



*Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
The Chair*

23.6.2020

Mr Johan Van Oortveldt
Chair
Committee on Budgets
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on Draft amending budget no 5 to the general budget 2020 Continuation of the support to refugees and host communities in response to the Syria crisis in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey (2020/2092(BUD))

Dear Mr Chair,

I have the honour of providing you herewith the opinion of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) in the form of a letter in accordance with Rule 56 of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure on the proposal of the Commission for a Draft Amending Budget No 5 to the general budget 2020 related to the continuation of the support to refugees and host communities in response to the Syria crisis in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, which LIBE recommends adopting.

The management of migrants and refugees arrivals is a key transnational phenomenon, and cooperation with partner countries on migration is a priority for the Commission for the 2019-2024 term. Furthermore, we refer to the resolution adopted by the Parliament on progress on the UN Global Compacts for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and on Refugees¹ that "acknowledges that managing migration requires major investments, adequate resources and flexible and transparent instruments, and that well-designed, flexible and streamlined instruments to address migration challenges will be necessary in the coming years".

In this regard, we highlight that this Draft Amending Budget would contribute to the effective implementation of the Union's priorities, its international obligations, and the main objective of the Global Compact on Refugees, namely a stronger commitment from States to equitable and predictable responsibility sharing. The LIBE Committee underlines the importance of ensuring the continuity of support to refugees and host communities in Jordan, Lebanon and

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2018-0118_EN.html?redirect

Turkey, in line with the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The LIBE Committee recognises the positive impact of ongoing projects in the areas of access to education, support to livelihoods and provision of health, sanitation, water and waste services and social protection to host communities and refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, as well as of the two main Union humanitarian support actions for refugees in Turkey, the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) and the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE).

We recognise the importance of such emergency funding, especially with the dramatic increase pointed out by UNHCR of vulnerable families in need of assistance in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey as a result of the COVID 19 lockdown measures.

The opinion is based on field visits in Turkey and Lebanon, which are among the countries hosting the largest number of refugees in the world, be it in number or in comparison to their population. These field visits pointed to the often precarious situation of refugees in these countries, in particular of those in a vulnerable situation and of unaccompanied children, and the lack of perspective for integration in the host country or safe and voluntary return to the country of origin due to protracted conflicts. This situation is further complicated by the impact in these communities of the coronavirus global pandemic. We must also stress the need for compliance with the principle of non-refoulement by all hosting states, and urge Commission and Council to ensure and enable Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan to adhere to this key principle.

In addition, LIBE held numerous hearings and exchanges with experts from the field, which highlighted the difference made by the Union funding for refugees and their host communities in terms of standard of living and the provision of basic services as well as regarding strengthening the resilience of refugees and their integration.

However, to be effective, the support needs to be long-term and reliable, in particular with regard to the provision of schooling and healthcare. Therefore, Union funding should be based on long-term programming, in order to avoid to the largest extent possible subsequent amending budget proposals to be dealt with through accelerated procedures. We recommend that the Parliament agrees to this proposal to ensure a smooth transition from the current to the next MFF and we call on the Commission to ensure sustainable programming as part of the upcoming MFF.

We would like to stress the need for long-term and sustainable solutions for refugees and that instruments as resettlement and humanitarian corridors should also be properly financed.

In light of all the above, we strongly recommend approving, without undue delay in order to ensure a final adoption by the Parliament before the summer recess, the Council position on the Draft Amending Budget 5/2020.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) Juan Fernando López Aguilar

Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield