



Plenary sitting

A8-0372/2017

24.11.2017

REPORT

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision EU 2017/344 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2017
(COM(2017)0900 – C8-0408/2017 – 2017/2265(BUD))

Committee on Budgets

Rapporteur: Jens Geier

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision EU 2017/344 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2017 (COM(2017)0900 – C8-0408/2017 – 2017/2265(BUD))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2017)0900 – C8-0408/2017),
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020¹, and in particular Article 13 thereof,
 - having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management², and in particular point 14 thereof,
 - having regard to the joint text approved by the Conciliation Committee on 18 November 2017 (A8-0359/2017) in the context of the conciliation on the 2018 draft general budget,
 - having regard to Decision (EU) 2017/344 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2017³,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A8-0372/2017),
- A. whereas the European Parliament and the Council mobilised the Contingency Margin in 2017 in the amount of EUR 1 906,1 million above the commitment ceilings of Heading 3 (*Security and Citizenship*) and heading 4 (*Global Europe*);
- B. whereas, within this amount, the European Parliament and the Council decided to offset EUR 575,0 million against the unallocated margin under Heading 2 (*Sustainable Growth: Natural Resources*) in 2017 as well as EUR 507,3 million, EUR 570,0 million and EUR 253,9 million against the unallocated margins under Heading 5 (*Administration*) in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively;
- C. whereas the Conciliation Committee convened for the adoption of the 2018 budget subsequently agreed to adjust the abovementioned offsetting of the Contingency Margin in order to decrease by EUR 252,0 million the amount offset in Heading 5 in 2018 and introduce a corresponding offset in Heading 5 in 2020;
1. Takes note of the Commission's proposal, as part of the agreement on the 2018 budget,

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

² OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

³ OJ L 50, 28.2.2017, p. 57–58.

to revise the offsetting of the contingency margin mobilised in 2017 in order to increase the overall commitments margin available in 2018; regrets the excessive focus of some Member States on the available margins below the MFF ceilings, often disregarding the flexibilities offered by the special instruments;

2. Underlines that, even without a revised offsetting, the overall commitments margin in the agreed 2018 budget would already stand at EUR 1 348,3 million whereas more than EUR 900 million are still available under the Flexibility Instrument and the Global Margin for Commitments (GMC); points out that a further EUR 1,2 billion should become available under the GMC and the Flexibility Instrument in the course of 2018;
3. Takes note that such a revision of the offsetting, while not essential, releases EUR 252 million of additional margin in 2018 instead of 2020, thereby providing additional flexibility at an earlier stage under this MFF;
4. Regrets that the European Parliament and the Council have to resort to splitting the concerned offsetting under Heading 5 between 2018 and 2020 in order to provide the EU budget with the flexibility needed in 2018; expresses concern over the consequent reduction in the margin of Heading 5 that this manoeuvre will bring in 2020; points out that the adoption of such an off-limit approach is a clear signal that the EU budget is not being furnished with the indispensable resources for carrying out the policies and programmes of the Union;
5. Approves the decision annexed to this resolution;
6. Instructs its President to sign the decision with the President of the Council and arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, including its annex, to the Council and the Commission.

ANNEX: DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

amending Decision EU 2017/344 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2017

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,
Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management¹, and in particular point 14, second subparagraph, thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 13 of Council Regulation 1311/2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020² has established a Contingency Margin of up to 0,03 % of the Gross National Income of the Union.
- (2) In accordance with Article 6 of this Regulation, the Commission had calculated the absolute amount of this Contingency Margin for 2017³.
- (3) The European Parliament and the Council mobilised the Contingency margin in 2017 to allow financing above the commitment ceilings of EUR 1 906 150 960, of which EUR 1 176 030 960 for heading 3 (*Security and citizenship*).
- (4) The 2018 budget requires an increase in the flexibility and therefore the offsetting of the contingency margin mobilised in 2017 is adjusted to decrease the amount offset in Heading 5 in 2018 and to introduce a corresponding offset in Heading 5 in 2020;

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Article 2 of Decision (EU) 2017/344 of the EP and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2017 is amended as follows:

¹ OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

³ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament of 30 June 2016 on the technical adjustment of the financial framework for 2017 in line with movements in GNI (COM(2016) 311).

- (a) in the introductory sentence “2019” is replaced by “2020”;
- (b) point (b) is replaced by the following:
"(b) 2018: heading 5 (Administration): EUR 318 000 000;"
- (c) the following point (d) is added:
"(d) 2020: heading 5 (Administration): EUR 252 000 000."

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Date adopted	22.11.2017
Result of final vote	+: 30 -: 3 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Nedzhmi Ali, Richard Ashworth, Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, Gérard Deprez, Manuel dos Santos, José Manuel Fernandes, Jens Geier, Esteban González Pons, Ingeborg Gräßle, Iris Hoffmann, Monika Hohlmeier, John Howarth, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Siegfried Mureşan, Liadh Ní Riada, Jan Olbrycht, Urmas Paet, Răzvan Popa, Paul Rübig, Jordi Solé, Eleftherios Synadinos, Indrek Tarand, Inese Vaidere, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken, Marco Zanni
Substitutes present for the final vote	Jean-Paul Denanot, Andrey Novakov
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Jonathan Bullock, Javi López, Patricija Šulin

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

30	+
ALDE	Nedzhmi Ali, Gérard Deprez, Urmas Paet
ECR	Richard Ashworth, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Bernd Kölmel
PPE	Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, José Manuel Fernandes, Esteban González Pons, Ingeborg Gräßle, Monika Hohlmeier, Siegfried Mureşan, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Paul Rübig, Inese Vaidere, Patricija Šulin
S&D	Jean-Paul Denanot, Jens Geier, Iris Hoffmann, John Howarth, Javi López, Vladimír Maňka, Răzvan Popa, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken, Manuel dos Santos
VERTS/ALE	Jordi Solé, Indrek Tarand

3	-
EFDD	Jonathan Bullock
ENF	Marco Zanni
NI	Eleftherios Synadinos

1	0
GUE/NGL	Liadh Ní Riada

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention