

Mr Antonio Tajani
President of the European Parliament
PHS.11B001

1047 Brussels

Brussels,

10 AVR. 2018

Dear President,

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According to art. 9 of the Multiannual Financial Framework, the Emergency Aid Reserve (EAR) is intended to allow for a rapid response to specific aid requirements of third countries following events which could not be foreseen when the budget was established, first and foremost for humanitarian operations, but also for civil crisis management and protection, and situations of particular pressure resulting from migratory flows at the Union's external borders where circumstances so require.

The serious deterioration and current scale of the humanitarian situations in Bangladesh related to the Rohingya refugee crisis, in Somalia and in Yemen could not have been fully foreseen at the time of the 2018 planning for humanitarian aid in the autumn of 2017. Additional assistance from the EU budget for these three crises is required over and above the amounts planned at this time.

Rohingya refugee crisis, Bangladesh

The Rohingya refugee crisis started with the violence of August 2017 in the North Rakhine State of Myanmar, which caused many casualties and the displacement of more than one million Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh. The humanitarian needs in the camps will be further exacerbated during the monsoon season in the coming months. In addition, it is important for the EU to continue to contribute to the joint efforts of the international community in responding to this ongoing crisis. The requested additional EU assistance amounts to EUR 26 million in commitment and payment appropriations (in addition to the EUR 3 million programmed last year for this crisis for the 2018 Humanitarian Implementation Plan).

The requested additional EUR 26 million in EU support will finance emergency interventions in the areas of nutrition, water and sanitation, health and protection, including gender-based violence and child protection. The beneficiaries will be the refugees and their host communities in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Somalia

In Somalia, additional funding of EUR 50 million beyond the EUR 39 million foreseen in the annual 2018 planning is now required to avoid a famine in 2018, due to the unprecedented occurrence of four consecutive failed rainy seasons. Latest reports show significant deterioration of the food security situation in the first semester of 2018, as the number of people in emergency phase of malnutrition have increased tenfold compared to the same period last year, from 80 000 to 800 000. Famine was averted in 2017 only thanks to massive financial commitments, early humanitarian response and good coordination among donors.

The additional funding of EUR 50 million in commitment and payment appropriations will allow for multipurpose cash transfers to help treat severe acute malnutrition of children under five, as well as funding basic health services, emergency food assistance, water supply and livelihood protection.

Yemen

After nearly three years of armed conflict, Yemen is now the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, combining the triple tragedy of a man-made famine and nutritional crisis, a brutal conflict and the world's largest-ever single-year cholera outbreak. The situation has significantly deteriorated in the past four months because of extreme restrictions of access and the intensification of fighting and air strikes. The scale of the needs, their wide geographical spread and the progressive collapse of institutions and basic services all call for a mass-scale humanitarian response, significantly beyond the EUR 37 million which had originally been planned. An additional EUR 40 million in commitment and payment appropriations is requested.

The additional EUR 40 million would focus on famine/nutritional assistance, conflict and associated displacement, health/epidemics, RRM (rapid response mechanism) as well as on logistical support to assist movement of international technical capacity, required to ensure quality and monitoring of lifesaving interventions. Part of the funds requested will be used to support both voucher and in-kind food programmes implemented by the World Food Programme.

In total, EUR 116 million in commitment and in payment appropriations are needed for the above mentioned crises.

As of 21 March, the overall implementation rate of commitment appropriations of the humanitarian aid chapter 23 02 was at 83.5%, while for payment appropriations it was at 13.8%. The remaining balance of EUR 77 million in the Operational Reserve, after taking into account commitments currently being processed, needs to be preserved to cover urgent crises until the end of the year. An equal reinforcement in commitment and payment appropriations is needed since it is expected that the payment appropriations currently available in the budget will be fully used for the currently planned actions.

The Commission has also considered availabilities from other policy areas in Heading 4. An amount of EUR 1 million in commitment appropriations is made available from the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) as part of the amount pledged during the Conference for the Rohingya crisis of 23 October 2017 in Geneva. An additional amount of EUR 1.6 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 11 million in payment

appropriations is made available from funds that cannot be used under the Instrument for Pre-accession (IPA).

The Commission therefore requests the mobilisation of the Emergency Aid Reserve in the amount of EUR 113,4 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 105 million in payment appropriations. This will leave EUR 292,9 million in commitment appropriations and EUR 239,6 million in payment appropriations in the Emergency Aid Reserve.

I therefore submit the transfer proposals DEC 07/2018, DEC 08/2018 and DEC 09/2018 in Section III - Commission - of the general budget for 2018 in accordance with Articles 27(1) and 29(2) of the Financial Regulation.

This proposal is also being sent to the President of the Council of the European Union.

The documents annexed are not being sent by e-Greffe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. M. M.', is written below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

Annex

Mln EUR

Source of appropriations		DEC 07 Rohingya		DEC 08 Somalia		DEC 09 Yemen		Total	
		CA	PA	CA	PA	CA	PA	CA	PA
04 05 51	IPA - Completion of actions on Human resources development		4,0						4,0
13 05 02	IPA - Completion of Regional development component		7,0						7,0
13 05 63 02	IPA - Cross-border cooperation	1,6						1,6	
21 02 02	DCI - Cooperation with Asia	1,0						1,0	
40 02 42	EAR	23,4	15,0	50,0	50,0	40,0	40,0	113,4	105,0
Total		26,0	26,0	50,0	50,0	40,0	40,0	116,0	116,0

CA - Commitment appropriations

PA - Payment appropriations