



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
Budget

La Directrice Générale

17 DEC. 2014

Brussels,  
DG BUDG A2/LG/ D(2014) 4447639

H.E.

Permanent Representative of ... to the European Union

**Subject: Member State 2015-2016 payment forecasts for the Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund, the European Fisheries Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund OPs for the periods 2007-2013 and 2014-2020.**

Your Excellency,

As during the last years, in accordance with the regulations in force, the Commission kindly invites national authorities to submit their forecasts of requests for payments for 2015 and 2016.

I would like to thank you for the great efforts made, during recent years, by providing more reliable forecasts. The accuracy and the timeliness of data are decisive tools for budget management.

**2014-2020 programming period**

In accordance with the regulations in force<sup>1</sup>, national authorities are invited to submit their forecasts of requests for payments, in relation to the programming period 2014-2020, for the current and following year, per programme, per Fund and per category of region.

Member States are kindly requested to send by 31 January 2015 a forecast of the amount for which they expect to submit payment applications to the Commission, for the same financial year (2015) and the following year (2016), per programme, Fund and category of region, for the Structural Funds<sup>2</sup> (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund), the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. This submission should be through SFC2014 only.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation 1303/2013, Art. 112 (3) for the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds, and Regulation 508/2014, Art. 98 (1) for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund.

<sup>2</sup> Including European Territorial Cooperation and Youth Employment Initiative.

These payment forecasts will cover only interim payments, while advance payments are not concerned by this exercise.

This requirement applies to the operational programmes that would be approved by 31 January 2015 and the Commission is aware that not all the programmes would accordingly be concerned by this exercise.

However, given that in the context of the adoption of the EU budget 2015 the Budgetary Authority asked the Commission to present a payments plan by March 2015, the Commission would need Member States to introduce in SFC2014 as soon as possible after their adoption also the forecasts for the programmes that would not have been approved by the end of January (or, in case of EMFF only, after the submission of the draft programmes to the Commission) for interim applications to be submitted in 2015 and/or 2016. This will enable the Commission to better anticipate likely demands for payments which may have a budgetary effect later in the year. In all other cases, this operation would not be required.

### **2007-2013 programming period**

As regards the programming period 2007-2013, as anticipated by letter of 13 March 2014 (ref. Ares (2014) 652757), starting from 2015, with a view to the above-mentioned payments plan and for the purpose of simplification and ensuring coherence between the data of the two programming periods, Member States should anticipate the submission of their forecasts by January 31 and July 31 as for the programmes under the programming period 2014-2020. This submission concerns the Structural Funds (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund), the Cohesion Fund and the European Fisheries Fund, and it should be through SFC2007 only.

You will find in annex more information. Annex 1 to this letter gives general guidance on the preparation of the payment forecasts. Annex 2 covers information specific to each Fund. The relevant tables and information notes are attached.

This letter is also copied to the Management Authorities of the different programmes in the Member States in order to facilitate a timely circulation of the information.

If you have any questions, or require further information, do not hesitate to contact DG Budget (Ms. Letizia Gerli, e-mail [letizia.gerli@ec.europa.eu](mailto:letizia.gerli@ec.europa.eu), telephone +32 2 29 86427).

Yours sincerely,



Nadia Calviño

Enclosures:

Annex 1: Information note on the preparation of payment forecasts (2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods)

Annex 2: Payment forecasts for the 2007-2013 and 2014-20 programming periods

## ANNEX 1

### GENERAL ISSUES CONCERNING THE PREPARATION OF PAYMENT FORECASTS (FOR THE 2007-2013 AND 2014-2020 PROGRAMMING PERIODS)

Payment forecasts relate to **requests for payments sent to the Commission and not to payments made by the national authorities to the final beneficiaries**. This means that Member States must take account not only of their own national forecasts of payments to be made to final beneficiaries under the programmes, but also of the date on which the Member State intends to request payment from the Commission, which inevitably involves a further delay.

In this connection it must also be remembered that:

- Forecasts should reflect the amount to be submitted in the given year, rather than cumulative amounts since the beginning of the programming period.
- The currency of the forecasts is euro.
- Forecasts are required for interim payments only (advance payments are not concerned by this exercise).
- The payment forecasts for the year 2015<sup>3</sup> should include all the requests for interim payments to be submitted between 1 January – 31 October 2015, mentioning the amount in the specified column, and in another column the requests for interim payments to be submitted between 1 November - 31 December 2015. This request applies to ERDF, ESF, CF and EMFF (it does not apply to EFF, for which it's demanded a single amount for 2015). For 2016, the forecasts should include requests to be submitted throughout the whole year.
- For both 2015 and 2016, forecasts related to the programming period 2007-2013 should be submitted through SFC2007, while forecasts related to the programming period 2014-2020 should be submitted through SFC2014.
- Under the applicable regulations, forecasts of payments do not “reserve” appropriations for a particular Programme or Country.
- The current deadline for the transmission of the payment forecasts is 31 January 2015 (an update of the information will be required by 31 July 2015) for both the programming periods 2007-2013 and 2014-2020.

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<sup>3</sup> Please note that information on payment applications which have been sent to the Commission in 2014 but are still unpaid should not be included in this transmission.

## **ANNEX 2**

### **PAYMENT FORECASTS 2007-2013 AND 2014-2020**

#### **Payment forecasts for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund programmes**

In accordance with the provisions of Article 112(3) of Council Regulation 1303/2013 for the programming period 2014-2020, and with a view to the payments plan requested by the Budgetary Authority by March 2015 as well as for the purpose of data coherence and simplification for the programming period 2007-2013, national authorities should send by 31 January 2015 a forecast of the amount for which they expect to submit payment applications to the Commission for the same financial year (2015) and the subsequent financial year (2016), by programme, by Fund and, where appropriate, by category of region<sup>4</sup>.

Only provisional forecasts of likely interim payment applications in respect of the Union contribution, and not total expenditure forecast, should be stated in the table.

Only interim payments (and not advance payments) are concerned by this exercise.

Annex 2.1 contains the model tables to use for the forecasts related to the programming period 2007-2013, in line with Annex XVII of Commission Regulation 1828/2006. The information should be sent through SFC2007, according to the procedures foreseen in section 7 of that Commission Regulation. For any question concerning the use of SFC2007 please contact the email address [sfc2007-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sfc2007-info@ec.europa.eu).

Annex 2.2 contains the model table to use for the forecasts related to the programming period 2014-2020, in line with Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation 1011/2014. The information should be sent through SFC2014, according to the procedures foreseen in Commission Implementing Regulation 184/2014. For any question concerning the use of SFC2014 please check the website <http://ec.europa.eu/sfc/2014/en> or contact the email address [ec-sfc2014-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ec-sfc2014-info@ec.europa.eu).

#### **Payment forecasts for the European Fisheries Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund programmes.**

In accordance with the provisions of Article 98(1) of Council Regulation 508/2014 in relation to EMFF, and for the purpose of data coherence and simplification in relation to EFF, national authorities are similarly invited to send by 31 January 2015 forecasts of requests for payment to the Commission for the same year (2015) and the following year (2016).

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<sup>4</sup> The criterion of the category of region only applies to the 2014-2020 programming period and to the Structural Funds.

Only provisional forecasts of likely payment applications in respect of the Union contribution, and not total expenditure forecast, should be stated in the table.

Only interim payments (and not advance payments) are concerned by this exercise.

Annex 2.3 contains the model table to use for the forecasts related to EFF, in line with Annex XIII of Commission Regulation 498/2007. The information should be sent through the computer system for data exchange foreseen in chapter IX of Commission Regulation 498/2007. For any questions concerning the use of SFC2007 please contact [sfc2007-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:sfc2007-info@ec.europa.eu).

Annex 2.4 contains the model table to use for the forecasts related to the EMFF, in line with Annex III of Commission Implementing Regulation 771/2014. The information should be sent through SFC2014, according to the procedures foreseen in Commission Implementing Regulation 184/2014. For any question concerning the use of SFC2014 please check the website <http://ec.europa.eu/sfc/2014/en> or contact the email address [ec-sfc2014-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ec-sfc2014-info@ec.europa.eu).

## Annex 2.1

### Payment forecasts for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund programmes (2007-2013 programming period)<sup>5</sup>

	Community Co-financing (EUR)		
	2015		2016
	Jan-Oct	Nov-Dec	Jan-Dec
<b>Operational Programme 1 (CCI number)</b>			
ERDF			
ESF			
CF			
<b>Operational Programme 2...</b>			
etc.			
<b>Grand Total</b>			

In case of multi-objective operational programmes, the forecasts shall be also indicated by objective. For those programmes, the table above is modified as follows:

	Community Co-financing (EUR)		
	2015		2016
	Jan-Oct	Nov-Dec	Jan-Dec
<b>Operational Programme 1 (CCI number)</b>			
<b>Convergence Objective</b>			
ERDF			
ESF			
CF			
<b>Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective</b>			
ERDF			
ESF			
etc.			
<b>Grand Total</b>			

<sup>5</sup> To be filled in by Programme (CCI) and by Fund.

## Annex 2.2

### Payment forecasts for the ERDF, ESF and Cohesion Fund programmes (2014-2020 programming period)<sup>6</sup>

Programme (CCI)	Fund	Category of region	Union contribution (EUR)		
			2015		2016
			Jan - Oct	Nov - Dec	Jan- Dec
	ERDF	Less developed regions			
		Transition regions			
		More developed regions			
		Outermost regions and Northern sparsely populated regions <sup>7</sup>			
	ETC				
	ESF	Less developed regions			
		Transition regions			
		More developed regions			
	YEI <sup>8</sup>				
	CF				

## Annex 2.3

### Payment forecasts for the EFF programmes (2007-2013 programming period)

	Community Co-financing (EUR)	
	2015	2016
Operational Programme (CCI number)		
Total		
Convergence objective regions		
Non-convergence objective regions		

## Annex 2.4

### Payment forecasts for the EMFF programmes (2014-2020 programming period)

	Community Co-financing (EUR)		
	2015		2016
	Jan-Oct	Nov-Dec	Jan-Dec
Operational Programme (CCI number)			

<sup>6</sup> To be filled in by Programme (CCI), Fund and, where appropriate, category of region.

<sup>7</sup> This figure only includes the specific allocation for Outermost regions / Northern sparsely populated regions.

<sup>8</sup> This figure includes the specific allocation for the YEI and the matching ESF corresponding support.