

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: General Motors Belgium

European Parliament resolution of 23 June 2011 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, in accordance with point 28 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management (application EGF/2010/031 BE/General Motors Belgium from Belgium) (COM(2011)0212 – C7-0096/2011 – 2011/2074(BUD))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2011)0212– C7-0096/2011),
 - having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management¹ (IIA of 17 May 2006), and in particular point 28 thereof,
 - having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund² (EGF Regulation),
 - having regard to the letter of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A7-0191/2011),
- A. whereas the European Union has set up the appropriate legislative and budgetary instruments to provide additional support to workers who are suffering from the consequences of major structural changes in world trade patterns and to assist their reintegration into the labour market,
- B. whereas the scope of the EGF was temporarily broadened for applications submitted from 1 May 2009 to include support for workers made redundant as a direct result of the global financial and economic crisis,
- C. whereas the Union's financial 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 of 17 July 2008, and having due regard to the IIA of 17 May 2006 in respect of the adoption of decisions to mobilise the EGF,
- D. whereas Belgium has requested assistance in respect of cases concerning 2834 redundancies (all targeted for assistance) in the primary enterprise General Motors Belgium and four of

¹ OJ C 139, 14.6.2006, p. 1.

² OJ L 406, 30.12.2006, p. 1.

its suppliers operating in the motor vehicle sector in the NUTS II region of Antwerp in Belgium,

- E. whereas the application fulfils the eligibility criteria set up by the EGF Regulation,
1. Requests the institutions involved to make the necessary efforts to accelerate the mobilisation of the EGF; appreciates in this sense the improved procedure put in place by the Commission, following the Parliament's request for accelerating the release of grants, aimed at presenting to the budgetary authority the Commission's assessment on the eligibility of an EGF application together with the proposal to mobilise the EGF; hopes that further improvements in the procedure will be reached in the framework of the upcoming review of the EGF;
 2. Recalls the institutions' commitment to ensuring a smooth and rapid procedure for the adoption of the decisions on the mobilisation of the EGF, providing one-off, time-limited individual support geared to helping workers who have been made redundant as a result of globalisation and the financial and economic crisis; points out the role that the EGF can play in the reintegration of workers made redundant into the labour market; however, calls for an evaluation on the long-term integration of those workers into the labour market as a direct result of the EGF-funded measures;
 3. Stresses that, in accordance with Article 6 of the EGF Regulation, it should be ensured that the EGF supports the reintegration of individual redundant workers into employment; reiterates that assistance from the EGF must not replace actions which are the responsibility of companies by virtue of national law or collective agreements, nor measures restructuring companies or sectors;
 4. Notes that the information provided on the coordinated package of personalised services to be funded from the EGF includes information on the complementarity with actions funded by the Structural Funds; reiterates its call to the Commission to present a comparative evaluation of those data in its annual reports as well;
 5. Welcomes the fact that following repeated requests from Parliament, for the first time the 2011 budget shows payment appropriations of EUR 47 608 950 on the EGF budget line 04 05 01; recalls that the EGF was created as a separate specific instrument with its own objectives and deadlines and that it therefore deserves a dedicated allocation, superseding transfers from other budget lines, as done in the past, which could be detrimental to the achievement of the various policies objectives;
 6. Considers that the issue of multinational companies, whose restructuring or relocation causes redundancies and, subsequently, the intervention of the EGF, needs to be addressed in the forthcoming revision of the EGF Regulation without compromising redundant workers' access to the EGF;
 7. Approves the Decision annexed to this resolution;
 8. Instructs its President to sign the decision with the President of the Council and to arrange for its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union;
 9. 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 in accordance with point 28 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management (application EGF/2010/031 BE/General Motors Belgium from Belgium)

(The text of this annex is not reproduced here since it corresponds to the final act, Decision 2011/470/EU.)