



Procedure file

| Basic information | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| BUD - Budgetary procedure | 2018/2043(BUD) | Procedure completed |
| Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the machinery sector in Belgium | | |
| Subject 3.40.08 Mechanical engineering, machine-tool industry 4.15.05 Industrial restructuring, job losses, redundancies, relocations, Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) 8.70.58 2018 budget | | |
| Geographical area Belgium | | |

| Key players | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
| | BUDG Budgets | | 26/03/2018 |
| | |  GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL Eider | |
| | Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
| | EMPL Employment and Social Affairs | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| | REGI Regional Development | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| Council of the European Union | Council configuration | Meeting | Date |
| | General Affairs | 3615 | 14/05/2018 |
| European Commission | Commission DG | Commissioner | |
| | Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion | THYSSEN Marianne | |

| Key events | | | |
|------------|--|---|---------|
| 23/03/2018 | Non-legislative basic document published | COM(2018)0156 | Summary |
| 16/04/2018 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 24/04/2018 | Vote in committee | | |
| 26/04/2018 | Budgetary report tabled for plenary | A8-0148/2018 | Summary |
| 03/05/2018 | Results of vote in Parliament |  | |
| 03/05/2018 | Decision by Parliament | T8-0195/2018 | Summary |
| 14/05/2018 | Draft budget approved by Council | | |
| 08/06/2018 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

| Technical information | |
|-----------------------|--|
| | |

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Procedure reference | 2018/2043(BUD) |
| Procedure type | BUD - Budgetary procedure |
| Procedure subtype | Mobilisation of funds |
| Other legal basis | Rules of Procedure EP 159 |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed |
| Committee dossier | BUDG/8/12604 |

Documentation gateway

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|------------|----|---------|
| Non-legislative basic document | COM(2018)0156 | 23/03/2018 | EC | Summary |
| Committee draft report | PE620.786 | 09/04/2018 | EP | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | PE620.960 | 18/04/2018 | EP | |
| Budgetary report tabled for plenary, 1st reading | A8-0148/2018 | 26/04/2018 | EP | Summary |
| Budgetary text adopted by Parliament | T8-0195/2018 | 03/05/2018 | EP | Summary |

Final act

[Decision 2018/847](#)
[OJ L 144 08.06.2018, p. 0005](#) Summary

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the machinery sector in Belgium

PURPOSE: to mobilise the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) to assist Belgium faced with redundancies in the machinery sector.

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

CONTENT: the rules applicable to financial contributions from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund are laid down in [Regulation \(EU\) No 1309/2013](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006.

In this context, the Commission considered the request to mobilise the EGF to assist Belgium and stated the following:

Belgium - Application EGF/2017/010 BE/Caterpillar: on 18 December 2017, Belgium submitted the application for a financial contribution from the EGF following 2 287 workers made redundant in Caterpillar Solar Gosselies (Caterpillar) and five suppliers (manufacture of machinery and equipment). The redundancies made by the enterprises concerned are located in the NUTS level 2 Hainaut region BE32.

In order to establish the link between the redundancies and major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, Belgium argues that the main reason behind the workforce reductions is the worldwide competition in the construction and mining machinery sectors, and the consequent loss of machinery market share by Caterpillar.

The mining sector's production in Europe has decreased from EUR 234 million in 2012 to EUR 180 million in 2015 and the EU 28 exports have been in dramatic declining since 2014.

The primary event giving rise to these redundancies is the announcement by Caterpillar Belgium S.A. on 2 September 2016 of starting the collective redundancy procedure at its production plant located in Gosselies.

This is already Belgium's second EGF application in relation to Caterpillar.

In 2014, 1 399 workers were the subjects of the first EGF application involving redundancies at the enterprise. The current proposal includes the remaining 1 997 workers at the site.

In 2015, Caterpillar invested in a new assembly line to boost its position on the market. However, contrary to expectations, economic growth in Europe was very slow and consequently the economic situation of the enterprise did not recover as expected.

Compared to other plants, its Gosselies facility in Belgium is no longer competitive. Consequently, Caterpillar has been relocating its production in emerging countries in Asia and Latin America, such as China and South Korea because of the fast-growing new markets and low production costs, linked to less restrictive environmental regulation and lower hourly labour costs. The company is now closing down all its activities in Belgium.

