ta' Koeżjoni jew mill-istrument ENPI. L-approprjazzjoni ta' EUR 20 miljun f'approprjazzjonijiet u f'ħlasijiet tpoġġiet fir-riżerva sakemm toħroġ proposta tal-Kummissjoni dwar kif il-fondi jistgħu jiġu użati (ara anness).

Il-fondi allokatu se jkunu implimentati taħt ir-regolament ENPI u permezz tal-qafas Dimensjoni tat-Tramuntana, B'mod partikolari:

- a) Finanzjament ulterjuri tal-Partenarjat Amjentali tad-Dimensjoni tat-Tramuntana (NDEP) permezz ta' kontribuzzjoni fil-Font Ambjentali, li tagħmel possibbli l-implimentazzjoni ta' proġetti ambjentali fir-Russja u l-Belarus.

Għalhekk se tiġi proposta kontribuzzjoni fil-livell ta' EUR 12 miljun għal azzjonijiet ta' finanzjament kif identifikati fil-linja ta' proposti tal-proġett u elaborat ulterjorment mal-esperti ta' appoġġ tal-NDEP.

Kontribuzzjoni addizzjonali (madwar EUR 2 miljun) għall-benefiċċju tal-Belarus tista' tiġi wara bħala d-deċiżjoni tal-Assemblea tal-Kontributori tal-NDEP minn Novembru 2009 intitolata Belarus biex tirċievi EUR 5 miljuni fil-forma ta' għotjiet.

- b) Azzjonijiet oħra (madwar EUR 6 miljuni) li jappoġġjaw l-attivitajiet tal-Pjan ta' Azzjoni tal-Istrateġija għall-Baħar Baltiku mar-Russja jistgħu jiġu mhejjija. Jistgħu jgibu magħhom l-ambjent, it-tibdil fil-klima, l-effiċjenza tal-enerġija, farsien tas-saħħa u dak soċjali, u possibbilment proġetti fit-Trasport u l-Loġistika, taħt il-kuncett ta' żvilupp sostenibbli u innovazzjoni.

(Ara l-anness tekniku ddettaljat mehmuż)

II. TNAQQIS

a) Intestatura

40 02 41 01 - Approprjazzjonijiet differenzjati (nefqa mhux obligatorja)

b) Ċifri fl-04/06/2010

	Impenji
1A. Approprjazzjoni fil-baġit (baġit inizjali + BE)	209 320 000
1B. Approprjazzjoni fil-baġit (EFTA)	0
2. Trasferimenti	-64 820 000
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3. Approprjazzjoni finali għas-sena (1A+1B+2)	144 500 000
4. Utilizzazzjoni tal-approprjazzjoni finali	0
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5. Ammont mhux użat/disponibbli (3-4)	144 500 000
6. Ftigijiet sa tmiem is-sena	124 500 000
7. Tnaqqis propost	20 000 000
8. Tnaqqis bħala perċentwali tal-approprjazzjoni fil-baġit (7/1A)	9,55%
9. Tnaqqis, bħala perċentwali tal-approprjazzjoni finali tas-sena, mis-somma tat-trasferimenti msemmija fl-Artikolu 23(1)(b) u (c) tar-Regolament Finanzjarju, ikkalkulat skont l-Artikolu 17a tar-regoli tal-implimentazzjoni	Mhux applikabbli

c) Dħul minn irkupru (trasferit) (C5)

	Impenji
1. Approprjazzjoni disponibbli fil-bidu tas-sena	0
2. Approprjazzjoni disponibbli fl-04/06/2010	0
3. Rata ta' utilizzazzjoni [(1-2)/1]	Mhux applikabbli

d) Id-dettalji dwar ir-raġunijiet għat-trasferiment

Ara l-ġustifikazzjoni taħt il-punt l 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.