



Plenary sitting

A9-0043/2023

6.3.2023

REPORT

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for
Displaced Workers following an application from Belgium – EGF/2022/002
BE/TNT
(COM(2023)0069 – C9-0018/2023 – 2023/0031(BUD))

Committee on Budgets

Rapporteur: Olivier Chastel

CONTENTS

	Page
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION.....	3
ANNEX: DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL	7
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	9
LETTER OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS.....	12
LETTER OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	16
INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE.....	19
FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE	20

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 for Displaced Workers following an application from Belgium – EGF/2022/002 BE/TNT (COM(2022)0069 – C9-0018/2023 – 2023/0031(BUD))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2023)0069 – C9-0018/2023),
 - having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/691 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013¹ ('EGF Regulation'),
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021-2027² ('MFF Regulation'), and in particular Article 8 thereof,
 - having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources³ ('IIA of 16 December 2020'), and in particular point 9 thereof,
 - having regard to the trilogue procedure provided for in point 9 of the IIA of 16 December 2020,
 - having regard to the letters from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and from the Committee on Regional Development,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A9-0043/2023),
- 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 reintegration into the labour market; whereas this assistance is made through a financial support given to workers and the companies for which they worked;
- B. whereas Belgium submitted application EGF/2022/002 BE/TNT for a financial contribution from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF), following 548

¹ OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 48.

² OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 11.

³ OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

redundancies⁴ in the economic sector classified under the NACE Revision 2 division 52 (Warehousing and support activities for transportation) in the province of Liège, within a reference period for the application from 27 March 2022 to 27 July 2022;

- C. whereas the application relates to 548 workers made redundant in the company TNT Express Worldwide (Euro Hub) SRL in Belgium (TNT Belgium); whereas the activity of 11 workers ceased between the end of the reference period and the day before the adoption of the proposal by the Commission and those workers will also be eligible for support from the EGF;
- D. whereas the application is based on the intervention criteria of criteria of Article 4(2), point (a), of the EGF Regulation, which requires at least 200 workers being made redundant over a reference period of four months in an enterprise in a Member State, including workers made redundant by suppliers and downstream producers and/or self-employed persons whose activity has ceased;
- E. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine have reduced economic competitiveness and have a negative impact on economic growth in Belgium;
- F. whereas TNT Belgium had to downsize its workforce in reaction the decision to use Liège airport as a secondary hub, with links to only some European airports, while Paris-Charles de Gaulle became the primary hub of its parent company FedEx, which has resulted in a decreased workload and a reduced number of flights at Liège airport; whereas the changes aimed to strengthen FedEx's position within its highly competitive sector at European and national level.;
- G. whereas TNT Belgium announced on 19 January 2021 its intention to dismiss 671 workers and to modify the contracts of another 861 workers; whereas the company, in compliance with the Belgian law on collective redundancies, informed and consulted workers' representatives with a view to exploring any possibility of avoiding or reducing the number of redundancies and mitigating the consequences of job loss; whereas that mandatory procedure has led to a reduction in the number of redundancies and allowed workers to apply for voluntary dismissal;
- H. whereas the Union plays an important role in providing the necessary solidarity with workers who lose their jobs in large-scale restructuring events through financial contributions from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and aims to rapidly reintegrate beneficiaries, irrespective of their nationality, into decent and sustainable employment within or outside their initial sector of activity, while preparing them for a greener and more digital European economy;
- I. whereas the EGF shall not exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 186 million (in 2018 prices), as laid down in Article 8 of the MFF Regulation;
- 1. Agrees with the Commission that the conditions set out in Article 4(2), point (a), of the EGF Regulation are met and that Belgium is entitled to a financial contribution of EUR 1 956 397 under that Regulation, which represents 85 % of the total cost of

⁴ Within the meaning of Article 3 of the EGF Regulation.

