Amending budget 5/2018: reserve related to the support to Turkey; European Neighbourhood Instrument; humanitarian aid; WiFi4EU initiative

2018/2165(BUD) - 10/07/2018 - Commission draft budget

PURPOSE: to present draft amending budget No 5 to the general budget 2018.

CONTENT: the purpose of draft amending budget (DAB) No 5 for the year 2018 is the following:

- **to cancel the reserve related to the support to Turkey** from the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II): as a reminder, in the context of the budgetary procedure 2018, the European Parliament and the Council decided to place in reserve EUR 70 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 35 million in payment appropriations on the budget item 22 02 03 01 Support for political reforms and related progressive alignment with the Union acquis. However, the condition set to release these amounts - namely sufficient progress by Turkey in the areas of the rule of law, democracy, human rights and freedom of the press - has not been met. It is consequently proposed to cancel fully the related amounts in reserve, both in commitment and payment appropriations, as well as the related budget remarks, and increase the European Neighbourhood instrument (ENI) and Humanitarian Aid instead;
- **to reinforce by EUR 70 million, in commitment appropriations, the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)** to fund additional actions linked to the Central Mediterranean migratory route and to fulfil part of the pledge made at the 24-25 April 2018 Brussels II conference 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region'. No additional payment appropriations are needed in 2018 for these actions;
- **to reinforce, in payment appropriations, the Humanitarian Aid to cover the needs in prefinancing payments** as a result of the reinforcements in commitment appropriations, decided at the end of 2017:

  - **EUR 102 million** from the Emergency Aid Reserve and other redeployments;

  - **EUR 22.8 million** through the year-end transfer for Humanitarian aid in accordance with the Financial Regulation. Since the remaining contracts are being signed in 2018 and because the current level of payment appropriations in the budget 2018 is not sufficient to cover the related pre-financing payments, additional payment appropriations are needed. It is therefore proposed to add **EUR 35 million** in payment appropriations to the budget article 23 02 01 Delivery of rapid, effective and needs-based humanitarian aid and food assistance;

- **to modify the establishment plan of the Innovation & Networks Executive Agency (INEA)** in the context of the WiFi4EU initiative: this initiative aims to provide, free of charge and without discriminatory conditions, high-quality Internet access to residents and visitors in the centres of local public life. Further to Commission Decision C(2018)1281 of 27 February 2018 delegating the implementation of the initiative to the Innovation & Networks Executive Agency (INEA), the agency should dispose of an adequate level of human resources to carry out the new tasks. It is proposed to amend the establishment plan of the Agency in order to add **one post of temporary agent at grade AD7**. This amendment, increasing the total number of posts of INEA from **71 to 72**, can be financed within the Agency's budget for this year.

Overall this amending budget is **neutral**.