



Plenary sitting

A8-0246/2018

29.6.2018

REPORT

on the Council position on Draft amending budget No 3/2018 of the European Union for the financial year 2018, Section III - Commission: Extension of the Facility for refugees in Turkey
(09713/2018 – C8-0302/2018 – 2018/2072(BUD))

Committee on Budgets

Rapporteur: Siegfried Mureşan

CONTENTS

	Page
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION	3
ANNEX: LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS	6
INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE	8
FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE.....	9

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

**on the Council position on Draft amending budget No 3/2018 of the European Union for the financial year 2018, Section III - Commission: Extension of the Facility for refugees in Turkey
(09713/2018 – C8-0302/2018 – 2018/2072(BUD))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 314 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Article 106a of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,
- having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002¹, and in particular and in particular Articles 18(3) and 41 thereof,
- having regard to the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018, as definitively adopted on 30 November 2017²,
- having regard to Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020³ (MFF Regulation),
- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management⁴,
- having regard to Council Decision 2014/335/EU, Euratom of 26 May 2014 on the system of own resources of the European Union⁵,
- having regard to Draft amending budget No 3/2018, which the Commission adopted on 23 May 2018 (COM(2018)0310),
- having regard to the position on Draft amending budget No 3/2018 which the Council adopted on 22 June 2018 and forwarded to Parliament on 25 June 2018 (09713/2018 – C8-0302/2018),
- having regard to the letter from the Committee on Foreign Affairs,
- having regard to Rules 88 and 91 of its Rules of Procedure,
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A8-0246/2018),

¹ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

² OJ L 57, 28.02.2018.

³ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

⁴ OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

⁵ OJ L 168, 7.6.2014, p. 105.

- A. whereas the Commission amended on 14 March 2018 its decision on the Facility for Refugees (FRT) in Turkey in order to allocate an additional EUR 3 billion (a 'second tranche') to the FRT, in line with the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016;
 - B. whereas Draft amending budget No 3/2018 aims to add EUR 500 million in commitment appropriations to the 2018 Union budget as the 2018 Union contribution to the second tranche, in addition to the EUR 50 million financed from the existing Humanitarian Aid budgetary envelope in 2018;
 - C. whereas the Commission proposes to use the Global Margin for Commitments, in accordance with Article 14 of the MFF Regulation, to finance EUR 243,8 million which cannot be covered solely by the unallocated margin under Heading 4, proposed to contribute EUR 256,2 million to this reinforcement;
 - D. whereas the Commission has proposed to fund a further EUR 1,45 billion under the 2019 draft budget as the Union budget contribution to the FRT;
 - E. whereas Parliament has consistently stressed its support for the continuation of the FRT while emphasising that, as one of the two arms of the budgetary authority, it must be fully associated with the decision-making process relating to the extension of the FRT, *inter alia* to avoid the repetition of the procedure of its setting-up; whereas no negotiations on the financing of the second tranche of the FRT have so far taken place between Parliament and the Council; whereas it would have been advisable that the discussions on the financing of the second tranche take place within the conciliation on the 2018 Union budget;
- 1. Takes note of Draft amending budget No 3/2018 as submitted by the Commission, which is devoted solely to the financing of the 2018 Union budget contribution to the FRT, for an amount of EUR 500 million in commitment appropriations, and of the Council's position thereon;
 - 2. Strongly deplores the discrepancy between the absence of Parliament's involvement in the adoption of the decisions on the setting-up and on the prolongation of the FRT on one hand, and its role as budgetary authority in the financing of the FRT from the Union budget;
 - 3. Regrets that the Commission did not include the 2018 financing of the FRT in its 2018 draft budget at any stage of the 2018 budgetary procedure; believes that such inclusion would have been an opportunity for the two arms of the budgetary authority to discuss the financing of the whole second tranche of the FRT, as the positions of Parliament and of the Council diverge on the scale of the Union budget contribution;
 - 4. Notes that the purpose of Draft amending budget No 3/2018 is primarily to allow for the schooling of refugee children in Turkey to continue seamlessly;
 - 5. Approves the Council position on Draft amending budget No 3/2018;
 - 6. Underlines that this decision is without prejudice to its position on the remaining part of the financing of the second tranche of the FRT; stresses that, irrespective of the Council's deliberations on the prolongation of the FRT, Parliament will fully retain its

prerogatives through the 2019 budgetary procedure;

7. Instructs its President to declare that Amending budget No 3/2018 has been definitively adopted and arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
8. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the other institutions and bodies concerned and the national parliaments.

