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FINANCIAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2023

Section II - European Council and Council

(C/2024/4996)

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I. INTRODUCTION

Drawn up in accordance with Article 249 of the Financial Regulation (¹), this document constitutes a report on the budgetary and financial management of Section II of the EU budget (European Council and Council) for the 2023 financial year.

The report is based on the provisional accounts for 2023, the findings of the annual activity reports of the Council's authorising officers and information on budget implementation from the Council's financial system.

Chapter II of this report presents a summary of the framework established for the 2023 financial year. An overview of the implementation of the budget appropriations available in 2023 is given in Chapter III.

The implementation of the 2023 budget by budget line is presented in the Annex I.

II. OBJECTIVES AND BUDGET FOR THE 2023 FINANCIAL YEAR

A. Main financial objectives

The main financial objectives of the General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) for 2023 were to:

- ensure ongoing decision-making in the European Council and the Council;
- ensure continuous support for the European Council and the Council through the effective and efficient use of financial resources, particularly in view of the persistent pressure of inflation and the resulting price increases due to contract indexation:
- further proceed with the process of administrative digital modernisation with the objective of enhancing the quality of the GSC's organisation and the appropriate use of resources.

B. Establishment of the budget for the European Council and Council in 2023

I) General approach

When establishing the 2023 budget proposal for the European Council and Council (EC/C), the GSC calculated the budget for salary-related expenditure according to the guidance provided by the European Commission, including the revision of salary update parameters in the autumn of 2022 due to inflation.

Regarding non-salary related expenditure, the general objective was to not exceed, in nominal terms, the overall level of the 2022 budget by more than 2 %. Increases in areas of spending related to statutory or contractual obligations, or in areas considered essential for the functioning of the GSC, were offset by efficiency gains and by prioritising and reprogramming projects.

As regards staffing, the GSC continued to streamline the organisation by implementing the following actions:

- transforming 5 AST posts into 5 AD posts and 10 AST posts into 10 SC posts as part of the continuation of the administrative modernisation, with a budget-neutral effect;
- adapting the flat-rate reduction to 2,5 %, reflecting a more efficient organisation of the way in which vacant posts are filled.

II) 2023 Budget

The budget authority established the overall 2023 EC/C budget at EUR 647,9 million. This represents an increase of EUR 36,4 million (+6%) compared to 2022.

⁽i) Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.07.2018, p. 1).

The establishment plan for 2023 for the EC/C remained stable, with the number of posts fixed at 3 029. Table 1 gives an overview of the 2023 budget by category.

Table 1 EC/C budget for 2023 compared to 2022 (by category, EUR)

Colorania	Budget 2022	Budget 2023	Change 2023/2022	
Category	1	2	3=2/1	
Establishment plan	354 837 746	386 034 757	8,8 %	
Other staff expenditure	28 877 500	30 069 000	4,1 %	
Buildings (excluding acquisitions)	57 527 560	59 203 000	2,9 %	
Computer systems	48 115 000	52 823 000	9,8 %	
Furniture	981 000	1 051 000	7,1 %	
Technical equipment	6 891 000	3 577 000	- 48,1 %	
Transport	2 550 000	2 080 000	- 18,4 %	
Delegations' travel expenses	15 505 000	15 505 000	0,0 %	
Interpreting costs	80 000 000	80 000 000	0,0 %	
Meetings and conferences	6 490 000	7 090 000	9,2 %	
Information	8 291 250	9 104 000	9,8 %	
Miscellaneous	1 407 500	1 372 000	- 2,5 %	
Reserve				
Total (excl. acquisition)	611 473 556	647 908 757	6,0 %	
Acquisition of immovable property				
Grand total	611 473 556	647 908 757	6,0 %	

III) 2023 Budget and Heading 7 of the Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU Budget

Table 2 gives an overview of the evolution of the EC/C budget in 2019-2023. The EC/C share under Heading 7 (formerly Heading 5) of the multiannual financial framework decreased over that period from 5.9% in 2019 to 5.7% in 2023.

Table 2

Evolution of Section II of the EU budget (European Council and Council) under Heading 7 (formerly Heading 5) of the Multiannual Financial Framework in 2019-2023

	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
(Amounts at current prices)	M€	change	M€	change	M€	change	M€	change	M€	change
Heading 7	9 945	2,9 %	10 222	2,8 %	10 443	2,2 %	10 620	1,7 %	11 311	6,5 %
EC/C	582	1,6 %	591	1,5 %	594	0,6 %	611	2,9 %	648	6,0 %
EC/C share in Heading 7	5,9 %		5,8 %		5,7 %		5,8 %		5,7 %	

III. GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION IN 2023

A. Activities and objectives of the European Council and Council in 2023

In the financial activity report, the GSC provides information on its core activities which are relevant from a financial point of view and describes the functioning of the European Council and Council over the financial year. The report also highlights the principal achievements of the year.

