Mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument: challenges of migration, refugee inflows and security threats

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PURPOSE: to mobilise the Flexibility Instrument to finance immediate budgetary measures to address the on-going challenges of migration, refugee inflows and security threats.

PROPOSED ACT: Decision of the European Parliament and the Council.

BACKGROUND: the Flexibility instrument is intended to allow the financing of clearly identified expenditure which could not be financed within the limits of the ceilings available for one or more other headings. The ceiling on the annual amount available for the Flexibility Instrument is **EUR 600 million** (2011 prices), as laid down in Council Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 1311/2013 establishing the MFF.

In order to address the ongoing challenges of migration, refugee inflows and security threats, it is necessary to mobilise significant additional amounts to finance such measures as a matter of urgency.

CONTENT: having examined all possibilities for reallocating appropriations under the expenditure ceilings for heading 3 (Security and citizenship), the Commission proposes to mobilise the Flexibility Instrument to supplement the financing available in the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2019 beyond the ceiling of heading 3 by the amount of **EUR 1 009 839 138 to finance measures in the field of migration, refugees and security**.

It is proposed to spread the payment appropriations corresponding to the mobilisation of the flexibility instrument over several financial years:

- EUR 508 897 672 in 2019;
- EUR 203 643 836 in 2020;
- EUR 121 431 721 in 2021;
- EUR 122 227 946 in 2022;
- EUR 53 637 963 in 2023.

The specific amounts of payment appropriations for each financial year shall be authorised in accordance with the annual budgetary procedure. In order to allow for the quick use of the funds, this Decision should **apply from the beginning of the financial year 2019**.

The Commission recalled that in order to finance support for measures to manage the crisis of migrants, refugees and security, it had presented a proposal to mobilise the Flexibility Instrument with the initial draft budget for 2019. This first mobilisation proposal, which also included EUR 38.1 million to be mobilised above the ceiling of heading 1b to finance the extension of the structural reform support programme, is now deleted and replaced by this proposal.