Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: technical assistance

2020/2062(BUD) - 17/06/2020 - Budgetary text adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted by 609 votes to 26, with 53 abstentions, a resolution approving the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) to provide EUR 345 000 in commitment and payment appropriations for technical assistance under the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020.

As a reminder, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) aims to provide support for workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activities have ceased as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, as a result of a continuation of the global financial and economic crisis, or as a result of a new global financial and economic crisis, and to assist them with their reintegration into the labour market.

The proposed amount of EUR 345 000 corresponds to approximately 0.19 % of the maximum annual budget available for the EGF in 2020.

In its resolution, Parliament acknowledged the importance of monitoring and data gathering; recalls the importance of robust statistical series compiled in an appropriate form so that it is easily accessible and understandable. It reiterated the need for updated research on and analysis on the current challenges posed by COVID-19 on the global market.

Parliament noted that the Commission intends to use the available budget to hold two meetings of the Expert Group of Contact Persons of the EGF (one member from each Member State) and, most probably at the same time, two seminars with the participation of the implementing bodies of the EGF and the social partners in order to promote networking among Member States. Parliament should be systematically invited to such meetings and seminars in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Framework Agreement on relations between Parliament and the Commission.

Furthermore, the resolution stressed the need to further enhance the cooperation and communication between all those involved in EGF applications, including, in particular, the social partners and stakeholders at regional and local level, to create as many synergies as possible.

Given that according to the current rules, the EGF could be mobilised to support permanently dismissed workers and the self-employed in the context of the global crisis caused by COVID-19 without amending Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013, Parliament called on the Commission to assist, in any possible way, Member States who intend to prepare an application in the coming weeks and months. The Commission should do its utmost to show flexibility and to shorten the period of assessment to the extent possible when assessing any application's compliance with the conditions for providing a financial contribution.