Amending Budget No 1/2020

Support to Greece to face migration pressure, measures to fight coronavirus and reconstruction assistance to Albania

Draft Amending Budget No 1/2020 (DAB 1/2020) would provide additional funds to help address the needs arising from the increased migration pressures in Greece, assist Member States to limit the impact of the coronavirus outbreak through meeting needs for equipment and medical products, and contribute to Albania’s post-earthquake reconstruction. The European Parliament is expected to vote, under the urgent procedure, on the Council position on DAB 1/2020 during the 16-17 April plenary session.

European Commission proposal
On 27 March 2020, the Commission submitted DAB 1/2020. It proposes an additional €567.4 million in commitments (CA) and €77.4 million in payments (PA).

Actions to be financed
The proposed reinforcement will serve to:
1. Help Greece address the significant migratory pressure it faces (€350 million in CA): funds will be used to construct five multi-purpose reception and identification centres (€220 million); reinforce the voluntary return and reintegration assistance programmes (€10 million), and provide the new camps with staff and emergency material (€50 million). It proposes to strengthen the external borders of Greece and/or Bulgaria, to deploy additional border guards and police officers, and purchase necessary equipment (€50 million). Frontex and the European Asylum Support Office will be allocated an additional €10 million each.
2. Assist EU Member States to respond to the impact of the coronavirus outbreak (€128.6 million in CA): €80 million (of which €10 million redeployed) will be provided to the Union’s Civil Protection Mechanism for the purchase of equipment (rescEU); €45 million to finance repatriation flights, and €3.6 million, through redeployment, to increase the capacities of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.
3. Support reconstruction in Albania, following the earthquake in November 2019 (€100 million in CA).
4. Adjustments to the budgets of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, the European Public Prosecutor’s Office, the European Court of Auditors and the Ombudsman.

Special instruments
The financing for the migration-related expenditure (heading 3, ‘Security and citizenship’) requires the mobilisation of the Global Margin for commitments, for €350 million, and of the Flexibility Instrument, for €73.3 million. For the latter, the Commission also submitted, in parallel, the proposal for a decision for its mobilisation, to be voted by Parliament in parallel with DAB 1/2020.

European Parliament position
Given the urgency of the matter, Parliament’s Committee on Budgets (BUDG) has requested Parliament to treat these proposals under the urgent procedure (Rule 163 of the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament) referring them directly to plenary. Parliament is expected to vote on the proposals, and endorse the Council’s position on DAB 1/2020 (adopted through written procedure on 14 April), during the 16-17 April plenary session.

Budgetary procedure: 2020/2052(BUD), 2020/2053(BUD) and 2020/2056(BUD); Committee responsible: BUDG.