



Plenary sitting

A9-0109/2020

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REPORT

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund
(EGF/2020/000 TA 2020 - Technical assistance at the initiative of the
Commission)
(COM(2020)0146 – C9-0112/2020 – 2020/2062(BUD))

Committee on Budgets

Rapporteur: Victor Negrescu

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

**on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF/2020/000 TA 2020 - Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission)
(COM(2020)0146 – C9-0112/2020 – 2020/2062(BUD))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2020)0146 – C9-0112/2020),
 - having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006¹,
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020², and in particular Article 12 thereof,
 - 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 management³, and in particular point 13 thereof,
 - having regard to its resolution of 18 September 2019 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, (EGF/2019/000 TA 2019 – Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission)⁴,
 - having regard to its first reading on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Globalisation Fund (EGF)⁵,
 - having regard to the trilogue procedure provided for in point 13 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A9-0109/2020),
- A. whereas the Union has set up legislative and budgetary instruments to provide additional support to workers who are suffering from the consequences of major structural changes in world trade patterns or of the global financial and economic crisis and to assist their necessary and prompt reintegration into the labour market;

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 855.

² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

³ OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

⁴ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0015.

⁵ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0019.

- B. whereas the Union's assistance to workers made redundant should be dynamic and made available as quickly and efficiently as possible, in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission adopted during the conciliation meeting on 17 July 2008, and having due regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 in respect of the adoption of decisions to mobilise the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF);
- C. whereas the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 reflects the agreement reached between the Parliament and the Council to reintroduce the crisis mobilisation criterion, to increase the Union financial contribution to 60 % of the total estimated cost of proposed measures, to increase efficiency for the treatment of EGF applications in the Commission and by Parliament and the Council by shortening the time for assessment and approval, to widen eligible actions and beneficiaries by introducing self-employed persons and young people and to finance incentives for setting up own businesses;
- D. whereas the maximum annual budget available for the EGF is EUR 150 million in 2011 prices and whereas Article 11(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 states that up to 0,5 % of that amount, that is EUR 179 264 000 in 2020 prices, can be made available for technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission in order to finance preparation, monitoring, data gathering and creation of a knowledge base, administrative and technical support, information and communication activities as well as audit, control and evaluation activities necessary to implement Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013;
- E. whereas the proposed amount of EUR 345 000 corresponds to approximately 0,19 % of the maximum annual budget available for the EGF in 2020;
1. Agrees with the measures proposed by the Commission to be financed as technical assistance in accordance with Article 11(1) and (4) and Article 12(2), (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013;
 2. Acknowledges the importance of monitoring and data gathering; recalls the importance of robust statistical series compiled in an appropriate form so that it is easily accessible and understandable; reiterates the need for updated research on and analysis on the current challenges posed by COVID-19 on the global market;
 3. Reiterates the need for a dedicated website, accessible to all Union citizens, containing detailed information about the EGF;
 4. Welcomes the continued work on standardised procedures for EGF applications and management using the functionalities of the electronic data exchange system (SFC), which allows for the simplification and faster processing of applications, and better reporting;
 5. Takes note that the Commission will use the available budget to hold two meetings of the Expert Group of Contact Persons of the EGF (one member from each Member State) and, most probably at the same time, two seminars with the participation of the implementing bodies of the EGF and the social partners in order to promote networking among Member States;
 6. Calls on the Commission to continue to systematically invite Parliament to such

meetings and seminars in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Framework Agreement on relations between Parliament and the Commission;