ANNEX: LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Ref.: D(2018)24204

Mr Jean Arthuis
Chair
Committee on Budgets

Subject: AFET opinion on the report on draft amending budget No. 3/2018

Dear Chair,

In view of your Committee's report on *the Council position on Draft amending budget No 3/2018 of the European Union for the financial year 2018, Section III - Commission: Extension of the Facility for refugees in Turkey (2018/2072(BUD))*, the coordinators of the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET) have decided that AFET should submit its opinion in the form of a letter due to the tight schedule.

AFET supports the Facility for Refugees in Turkey as a concrete expression of the EU's support and solidarity with Turkey. Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees worldwide, including around 3,5 million registered Syrian refugees. The Facility has brought tangible support to refugees and host communities in key areas such as education and health care. We therefore support the extension of the Facility and the mobilisation of the second tranche of EUR 3 billion, as proposed by the Commission on 14 March 2018.

AFET approves of draft amending budget 3/2018, which proposes to add EUR 500 million in commitment appropriations to the EU budget in 2018 as the EU contribution to the second tranche of the Refugee Facility. According to the Commission, this funding will to a large extent be dedicated to the payment of the salaries of over 5000 teachers providing education to refugee children in Turkey, thereby ensuring a seamless continuation of school education beyond the summer holidays. The reinforcement will be financed from the unallocated margin under heading 4 and the Global Margin for Commitments, thus not affecting other programmes under heading 4.

At the same time, we note that the Commission proposes to allocate another EUR 1,45 million to the Facility in the draft budget for 2019. Together with the EUR 50 million financed from the existing Humanitarian Aid budget envelope in 2018, this would bring the total EU contribution under the second tranche to EUR 2 billion, effectively doubling the EU's contribution compared to the first tranche. As stated in the recent AFET letter on the mandate for the budgetary trilogue (D(2018)22136), AFET believes that the existing contribution ratio (EUR 2 billion from Member States, EUR 1 billion from the EU budget) should be maintained, as envisaged in the Commission proposal of 14 March 2018. We will continue to insist on this point in the context of the 2019 budgetary procedure.

AFET insists on the need to closely monitor the use of funds of the FRiT and the full compliance of the disbursements with its legal basis.

Yours sincerely,

David McAllister
AFET Chair

Cristian Dan Preda
AFET rapporteur for the 2018 budget

Copy: Mr Siegfried Mureşan, Rapporteur for the 2018 EU budget

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Date adopted	28.6.2018
Result of final vote	+: 20 -: 4 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Jean Arthuis, Richard Ashworth, Gérard Deprez, Manuel dos Santos, André Elissen, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Esteban González Pons, Ingeborg Gräßle, Monika Hohlmeier, John Howarth, Vladimír Maňka, Siegfried Mureşan, Urmas Paet, Paul Rübig, Eleftherios Synadinos, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Inese Vaidere, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken
Substitutes present for the final vote	Ivana Maletić
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Jonathan Bullock, David Coburn, Thomas Waitz, Bogdan Brunon Wenta

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

20	+
ALDE	Jean Arthuis, Gérard Deprez, Urmas Paet
PPE	Richard Ashworth, José Manuel Fernandes, Esteban González Pons, Ingeborg Gräßle, Monika Hohlmeier, Ivana Maletić, Siegfried Mureşan, Paul Rübig, Inese Vaidere, Bogdan Brunon Wenta
S&D	Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, John Howarth, Vladimír Maňka, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken
VERTS/ALE	Indrek Tarand, Thomas Waitz

4	-
EFDD	Jonathan Bullock, David Coburn
ENF	André Elissen
NI	Eleftherios Synadinos

2	0
S&D	Manuel dos Santos, Isabelle Thomas

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention