



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate E – HOME Affairs Funds
The Director

Brussels
HOME.E.1/GC

HOME-Funds/2022/

COMMITTEE FOR THE HOME AFFAIRS FUNDS

Subject: Financial needs following the Ukrainian crisis

Dear Members of the Committee for the Home Affairs Funds,

In response to the recent tragic war events in Ukraine, we are called to join our forces to respond to the crisis quickly, effectively and at all levels. By this note, I would like to inform you about a number of initiatives that we are taking as regards the use of the funds currently available, as well as to call for your collaboration to give a strong boost to the process of adoption of the new programmes for the programming period 2021-2027.

First, since we are clearly facing an emergency situation, we are considering options for reinforcing and mobilising quickly the funding available for emergency assistance, notably in view of addressing immediate and urgent needs in the Member States mostly hit by the crisis.

In addition, in light of the relatively limited resources that are currently available for emergency assistance, we are exploring the possibility to facilitate access to unspent financial resources for the 2014-2020 programming period. This could take the form of extending by 1 year the eligibility and implementation period for the three Funds, as well as to increase flexibility in the use of the budgetary allocations available under the AMIF programmes. We are confident that those undertakings could limit the risk of funding not being fully spent, while permitting to re-prioritise the spending under your 2014–2020 programmes towards new needs linked to the Ukrainian crisis.

While those initiatives will give you better possibilities to optimize the use of the funding currently available under the 2014-2020 programmes, it is extremely important to intensify our joint efforts for a smooth and quick adoption of 2021–2027 programmes, as the bulk of funding is in fact available there.

Let me recall that, overall, the Commission disposes of a period of up to 5 months to approve each programme submitted, without counting the time consumed by the Member States for revising the programmes following observations sent by the Commission¹. Based on experience, it seems very difficult to complete the adoption process within a shorter period.

¹ In accordance with Article 23(4) of the Common Provision Regulation (CPR) (Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021)

The adoption of the programmes will not only permit to start rapidly their concrete implementation on the grounds, but also to avoid any risk of losing part of the funds. In fact, a late adoption of the programmes (i.e. going beyond the end of the year 2022) would negatively affect two elements of programming:

1. Concerning the initial allocations to the Member States programmes, the 2022 commitment appropriations for any programme not adopted (or not ready to be immediately adopted) by the Commission by the end of this year 2022 will be lost for the Member States concerned².

2. In addition to the initial allocations, the commitments relating to the EU budget for 2021 for the part of the Thematic Facilities to be implemented in shared management (including allocations for Specific Actions, resettlement and humanitarian admission), will be lost if not included in an adopted programme before the end of the year³.

Consequently, it is of utmost importance that Member States having not yet submitted one or more of their Home Affairs Funds programmes will do so as soon as possible (the same applies to those programmes that were submitted, but immediately returned by the Commission as incomplete or not sufficiently mature). Please, also be reminded that since the HOME Affairs Funds do not fall under the scope of the Partnership Agreement, the submission of the HOME Affairs Funds programmes is not subject to the previous or concomitant submission of the Partnership Agreements.

In this regard, I would be grateful if the Member States concerned could inform us by email of the indicative planned date of submission of the programme(s) that they have not yet submitted (or re-submitted). Please address your replies to HOME-AFFAIRS-FUNDS-COMMITTEE@ec.europa.eu.

Finally, I would like to underline once again the importance of correct implementation of the partnership principle during the preparation and implementation of the programmes. This also includes the involvement of the civil society and non-governmental organisations. The latter are particularly relevant in the current context, given their proven potential to play a significant role in the organisation and implementation of first intervention activities.

My services remain fully available to provide you with any further explanations you may need, as well as to continue providing clarifications and advice to help with the preparation of the HOME Affairs Funds programmes, as they have been doing in the past months.

We will provide you with more information on the latest related to addressing the current crisis.

Yours faithfully,

Electronically signed

Chiara GARIAZZO

² In accordance with Article 7 of the MFF Regulation (Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 of 17 December 2020)

³ In accordance with Article 114(2) of the Financial Regulation (Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018)