



*Committee on Regional Development
The Chair*

3.3.2023

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