EUR 2 301 644, comprising expenditure for personalised services of EUR 2 270 644 and expenditure for preparatory, management, information and publicity, control and reporting activities of EUR 31 000;

2. Notes that the Belgian authorities submitted the application on 18 October 2022, and that, following the provision of additional information by Belgium, the Commission finalised its assessment on 8 February 2023 and notified it to Parliament on the same day;
3. Notes that the application relates to 548 workers made redundant in the company TNT Belgium; notes further that 559 workers will be eligible beneficiaries in total, as the EGF should also support 11 displaced workers whose activity ceased between the end of the reference period and the day before the adoption of the proposal by the Commission; welcomes the fact that all the redundant workers are expected to participate in the measures;
4. Points out that a large proportion of the former workforce of TNT Belgium are disadvantaged groups, as 60 % of the displaced workers held low-qualified jobs and almost half of them (47 %) are over 50 years old; recalls that the unemployment rate in Wallonia at 8,7 % is 2,8 % higher compared to the national level and that the employment market in the province of Liège, like that of Hainaut, is particularly disadvantaged compared to other provinces in Wallonia;
5. Notes that Belgium started providing personalised services to the targeted beneficiaries on 1 April 2022 and that the period of eligibility for a financial contribution from the EGF will therefore be from 1 April 2022 until 24 months after the date of the entry into force of the financing decision;
6. Recalls that personalised services to be provided to the workers and self-employed persons consist of the following actions: information, job-search assistance, including identifying job perspectives in other regions of the Member State concerned or in other Member States, occupational guidance and outplacement assistance, trainings, (inter alia horizontal competencies, reskilling, upskilling and internships), retraining and vocational training, and support towards and contribution to business creation, as well as incentives and allowances; welcomes the fact that specialised professionals will provide particular assistance to vulnerable people, irrespective of their nationality, in situations of psychological distress, indebtedness, or recognised disabilities;
7. Welcomes the inclusion of a module on the circular economy, which was developed for former Swissport workers (EGF/2020/005 BE/Swissport) as part of the standard training offer by the Regional Public Employment and Vocational Training Service (Forem), which will be co-financed by the ESF+; reiterates in this context the important role the Union should play in providing the necessary qualifications for the just transformation in line with the European Green Deal; strongly supports the fact that between 2021 and 2027 the EGF will continue to show solidarity with all persons affected, without discrimination and maintain the focus on the impact of restructuring on workers, calls for future applications to maximise policy coherence;

8. Notes that the digital and green transformation will also have an effect on the labour market, especially in the transport sector; therefore special attention should be paid to qualified education, including vocational training and promoting the so-called dual apprenticeship system, which has proved to be effective in some Member States;
9. Notes that Belgium started incurring administrative expenditure to implement the EGF on 19 January 2021 and that expenditure for preparatory, management, information and publicity, control and reporting activities shall therefore be eligible for a financial contribution from the EGF from 19 January 2021 until 31 months after the date of the entry into force of the Financing Decision;
10. Welcomes the fact that the co-ordinated package of personalised services was drawn up by Belgium in consultation with targeted beneficiaries' representatives, including trade unions (FGTB⁵ and CSC⁶) and social counsellors who accompanied the workers, to better understand workers' retraining needs after their dismissal; notes the essential role of Belgian trade unions during the negotiations on the redundancy process; recalls the importance of reinforcing the presence of workers' representatives in the workplace;
11. Stresses that the Belgian authorities have confirmed that the eligible actions do not receive assistance from other Union funds or financial instruments, and that the principles of equality of treatment and non-discrimination will be respected in the access to the proposed actions and their implementation;
12. Reiterates that assistance from the EGF must not replace actions which are the responsibility of companies, by virtue of national law or collective agreements, or any allowances or rights of the displaced workers, to ensure full additionality of the allocation;
13. Approves the decision annexed to this resolution;
14. 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*;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, including its annex, to the Council and the Commission.

⁵ Fédération générale du travail de Belgique.

⁶ Confédération des syndicats chrétiens.

ANNEX: DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers following an application from Belgium (EGF/2022/002 BE/TNT)

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) 2021/691 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013¹, and in particular Article 15(1), first subparagraph, thereof,

Having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources², and in particular point 9 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) aims to demonstrate solidarity and promote decent and sustainable employment in the Union by providing support for workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activity has ceased in the case of major restructuring events and assisting them in returning to decent and sustainable employment as soon as possible.
- (2) The EGF is not to exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 186 million (in 2018 prices), as laid down in Article 8 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093³.
- (3) On 18 October 2022, Belgium submitted an application to mobilise the EGF in accordance with Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, in respect of workers' displacements in TNT Express Worldwide (Euro Hub) SRL (TNT) in Belgium. It was supplemented by additional information provided in accordance with Article 8(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691. That application complies with the conditions for a financial contribution from the EGF as laid down in Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2021/691.
- (4) The EGF should, therefore, be mobilised in order to provide a financial contribution of EUR 1 956 397 in respect of the application submitted by Belgium.
- (5) In order to minimise the time taken to mobilise the EGF, this Decision should apply from the date of its adoption,

¹ OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 48.

² OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

³ Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 (OJ L 433 I, 22.12.2020, p. 11).

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

For the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2023, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers shall be mobilised to provide the amount of EUR 1 956 397 in commitment and payment appropriations.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. It shall apply from [*the date of its adoption*]*.

Done at Brussels,

*For the European Parliament
The President*

*For the Council
The President*

* Date to be inserted by the Parliament before the publication in OJ.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I. Background

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) was created to provide additional assistance to workers suffering from the consequences of major structural changes in world trade patterns. According to Article 8(1) of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2020/2093 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021-2027⁴ and of Article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2021/691⁵, the Fund may not exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 186 million (in 2018 prices).

In accordance with point 9 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020⁶, the Commission is required, following the positive assessment of an application, to submit a proposal to mobilise the Fund to the budgetary authority and to complement it with a corresponding request for transfer to the relevant budget lines.

II. Belgium's application and the Commission's proposal

On 18 October 2022, Belgium submitted an application EGF/2022/002 BE/TNT for a financial contribution from the EGF, following 548 redundancies⁷ in the company TNT Belgium resulting from the plan to use Liège airport only as a secondary hub, with links only to some European airports, which decreased the number of flights and the workload at Liège airport. With the changes, the TNT Group aimed to avoid duplication of work and to strengthen its position within the competitive sector at European and national level. This is the second application of 2022 and the first to be examined under the 2023 budget.

Following its assessment of this application, the Commission has concluded, in accordance with all applicable provisions of the EGF Regulation, that the conditions for awarding a financial contribution from the EGF are met.

On 08 February 2023, the Commission adopted a proposal for a decision on the mobilisation of the EGF in favour of Belgium to support the reintegration in the labour market of 559 targeted beneficiaries, i.e. workers made redundant by TNT Belgium. The eligible beneficiaries include 548 workers made redundant during the reference period and 11 displaced workers whose activity ceased between the end of the reference period and the day before the adoption of the proposal. In total, EUR 1 956 397 will be mobilised from the EGF for Belgium, representing 85 % of the total costs of the proposed actions.

The Commission deemed the Belgian application admissible under the intervention criteria of Article 4(2)(a) of the EGF Regulation, which requires at least 200 workers being made redundant over a reference period of four months in an enterprise in a Member State, including workers made redundant by suppliers and downstream producers and/or self-employed persons whose activity has ceased.

⁴OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 15.

⁵ OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 48.

⁶ Interinstitutional agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources, OJ L 433I, 22.12.2020, p. 28.

⁷ Within the meaning of Article 3 of the EGF Regulation.

EGF co-funding may be requested for the following five types of actions, to be provided to redundant workers:

- a) Information, occupational guidance and outplacement assistance. Going beyond the standard activities in support of former TNT workers carried out on behalf of TNT, this will include individual coaching, active job-search and job-matching services, with particular focus on vulnerable persons.
- b) Training, retraining and vocational training. Besides standard training, specific job search modules, specific training addressing identified needs, a module to improve IT skills and to gain digital autonomy specifically developed for former TNT employees will be offered.
- c) Support for business creation. To help workers wishing to launch their own business, offers include a diagnosis and guidance phase, awareness-raising actions on entrepreneurship, information sessions on the potential for business creation through territorial economic diagnoses, and networking with relevant entrepreneurs and with certified coaches in business creation.
- d) Contribution to business creation. Workers who start a business or an activity as self-employed persons will receive a contribution up to EUR 15 000.
- e) Incentives and allowances. (1) Job-search and training allowances. Workers will receive EUR 1 per hour of effective participation in training or job-search activities. (2) Bonus for improving IT skills. A lump sum of EUR 400 will be provided to workers actively participating and completing the module for access to digital autonomy, which aims to improve their IT skills. (3) Return-to-school allowance. A monthly allowance of EUR 350 will be granted to workers who embark on tertiary studies full-time for at least one year, or qualifying training of at least 3 months to acquire the necessary skills for jobs that are in demand for which it is difficult to find people. (4) Allowance towards business creation. Workers will received a monthly contribution of EUR 350, for a maximum of 12 months, while preparing to start their own business.

Given that 60 % of the beneficiaries are low-skilled workers and almost half (47 %) are over 50 years old, additional job-search guidance and support, along with upskilling and reskilling tailored to their needs, is deemed important for their future employment.

According to the Commission, the described measures constitute active labour market measures within the eligible actions set out in Article 7 of the EGF Regulation and do not substitute passive social protection measures.

Belgium provided the required information on actions that are mandatory for the enterprises concerned by virtue of national law or pursuant to collective agreements. They confirmed that a financial contribution from the EGF will not replace such actions.

Procedure

In order to mobilise the Fund, the Commission has submitted to the Budgetary Authority a request to transfer a global amount of EUR 1 956 397 from the EGF reserve (budget line 30 04 02; commitment appropriations) to the EGF (budget line 16 02 02; commitment appropriations).

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

2.3.2023

LETTER OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt
Chair
Committee on Budgets
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund –
EGF/2022/002 BE/TNT - Belgium(2022/0031(BUD))

Dear Mr Chair,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs has been asked to submit an opinion to your committee and decided to send the opinion in the form of a letter.

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs considered the matter and at its meeting of 1 March 2023 decided to call on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution.

Yours sincerely,

Dragoş Pişlaru

SUGGESTIONS

- A. Whereas on 18 October 2022 Belgium submitted application EGF/2022/002 BE/TNT for a financial contribution from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF), following 548 redundancies in the economic sector classified under the NACE Revision 2 division 52 (Warehousing and support activities for transportation) in the province of Liège, within a reference period for the application from 27 March 2022 to 27 July 2022;
- B. Whereas the application relates to 548 workers made redundant in the company TNT Express Worldwide (Euro Hub) SRL in Belgium ('TNT Belgium') – the Belgian subsidiary of the group resulting from the takeover of the Dutch TNT Group by the US Fedex Group in 2016; whereas the activity of 11 workers ceased between the end of the reference period and the day before the adoption of the proposal by the Commission and these workers will also be eligible for support from the EGF;
- C. Whereas the Commission deemed the Belgian application admissible under the intervention criteria of Article 4(2)(a) of the EGF Regulation, which requires the cessation of activity of at least 200 displaced workers over a reference period of four months in an enterprise in a Member State, including workers displaced by suppliers and downstream producers and/or self-employed persons whose activity has ceased;
- D. Whereas on 8 February 2023, the Commission adopted a proposal for a decision on the mobilisation of the EGF to support the reintegration in the labour market of 559 beneficiaries, and communicated it to the Parliament and the Council on the same day;
- E. Whereas on 19 January 2021, TNT Belgium announced its intention of dismissing 671 workers and modifying the contracts of another 861 workers; whereas this is due to the plans of the enterprise to use Liège airport as a secondary hub, linked only to some European airports, while Paris-Charles de Gaulle becomes FedEx's primary hub, linked to all European airports, as well as to airports in America, Asia and the Middle East; whereas, as a result, the workforce at Liège airport has to be downsized in line with the reduced workload and the decreased number of flights at Liège airport, this resulting in redundancies and revised working conditions for hundreds of employees; whereas these changes aim to avoid a duplication of activities and strengthen the position of the group in a context of fierce competition in the sector at European and national level;
- F. Whereas the unemployment rate in Wallonia (8,7%) is 2,8 percentage points higher than the unemployment rate at national level (5,9%); whereas the labour market in the Province Liège is particularly disadvantaged compared with other provinces in Wallonia; whereas the Province Liège - along with the Province Hainaut - has the highest unemployment rate with 13,8% in March 2022; whereas reintegration into employment is becoming particularly difficult for the long-term unemployed, with 28% of all job seekers belong to the 2-5 years group in March 2022, 5 percentage points more than in March 2020;
- G. Whereas older age is associated with difficulties in job search in Province Liège, where those aged 50+ accounted for 27,5% of the job-seekers in March 2022; whereas almost half (47%) of former TNT workers belong to this age group; whereas 60% of TNT former workers held low qualified jobs, such as handler, ramp agent, etc.;