7. Underlines the need to further enhance the cooperation and communication between all those involved in EGF applications, including, in particular, the social partners and stakeholders at regional and local level, to create as many synergies as possible; stresses that interaction between the National Contact Person and regional or local case delivery partners should be strengthened and communication and support arrangements and information flows (internal divisions, tasks and responsibilities) should be made explicit and agreed on by all partners concerned;
8. Reminds applicant Member States of their key role in widely publicising the actions funded by the EGF to the targeted beneficiaries, local and regional authorities, social partners, the media and the general public, as set out in Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013;
9. Recalls that according to the current rules, the EGF could be mobilised to support permanently dismissed workers and the self-employed in the context of the global crisis caused by COVID-19 without amending Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013;
10. Therefore asks the Commission to assist, in any possible way, Member States who intend to prepare an application in the coming weeks and months;
11. Furthermore asks the Commission to do its utmost to show flexibility and to shorten the period of assessment to the extent possible when assessing any application's compliance with the conditions for providing a financial contribution;
12. Approves the decision annexed to this resolution;
13. Instructs its President to sign the decision with the President of the Council and arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, including its annex, to the Council and the Commission.

ANNEX: DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF/2020/000 TA 2020 - Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) and repealing Regulation (EC) 1927/2006¹, and in particular Article 11(2) thereof,

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 management², and in particular point 13 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) aims to provide support for workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activities have ceased as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, as a result of a continuation of the global financial and economic crisis, or as a result of a new global financial and economic crisis, and to assist them with their reintegration into the labour market.
- (2) The EGF is not to exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 150 million (2011 prices), as laid down in Article 12 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013³.
- (3) Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 provides that a maximum of 0,5 % of the annual maximum amount of the EGF may be used each year for technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission.
- (4) The EGF should, therefore, be mobilised in order to provide the sum of EUR 345 000 for technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

For the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020, the European

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 855.

² OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

³ Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884).

Globalisation Adjustment Fund shall be mobilised to provide the sum of EUR 345 000 in commitment and payment appropriations.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament

The President

For the Council

The President

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I. Background

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund was created in order to provide additional assistance to workers suffering from the consequences of major structural changes in world trade patterns.

According to the provisions of Article 12 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020^[15] and of Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013^[16], the Fund may not exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 150 million (2011 prices). The appropriate amounts are entered into the general budget of the Union as a provision.

As concerns the procedure, according to point 13 of 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 management^[17], in order to activate the Fund the Commission, in case of a positive assessment of an application, presents to the budgetary authority a proposal for mobilisation of the Fund and, at the same time, a corresponding request for transfer. In the event of disagreement, a trilogue shall be initiated.

II. The Commission's proposal

On 16 April, the Commission adopted a new proposal for a decision on the mobilisation of the EGF.

It concerns the mobilisation of EUR 345 000 from the Fund, covering technical assistance for the Commission. The objective of the technical assistance is to finance monitoring and data gathering, information, to create a knowledge base interface and to advise Member States on using, following up and evaluating the EGF. According to Article 11(1) of the EGF Regulation, a maximum of 0.5% of the annual maximum amount of the EGF (i.e. EUR 175 748 000 in 2019 prices) can be made available each year for technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission.

According to the Commission's proposal, the requested amount of EUR 345 000 represents approximately 0,19%. and is intended to cover the following activities:

1. Monitoring and data gathering: The Commission will collect data on applications received, funded and wound up, and measures proposed and implemented. This data will be made available on the dedicate website of the European Commission and compiled in appropriate form for the Biennial Report of 2021.
2. Information: The Commission has set up and maintains a webpage on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund¹, as required under Article 12(2) of the EGF Regulation. The European Parliament reiterates the need for a dedicated website accessible to EU citizens with more complex information. The webpage should be fit for purpose and be regularly updated and expanded, and the new elements should be translated into all EU official languages. General awareness of the EGF will be

^[15] OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

^[16] OJ L 347, 30.12.2013, p. 855.

^[17] OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/egf>

increased and its visibility promoted. The EGF will be covered in various Commission publications and audio-visual activities as provided for in Article 11(4) of the EGF Regulation.

3. Electronic data exchange system: The Commission is continuing its work on developing standardised procedures for EGF applications and case management, using the functionalities of SFC2014 (System for Fund Management in the European Union). This allows the simplification of applications under the EGF Regulation, a faster processing, and easier reporting. The development of the post-2020 interface in SFC which will require additional funds for creation of new functionalities and adjustments to possible changes in the post-2020 EGF Regulation.
4. Expert Group meetings: The Expert Group of Contact Persons of the EGF, with one member from each Member State, will be holding two meetings. The EP will be invited to attend to the meetings according to current legislative framework.
5. Networking seminars: In addition, in order to promote networking among the Member States, the Commission will organise two seminars with the participation of the implementing bodies of the EGF and social partners. To the extent possible, these will be scheduled to take place around the same dates as the two Expert Group meetings and will focus on issues arising from the practical implementation of the EGF Regulation. The EP will be invited to attend to the meetings according to current legislative framework.

III. Procedure

In order to mobilise the Fund, the Commission has submitted to the Budget Authority a transfer request for a global amount of EUR 345 000 from the EGF reserve (04 04 01 (CP) and 40 02 43 (CE)) to the EGF budget line (04 01 04 04 (CND)).

This is the first transfer proposal for the mobilisation of the Fund transmitted to the Budgetary Authority to date during 2020.

The trialogue procedure shall be initiated in the event of disagreement, as provided for in Article 15(4) of the EGF Regulation.

According to an internal agreement, the Employment and Social Affairs Committee should be associated to the process, in order to provide constructive support and contribution to the assessment of the applications from the Fund.

Your rapporteur estimates that this proposal is fully in line with similar proposals made in the last years. His draft report is therefore as much as possible based on the European Parliament report of 2019 (rapporteur Rzońca) as voted in committee and confirmed in plenary with some few factual additions linked to the Covid-19 crisis. He would therefore like to invite his fellow Members to treat it accordingly and to pass it if possible without amendments for final approval to plenary.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Date adopted	28.5.2020
Result of final vote	+: 35 -: 1 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Rasmus Andresen, Clotilde Armand, Robert Biedroń, Anna Bonfrisco, Olivier Chastel, Lefteris Christoforou, David Cormand, Paolo De Castro, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Alexandra Geese, Valentino Grant, Elisabetta Gualmini, Francisco Guerreiro, Valerie Hayer, Eero Heinäluoma, Niclas Herbst, Monika Hohlmeier, Moritz Körner, Joachim Kuhs, Ioannis Lagos, Hélène Laporte, Pierre Larroustourou, Janusz Lewandowski, Margarida Marques, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Karlo Ressler, Bogdan Rzońca, Nils Torvalds, Nils Ušakovs, Rainer Wieland, Angelika Winzig
Substitutes present for the final vote	Fabienne Keller, Petros Kokkalis

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

35	+
ECR	Bogdan RZONCA
GUE/NGL	Petros KOKKALIS, Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS
ID	Hélène LAPORTE
NI	Ioannis LAGOS
PPE	Lefteris CHRISTOFOROU, José Manuel FERNANDES, Niclas HERBST, Monika HOHLMEIER, Janusz LEWANDOWSKI, Siegfried MUREŞAN, Andrey NOVAKOV, Jan OLBRYCHT, Karlo RESSLER, Rainer WIELAND, Angelika WINZIG
RENEW	Clotilde ARMAND, Olivier CHASTEL, Valerie HAYER, Fabienne KELLER, Moritz KÖRNER, Nils TORVALDS
S&D	Robert BIEDROŃ, Paolo DE CASTRO, Eider GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL, Elisabetta GUALMINI, Eero HEINÄLUOMA, Pierre LARROUTUROU, Margarida MARQUES, Victor NEGRESCU, Nils UŠAKOVŠ
VERTS/ALE	Rasmus ANDRESEN, David CORMAND, Alexandra GEESE, Francisco GUERREIRO

1	-
ID	Joachim KUHS

2	0
ID	Anna BONFRISCO, Valentino GRANT

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention