Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in architectural and engineering activities in Ireland

2011/2254(BUD) - 16/11/2011 - Budgetary text adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted by 534 votes to 73, with 18 abstentions, a resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for an amount of **EUR 1 387 819** in commitment and payment appropriations in respect of redundancies in architectural and engineering activities in Ireland.

Parliament recalls that 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. Given that Ireland has requested assistance in respect of a case concerning 842 redundancies, 554 targeted for assistance, in 230 enterprises operating in the NACE Revision 2 Division 71 ('Architectural and engineering activities; technical testing and analysis') in the NUTS II regions of Border, Midlands and Western (IE01) and Southern and Eastern (IE02) in Ireland and that this application fulfils the eligibility criteria set up by the EGF Regulation, Parliament requests the institutions involved to make the necessary efforts to accelerate the mobilisation of the EGF for the requested amount. It appreciates in this sense the improved procedure put in place by the Commission, following the Parliament's request for accelerating the release of grants. It hopes that further improvements in the procedure will be reached in the framework of the upcoming reviews of the EGF.

Parliament 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 suffered redundancies as a result of globalisation and the financial and economic crisis.

It recalls 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;
- 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.

Parliament welcomes the fact that following repeated requests from the Parliament, for the first time the 2011 budget shows payment appropriations of EUR 47 608 950 on the EGF budget line 04 05 01. It recalls that the EGF was created as a separate specific instrument with its own objectives and deadlines and that 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. It states that the amount of payment appropriations initially entered on the budget line 04 05 01 will have been fully consumed with the nineteenth application. As payment appropriations are available in 2011 under the budget line 04 02 01 "Completion of the European Social Fund (ESF) – Objective 1 (2000 to 2006)", an amount of EUR 1 387 819 needed for the present application can therefore be made available for transfer.