- H. Whereas TNT Belgium complied with Belgian law on collective redundancies, which establishes a mandatory procedure for informing and consulting workers' representatives; whereas the procedure makes it possible to explore any possibility of avoiding or reducing the number of redundancies and to mitigate the consequences of job loss through complementary social measures; whereas the information and consultation procedure led to a reduced number of redundancies and allowed workers to apply for voluntary dismissal and receive the relevant financial incentives; whereas the negotiation also secured a specific budget from TNT to cover for retraining costs;
- I. Whereas Belgium has indicated that the co-ordinated package of personalised services has been drawn up in consultation with targeted beneficiaries' representatives, in compliance with Article 7(4) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691; whereas, aiming to prepare a sound package of tailored measures to support TNT workers' efforts to return to work, the Regional Public Employment and Vocational Training Service (Forem), trade unions (FGTB and CSC), and other partners met on 6 April, 11 May and 21 June 2022, to better understand workers' retraining needs; whereas the social counsellors who accompanied the workers after their dismissal were also consulted; whereas these meetings resulted in a coordinated package of EGF measures that complements the standard measures proposed by the employment unit;
- J. Whereas the EGF shall not exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 186 million (in 2018 prices), as laid down in Article 8 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027;

Therefore, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to integrate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Reminds that the objective of the EGF is to demonstrate solidarity with, and provide support to beneficiaries; considers that financial contributions from the EGF should be primarily directed at active labour market policy measures and personalised services that aim to reintegrate beneficiaries rapidly into decent and sustainable employment within or outside their initial sector of activity, stresses the importance of preparing workers for a green and digital European economy and therefore fasten the twin transitions; reiterates in this context the important role the Union should play in providing the necessary qualifications for the just transformation in line with the European Green Deal;
2. Agrees with the Commission that the conditions set out in Article 4(2)(a) of the EGF Regulation are met and that Belgium is entitled to a financial contribution of EUR 1 956 397 under that Regulation, which represents 85 % of the total cost of EUR 2 230 644, comprising expenditure for personalised services of EUR 2 270 644 and expenditure for preparatory, management, information and publicity, control and reporting activities of EUR 31 000;
3. Notes that all the procedural requirements were met; welcomes the involvement of the social partners as well as Forem in the package of measures for which the EGF co-financing is requested; underlines the need for transparency at every step of the procedure and calls for social partners' involvement in the package of service's

implementation and evaluation;

4. Stresses that Belgium has confirmed that the measures described below receiving a financial contribution from the EGF will not also receive financial contributions from other Union financial instruments;
5. Notes that the application relates to 559 displaced workers whose activity has ceased; welcomes the fact that Belgium expects that all of the eligible beneficiaries will participate in the measures (targeted beneficiaries); stresses that 13,1% of the targeted beneficiaries are women, 32% are aged over 54 years and 51,7% workers have only lower secondary education or less; further stresses the specific needs of these groups should be taken into account when providing personalised services;
6. Recalls that the Walloon authorities argue that the displacements in TNT Belgium will have a particular impact on two categories of workers (the low skilled and those aged 50+) that are already disadvantaged in the regional labour market;
7. Notes that Belgium started providing the personalised services to the targeted beneficiaries on 1 April 2022; the expenditure on the measures will therefore be eligible for a financial contribution from the EGF from 1 April 2022 until 24 months after the date of the entry into force of the Financing Decision; recalls that personalised services to be provided to the workers consist of the following measures: (a) information services, occupational guidance and outplacement assistance, (b) training, retraining and vocational training, (c) support towards business creation, (d) contribution to business creation, and (e) incentives and allowances; takes note of the Commission's clarification that financial incentives and allowances are paid to beneficiaries on top of other entitlements;
8. Stresses in particular the importance of Article 7.2 of the EGF Regulation, which requires the coordinated package to anticipate future labour market perspectives and required skills, which are compatible with the shift towards a resource-efficient and sustainable economy and with a particular focus on the dissemination of skills required in the digital industrial age. Therefore, welcomes in particular, the foreseen measures for training in digital skills and vocational education and training including the module to improve IT skills and gain digital autonomy specifically developed for the former TNT workers, as well as allowances, in particular those related to improving IT and returning to education, in view of the profile of the targeted beneficiaries;
9. Recalls the possibility for special time-limited measures within the coordinated package including, inter alia, to pay childcare allowances, as provided in Article 7.2 b of the EGF regulation to facilitate job seekers' participation in the activities proposed;
10. Reiterates that assistance from the EGF must not replace actions that are the responsibility of companies, by virtue of national law or collective agreements; notes that Belgium has provided the necessary assurances that the requirements laid down in national and EU legislation concerning collective redundancies have been complied with and that TNT has complied with its legal obligations and provided for its workers accordingly.

