Basic information

2025/0061(BUD) BUD - Budgetary procedure	Procedure completed
Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in automotive industry in Belgium **Subject** 3.40.03 Motor industry, cycle and motorcycle, commercial and agricultural vehicles 4.15.05 Industrial restructuring, job losses, redundancies, relocations, Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) 8.70.49 2025 budget **Geographical area** Belgium	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	LEWANDOWSKI Janusz (EPP)	26/03/2025

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	DANIELSSON Johan (S&D)	26/03/2025
REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Budget	SERAFIN Piotr

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/03/2025	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2025)0001	Summary
31/03/2025	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
09/04/2025	Draft budget approved by Council		

23/04/2025	Vote in committee		
25/04/2025	Budgetary report tabled for plenary	A10-0080/2025	
06/05/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0074/2025	Summary
06/05/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		
22/05/2025	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2025/0061(BUD)
Procedure type	BUD - Budgetary procedure
Procedure subtype	Mobilisation of funds
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	BUDG/10/02448

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE771.884	02/04/2025	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE772.036	07/04/2025	
Specific opinion	EMPL	PE772.050	09/04/2025	
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading		A10-0080/2025	25/04/2025	
Budgetary text adopted by Parliament		T10-0074/2025	06/05/2025	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2025)0001	26/03/2025	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in automotive industry in Belgium

2025/0061(BUD) - 22/05/2025 - Final act

PURPOSE: To mobilise the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) to provide financial support to Belgium in response to redundancies at Van Hool NV, assisting displaced workers in returning to decent and sustainable employment.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2025/1018 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2025 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers following an application from Belgium – EGF/2024/003 BE/Van Hool.

CONTENT: The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) is designed to demonstrate EU solidarity and promote sustainable employment by supporting workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activity has ceased due to major restructuring events. On 29 October 2024, Belgium submitted an application for EGF support following significant redundancies at Van Hool NV.

The European Commission assessed the application and found it met the eligibility criteria set out in Regulation (EU) 2021/691, which governs the EGF. The Decision authorises the mobilisation of EUR 7 999 015 from the EGF for the financial year 2025, to be provided in commitment and payment appropriations. This funding is intended to support measures facilitating the reintegration of affected workers into the labour market.

The annual allocation to the EGF will not exceed EUR 30 million (at 2018 prices), as stipulated in the relevant EU regulations.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 22 May 2025 (date of publication in the Official Journal of the European Union).

APPLICATION DATE: 7 May 2025.

This summary was AI-generated and human-reviewed.

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in automotive industry in Belgium

2025/0061(BUD) - 26/03/2025 - Non-legislative basic document

PURPOSE: to mobilise the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) to assist workers following redundancies at Van Hool NV in Belgium.

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

CONTENT: on 29 October 2024, the Belgian authorities submitted application EGF/2024/003 BE/Van Hool for a financial contribution from the EGF following redundancies at Van Hool NV, Belgium (automotive sector).

Following examination of this application, the Commission concluded, in accordance with all relevant provisions of the EGF Regulation, that the conditions for granting a financial contribution from the EGF were met.

Basis of the application

Belgium submitted the request under the intervention criterion set out in Article 4(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691, which requires the cessation of activity of at least 200 employed or self-employed persons, over a reference period of four months, in an undertaking in a Member State.

The application concerns **2 411 dismissed workers** whose activity ceased at the company Van Hool NV, which operated in the economic sector falling under NACE Rev. 2 division 29 (Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers). The dismissals took place in the NUTS 2 level region Province of Antwerp.

The four-month reference period for the application is from 8 April 2024 to 8 August, 2024.

Events leading to the displacements and cessation of activities

The displacements at Van Hool are linked to various factors such as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on demand for coaches and the impact of the war in Ukraine on the cost structure.

Between 2012 and 2019, Van Hool's average annual sales in Europe were 427 units. Sales fell to 287 units in 2020 and to 128 in 2020 due to the pandemic's impact on demand for coaches. Profits declined sharply. On 8 April 2024, Van Hool was declared bankrupt by the Commercial Court of Mechelen. As a result, 2 411 employees were made redundant.

The industrial sector has always played an important role in the Lier region (Mechelen district, Antwerp province), which is why the current industrial decline in Belgium has a significant impact on the Lier labour market.