Basis of the Belgian request: Belgium submitted the application under the intervention criteria of Article 4(1)(a) of the EGF Regulation, which requires at least 500 workers being made redundant over a reference period of four months in an enterprise in a Member State.

The reference period for the application runs from 31 May 2017 to 30 September 2017.

The application relates to 2 287 workers made redundant.

Belgium is considering five types of actions in favour of the dismissed employees and NEETs: (i) individual job search assistance, case management and general information services; (ii) training and re-training; (iii) promotion of entrepreneurship; (iv) contribution to business start-ups; (v) allowances.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: following its assessment of this application, the Commission has concluded, in accordance with all applicable provisions of the EGF Regulation, that the conditions for awarding a financial contribution from the EGF are met. It proposed to mobilise the EGF for the amount of EUR 4 621 616, representing 60 % of the total costs of the proposed actions, in order to provide a financial contribution for the application.

The proposed decision to mobilise the EGF will be taken jointly by the European Parliament and the Council, as laid down in point 13 of 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 management.

At the same time as it presents this proposal for a decision to mobilise the EGF, the Commission will present to the European Parliament and to the Council a proposal for a transfer to the relevant budgetary line for the amount requested.

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the machinery sector in Belgium

The Committee on Budgets adopted the report by Eider GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL (S&D, ES) on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to the amount of EUR 4 621 616 in commitment and payment appropriations to assist Belgium in the event of redundancies in the machinery sector.

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) is designed to provide additional support to workers who suffer the consequences of major structural changes in world trade patterns.

Belgian request: Belgium submitted application EGF/2017/010 BE/Caterpillar for a financial contribution from the EGF, following 2 287 redundancies in Caterpillar Solar Gosselines and its 5 suppliers in the economic sector of the manufacture of machinery and equipment in the Hainaut region in Belgium.

Given that the redundancies are expected to have a significant adverse effect on the local economy, Members agreed with the Commission that the conditions set out in Article 4(1) of the EGF Regulation are met and that Belgium is entitled to a financial contribution of EUR 4 621 616 under that Regulation, which represents 60 % of the total cost of EUR 7 702 69.

Reason for the redundancies: Belgium argued that the redundancies are linked to major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, to worldwide competition in the construction and mining machinery sectors, and to the consequent decrease in the Caterpillar Groups share in the machinery market.

While being aware of the decline in production of the mining sector in Europe and the dramatic decline in EU-28 exports in that sector since 2014, the increase in the European steel price and the high production costs for machines resulting therefrom, in particular compared to China, Members regretted that the Caterpillar Group has decided to allocate the volumes produced in the Gosselies plant to other production units in France (Grenoble) and to other plants outside Europe, including China and South Korea, which resulted in an abrupt shut down of the Gosselies site and the making redundant of 2 300 workers.

They also deplored the total lack of information and respect for workers and union representatives, who received no information prior to the closure of the company and that this brutal decision was not made in consultation with the local and regional authorities.

Package of personalised services: Members noted that Belgium is planning five types of actions for the redundant workers:

- individual job search assistance, case management and general information services;
- training and re-training;
- promotion of entrepreneurship;
- contribution to business start-up;
- allowances.

Members welcomed that the income support measures will account for 13.68 % of the overall package of personalised measures, well below the maximum 35 % set out in the EGF Regulation. They stressed that the majority of workers are between 30 and 54 years of age and welcomed the fact that personalised services co-financed by the EGF will also be provided to up to 300 young people under the age of 30 not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

Lastly, they recalled the [resolution of 5 October 2016](#) on the need for a European reindustrialisation policy in the light of the recent Caterpillar and Alstom cases, which called for Europe to deploy a genuine industrial policy based in particular on research and development and innovation, but also emphasizes the importance of protecting Union industry from unfair commercial practices in third countries.

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the machinery sector in Belgium

The European Parliament adopted by 545 votes to 94, with 12 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 (application from Belgium EGF/2017/010 BE/Caterpillar).

Parliament approved the proposal for a decision to mobilise the EGF to provide a financial contribution of EUR 4 621 616 in commitment and

payment appropriations to assist Belgium in the event of redundancies in the machinery sector.

As a reminder, the application for financial assistance from the EGF was submitted by Belgium on 18 December 2017 following 2 287 redundancies at Caterpillar Solar Gosselies (Caterpillar) and five of its suppliers in the machinery and equipment manufacturing sector in Hainaut province.

Parliament noted the following points:

Reason for the redundancies: Belgium argued that the redundancies are linked to major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, to worldwide competition in the construction and mining machinery sectors, and to the consequent decrease in the Caterpillar Groups share in the machinery market.

While being aware of the decline in production of the mining sector in Europe and the dramatic decline in EU-28 exports in that sector since 2014, the increase in the European steel price and the high production costs for machines resulting therefrom, in particular compared to China, Parliament regretted that the Caterpillar Group has decided to allocate the volumes produced in the Gosselies plant to other production units in France (Grenoble) and to other plants outside Europe, including China and South Korea, which resulted in an abrupt shut down of the Gosselies site and the making redundant of 2 300 workers.

Members also deplored that the workers of the Gosselies site were informed of the closure of the site by a simple communiqué and deplored the fact that this brutal decision was not made in consultation with the local and regional authorities. They recalled that the redundancies in Caterpillar are expected to have a significant negative effect on the local economy while stressing the importance of strengthening the supply of information to and consultation with workers in the Union. They insisted on the mitigation of the socio-economic consequences for the Charleroi region.

Proposed measures: Belgium is planning five types of actions for the redundant workers and young people under the age of 30 not in employment, education or training (NEETs) (i) individual job search assistance, case management and general information services, (ii) training and re-training, (iii) promotion of entrepreneurship, (iv) contribution to business start-up, (v) allowances.

Parliament welcomed that the income support measures will account for 13.68 % of the overall package of personalised measures, well below the maximum 35 % set out in the EGF Regulation. It welcomed the fact that the coordinated package of personalised services was drawn up in consultation with a working group, which included the Public Employment Service for Wallonia, the investment fund SOGEPA, the representatives of the trade unions and other social partners.

According to Parliament, the design of the coordinated package of personalised services should anticipate future labour market perspectives and required skills and should be compatible with the shift towards a resource-efficient and sustainable economy.

Beneficiaries: the resolution stressed that the majority of workers are between 30 and 54 years of age and that more than 11 % of the redundant workers are between 55 and 64 years of age with skills specific to the manufacturing sector. It welcomed the fact that personalised services co-financed by the EGF will also be provided to up to 300 young people under the age of 30 not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

On a general note, Parliament recalled its [resolution of 5 October 2016](#) on the need for a genuine industrial policy based in particular on research and development and innovation, while emphasising the importance of protecting Union industry from unfair commercial practices in third countries.

The Commission is called on to: (i) urge national authorities to provide more details, in future proposals, on the sectors which have growth prospects and are therefore likely to hire people, as well as to; (ii) gather substantiated data on the impact of the EGF funding, including on the quality of jobs and the reintegration rate achieved through the EGF.

Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund: redundancies in the machinery sector in Belgium

PURPOSE: to mobilise the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) to assist Belgium faced with redundancies in the machinery sector.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Decision (EU) 2018/847 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund following an application from Belgium EGF/2017/010 BE/Caterpillar.

CONTENT: with this Decision, the European Parliament and the Council decide to mobilise an amount of EUR 4 621 616 in commitment and payment appropriations from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund within the Union budget for 2018.

This amount was granted in response to Belgium's application for EGF funding for redundancies at Caterpillar Solar Gosselies and its five suppliers. This application complies with the conditions for setting the amount of the financial contribution from the EGF in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013. Under the Regulation, Belgium also decided to provide personalised services co-financed by the EGF to 300 young people who are not working, studying or training (NEET).

As a reminder, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) aims to provide support for workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activity has 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.

The annual allocation of the EGF shall not exceed the maximum annual amount of EUR 150 million for the period 2014-2020.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 8.6.2018. This Decision shall apply from the date of its adoption, 30.5.2018.