3.3.2023

LETTER OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt
Chair of the Committee on Budgets
WIE 05U012
BRUSSELS

Subject: **Opinion on Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – EGF/2022/002 BE TNT Express Worldwide2023/0031(BUD))**

Dear Mr Van Overtveldt,

The European Commission has transmitted to the European Parliament its proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund following an application from Belgium (COM(2023)069) following displacements in Province Liège in Belgium.

I understand that it is intended that a report on this proposal will be soon adopted in the Committee on Budgets.

The application relates to 548 displaced workers whose activity has ceased in TNT Express Worldwide (Euro Hub) SRL in the economic sector classified under the NACE Revision 2 division 52 (Warehousing and support activities for transportation).

The total number of eligible beneficiaries is 559, as the eligible beneficiaries include displaced workers whose activity ceased between the end of the reference period and the day before of the adoption of this proposal. All 559 are expected to participate in the measures.

On 19 January 2021, TNT Express Worldwide (Euro Hub) SRL – the Belgian subsidiary of the group resulting from the takeover of the Dutch TNT Group by the US Fedex Group in 2016 – announced its intention of dismissing 6715 workers and modifying the contracts of another 861 workers. The enterprise's plan to use Liège airport as a secondary hub resulted in downsizing of the workforce at Liège airport. The Walloon authorities argue that the displacements in TNT will have a particular impact on two categories of workers (the low skilled and those aged 50+) that are already disadvantaged in the regional labour market.

The personalised services to be provided to displaced workers consist of the following measures: Information services, occupational guidance and outplacement assistance; Training, retraining and vocational training; Support towards business creation; Contribution to business creation; Incentives and allowances.

The estimated total costs are EUR 2 301 644, comprising expenditure for personalised services of EUR 2 270 644 and expenditure for preparatory, management, information and publicity, control and reporting activities of EUR 31 000. 38. The total financial contribution requested from the EGF is EUR 1 956 397 (85 % of total costs). The national pre-financing and co-funding is provided by Région Wallonne.

The rules applicable to financial contributions from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2021/691 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013.

The committee coordinators have assessed this proposal, and asked me to write to you reporting that the majority of this committee has no objection to this mobilisation of the EGF to allocate the above-mentioned amount as proposed by the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Younous Omarjee

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Date adopted	2.3.2023
Result of final vote	+: 32 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Rasmus Andresen, Pietro Bartolo, Olivier Chastel, Pascal Durand, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Alexandra Geese, Vlad Gheorghe, Valentino Grant, Francisco Guerreiro, Valérie Hayer, Eero Heinäluoma, Hervé Juvin, Moritz Körner, Camilla Laureti, Janusz Lewandowski, Margarida Marques, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Andrey Novakov, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Karlo Ressler, Bogdan Rzońca, Eleni Stavrou, Nicolae Ştefănuţă, Nils Torvalds, Nils Ušakovs, Rainer Wieland
Substitutes present for the final vote	Rosa D'Amato, Jan Olbrycht, Younous Omarjee
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Christian Doleschal

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

32	+
ECR	Bogdan Rzońca
ID	Valentino Grant
NI	Hervé Juvin
PPE	Christian Doleschal, José Manuel Fernandes, Janusz Lewandowski, Siegfried Mureşan, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Karlo Ressler, Eleni Stavrou, Rainer Wieland
Renew	Olivier Chastel, Vlad Gheorghe, Valérie Hayer, Moritz Körner, Nicolae Ştefănuţă, Nils Torvalds
S&D	Pietro Bartolo, Pascal Durand, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Eero Heinäluoma, Camilla Laureti, Margarida Marques, Victor Negrescu, Nils Ušakovs
The Left	Younous Omarjee, Dimitrios Papadimoulis
Verts/ALE	Rasmus Andresen, Rosa D'Amato, Alexandra Geese, Francisco Guerreiro

0	-

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention