




Basic information	
2026/0066(BUD) BUD - Budgetary procedure 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	Procedure completed

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

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 Galați 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 Galați 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.