The company's closure caused significant disruption to the local labour market. Unemployment increased by 32% in Berlaar, 23% in Heist-op-den-Berg, 17% in Nijlen, and 14% in Lier, leaving one in ten working-age residents unemployed in the municipalities of Lier and Berlaar. The redundancies hit vulnerable workers hardest. One in three laid-off workers is over 50, and eight in ten have a secondary education or less and outdated skills.

Beneficiaries

An estimated **2 397** displaced workers are expected to participate in the measures (89.5% men and 10.5% women).

The **personalised services** that will be provided to displaced workers consist of the following measures: (i) social intervention advisor and worker registration; (ii) outplacement (including administrative and psychological support, individual assessment sessions, digital skills assessment, assistance in job search or self-employment, advice on negotiating employment contracts); (iii) job search support and job placement; (iv) vocational guidance; (v) training, retraining and vocational training; and (vi) on-the-job training.

The ICT training and additional support foreseen within the outplacement services caters for the dissemination of the skills required in the digital industrial age and in a resource-efficient economy.

Budget proposal

The estimated total costs are EUR 9 410 607, comprising expenditure for personalised services of EUR 9 034 607 and expenditure for preparatory, management, information and publicity, control and reporting activities of EUR 376 000.

Having examined the application and having taken into account the number of targeted beneficiaries, the proposed measures and the estimated costs, the Commission proposes to **mobilise the EGF for the amount of EUR 7 999 015**, representing 85 % of the total costs of the proposed measures, in order to provide a financial contribution for the application.

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in automotive industry in Belgium

2025/0061(BUD) - 06/05/2025 - Budgetary text adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted by 598 votes to 48, with 5 abstentions, a resolution on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) for workers made redundant following a request from Belgium (EGF/2024/003 BE/Van Hool).

Parliament approved the proposal for a decision to mobilise the EGF to provide a financial contribution of **EUR 7 999 015** in commitment and payment appropriations to the Union budget for the financial year 2025 in response to the request submitted by Belgium following redundancies at Van Hool NV, Belgium (automotive sector).

This contribution represents 85% of the total cost of EUR 9 410 607, which corresponds to expenditure on personalised services of EUR 9 034 607 and expenditure on preparation, management, information and publicity activities, as well as control and reporting activities, of EUR 376 000.

Events leading to the displacements

The European automotive and equipment industry is facing unprecedented pressure from both external and internal challenges, such as distorted competition, particularly in the electric vehicle sector due to unfair subsidies from China, and high energy costs due to major restructuring.

Van Hool specialised in the manufacture of buses, coaches, trolleybuses, and trailers. The decline in demand for coaches following the pandemic led to a decline in Van Hool's average sales in Europe and a sharp decline in its profitability. Rising inflation and disrupted supply chains further increased pressure on the company's margins.

Beneficiaries

The application concerns 2 411 workers made redundant at Van Hool, and the total number of beneficiaries is **2 397**.

Parliament pointed out that, according to the Federation of Belgian Enterprises (VBO), the Belgian industrial sector is currently in decline. The industrial sector has always played an important role in the Lier region, which is why the current industrial decline is having a significant impact on the Lier labour market.

Members drew attention to the profile of the displaced workers, a third of whom are aged 50 or over, and 80% of whom have a secondary education or less and outdated skills. Workers will need targeted assistance focused on upskilling and retraining to increase their chances of finding employment.

Personalised services

Members welcomed the fact that the personalised services to be provided to workers include the following actions: social intervention advisor and workers' registration, outplacement, job search assistance and job placement, vocational guidance, retraining and vocational training, and on-the-job training. They highlighted in particular services related to targeted assistance and personal assessment, as well as ICT training, which contributes to upskilling required in the digital age.

The resolution noted that the Belgian authorities have confirmed that the principles of **equal treatment and non-discrimination** will be respected in access to and implementation of the proposed actions, and that double financing will be prevented. It recalled that the Belgian authorities must ensure that equality between men and women and the integration of the gender perspective are an integral part of the implementation and are promoted throughout the implementation period.

The Belgian authorities are required to report the origin of Union funding and ensure its visibility, as well as to highlight the added value of Union intervention.