Basic information

2026/0066(BUD) BUD - Budgetary procedure	Procedure completed
Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: application EGF/2025/008 BE/Liberty – Belgium **Subject** 4.15.05 Industrial restructuring, job losses, redundancies, relocations, Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) 8.70.49 2025 budget	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	ECKE Matthias (S&D)	04/03/2026
	Shadow rapporteur SOUSA SILVA Hélder (EPP) FURET Angéline (PfE) RZOŃCA Bogdan (ECR) CHASTEL Olivier (Renew) ȘTEFĂNUȚĂ Nicolae (Greens/EFA) FARANTOURIS Nikolas (The Left)	

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

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
02/03/2026	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2026)0004	

09/03/2026	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
16/03/2026	Draft budget approved by Council		
08/04/2026	Vote in committee		
14/04/2026	Budgetary report tabled for plenary	A10-0084/2026	
29/04/2026	Decision by Parliament	T10-0145/2026	Summary
29/04/2026	Results of vote in Parliament		
21/05/2026	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2026/0066(BUD)
Procedure type	BUD - Budgetary procedure
Procedure subtype	Mobilisation of funds
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	BUDG/10/05343

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE785.333	06/03/2026	
Specific opinion	EMPL	PE785.327	17/03/2026	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE786.725	23/03/2026	
Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading		A10-0084/2026	14/04/2026	
Budgetary text adopted by Parliament		T10-0145/2026	29/04/2026	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Non-legislative basic document	COM(2026)0004	02/03/2026	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2026/1134
OJ OJ L 21.05.2026

Summary

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: application EGF/2025/008 BE/Liberty – Belgium

2026/0066(BUD) - 21/05/2026 - Final act

PURPOSE

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) to provide financial support to workers displaced at Liberty Galaţi Belgian Branch in Belgium, following an application submitted by Belgium (EGF/2025/008 BE/Liberty).

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT

Decision (EU) 2026/1134 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2026 on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers following an application from Belgium – EGF/2025/008 BE/Liberty.

CONTENT

The Decision mobilises the EGF within the general budget of the Union for the financial year 2026 to provide a financial contribution of EUR 2 033 869 in commitment and payment appropriations. Belgium submitted an application on 13 November 2025 under Article 8(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/691 concerning worker displacements at Liberty Galaţi Belgian Branch; the application was supplemented with additional information under Article 8(5). The Commission assessed that the application meets the conditions for EGF support laid down in Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2021/691 and proposed the mobilisation decision. The mobilisation aims to demonstrate solidarity and promote decent and sustainable employment by supporting displaced workers and selfemployed persons affected by major restructuring events and assisting them in returning to decent and sustainable employment as soon as possible.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

The Decision enters into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union, i.e. 21 May 2026.

APPLICATION DATE

The Decision applies from 29 April 2026.

This summary was AI-generated and human-reviewed.

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: application EGF/2025/008 BE/Liberty – Belgium

2026/0066(BUD) - 29/04/2026 - Budgetary text adopted by Parliament

The European Parliament adopted by 586 votes to 48, with 16 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/2025/008/BE/Liberty.

As a reminder, the Belgian authorities submitted the application on 13 November 2025, and following the receipt of additional information from Belgium, the Commission finalised its assessment and notified it to Parliament on 2 March 2026.

Parliament approved the proposal for a decision to mobilise the EGF to provide a financial contribution of **EUR 2 033 869** in commitment and payment appropriations from the EU budget for the financial year 2026, in response to the request submitted by Belgium following 507 redundancies in Liberty Galaţi Belgian Branch (Liberty) (manufacture of basic metals).

The contribution represents **85%** of the total cost of EUR 2 392 788, comprising expenditure for personalised services of EUR 2 358 922 and expenditure for preparatory, management, information and publicity, control and reporting activities of EUR 33 866.

Events leading to redundancies

Liberty has faced years of financial difficulties prior to the bankruptcy declaration due to adverse steel market conditions, COVID-19-related supply chain disruptions, and high energy prices following Russia’s war of aggression against

Ukraine combined with the Union's dependence on imported fossil fuels and insufficient deployment of cheaper energy sources. Liberty Steel Liège's galvanizing lines have been idle since December 2021, mainly because of a lack of raw materials, triggering a restructuring operation that led to its legal transfer to Liberty Galaţi in 2023. Parliament regrets that production activity did not resume despite the takeover and culminated in bankruptcy.

The difficulties faced by Liberty Steel are also linked to company-specific factors following its acquisition from ArcelorMittal by the GFG Alliance. Serious concerns were expressed about the financial sustainability of the business model and the failure to fulfil investment commitments, which contributed to the deterioration of the plant's economic situation and resulting redundancies.

Beneficiaries

The application relates to 507 targeted beneficiaries, who were made redundant by the company Liberty. Liberty's bankruptcy represents a major social shock for Wallonia, a region whose labour market has already been weakened by other restructuring events. The steel sector remains an important economic sector for Belgium, with the ratio of steel jobs per inhabitant remaining high. Moreover, 1 in 4 registered job seekers in Wallonia are over the age of 50 and face greater barriers to re-entering the labour market. 69 % of the workers made redundant have a low level of education.

Personalised services

The personalised services to be provided to workers include the following measures: (i) outplacement and vocational guidance; (ii) training, retraining and vocational training, including IT skills; (iii) support towards business creations; (iv) contribution to business start-up; (v) incentives and other allowances.

Belgium started providing personalised services to the targeted beneficiaries on 1 June 2025 and the period of eligibility for a financial contribution from the EGF will be from that date until 24 months after the date of the entry into force of the financing decision.

Lastly, Parliament noted that the Belgian authorities provided assurance that the principles of equality of treatment and non-discrimination will be respected in the access to the proposed actions and their implementation, and that any double financing will be prevented. Assistance from the EGF must not replace actions that are the responsibility of public authorities or companies under national law or collective agreements.