I) Meetings

Table 3 gives an overview of the evolution of the number of meetings organised by the GSC for the European Council and the Council between 2019 and 2023.

Table 3 Evolution of the number of meetings, 2019-2023

	2019 2020			2021		20		2022		2023			
		Physical	VTC / Hybrid	TOTAL	Physical	VTC / Hybrid	TOTAL	Physical	VTC / Hybrid	TOTAL	Physical	VTC / Hybrid	TOTAL
Summits	17	7	18	25	14	7	21	15	1	16	10	1	11
Councils	80	35	86	121	79	38	117	102	7	109	94	3	97
Coreper	124	152		152	123		123	158		158	156		156
Coreper art. 50	28	3		3									
Working groups	3 706	1 387	1 233	2 620	1 237	2 793	4 0 3 0	3 468	663	4131	3 902	263	4 1 6 5
Ad hoc Working group art. 50	28												
European Political Community (EPC)								1					
Total	3 983	1 584	1 337	2 921	1 453	2 838	4 291	3 744	671	4 415	4 162	267	4 429

In 2023, the core activities of the European Council and Council intensified further, with the total number of meetings organised over 11 % higher than the number held during the pre-pandemic year 2019. Physical meetings increased by 11 % compared to 2022, while the number of meetings held by videoconference or in hybrid mode decreased substantially, by more than 60 %.

Two multilateral summits took place in 2023:

- From 17 to 18 July 2023, the third EU-CELAC Summit took place in Brussels under the heading: 'Renewing the bi-regional partnership to strengthen peace and sustainable development'. Eight years after the last meeting in 2015, the summit brought together leaders of 60 countries from the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). It provided an opportunity to establish a renewed political partnership between the two regions and to create a more structured framework for political cooperation at bi-regional level, with more regular summits and a bi-regional EU-CELAC Roadmap 2023-2025 to guide the work.
- One year after the 2022 summit in Tirana, EU and Western Balkans leaders met on 13 December 2023 in Brussels for their fourth annual summit. The summit provided an opportunity to reconfirm the key importance of the strategic partnership between the EU and the Western Balkans and to reaffirm the EU membership prospects for the Western Balkans, as well as the need for the partners' sustained and irreversible achievements in terms of reform, underpinned by EU values and principles.

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In addition, on 14-15 June 2023 the European Union chaired the seventh Brussels Conference on 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region'. The high-level ministerial segment of the conference on 15 June gathered together representatives of 57 countries, including EU member states, and over 30 international organisations, including the United Nations, in addition to the EU institutions. The conference was the main pledging event for Syria and the region in 2023 and succeeded in mobilising substantial aid for Syrians through international pledges for 2023 and beyond.

II) Legislative activities

Another quantitative indicator of activities is the number of legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ) (Table 4). In 2023, 1 545 legal acts were published in the OJ. The publication of legal acts in the OJ is the final step in the legislative process.

Table 4
Evolution of the number of legal acts in 2019-2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Legal acts published in OJ	1 326	1 328	1 340	1 517	1 545

The various measures - including the sanctions regime - put in place due to the continuing Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, as well as the intense legislative activity in view of the imminent end of the five-year legislative cycle in 2024, explain the increase in the number of legal acts published compared to previous years.

III) Administrative modernisation

In 2023, the GSC continued to improve the quality and efficiency of its internal organisation and to pursue its goal of digital transformation, in line with the GSC Digital Strategy priorities for 2022-2025:

- Several IT tools were implemented or improved further in order to modernise and digitalise key business processes related to Council decision-making. These include, among others, improvements to eConsilium and the Translation Management System (TMS), as well as the activation of the Quality of Legislation Management System (QLMS). Multifactor authentication was introduced for all users (GSC staff and delegates) wishing to access the Delegates Portal. The latter change aims to increase data security and help prevent data leaks due to unauthorised account access.
- The Document and File Management Implementation (DFMI) programme continued in 2023, working towards the deployment of the Records Management System (RMS) across the GSC based on HAN/ARES (the general internal register), including a project to deploy the new litigation database for the Legal Service. 2023 also saw the roll-out of the new GSC email archiving policy.
- In the field of staff policy, the fourth staff survey since 2018 was launched in 2023 as a useful tool for enhancing the organisation, identifying areas for improvement, and maintaining the GSC's status as an attractive workplace. All heads of sector who have a minimum of one year's experience in their current job were included in the 360° feedback exercise, designed to provide managers with the insights for their continuous professional development. In addition, Human Resources (HR) analytics and reporting was introduced at the GSC to support policy and decision-making, as well as more evidence-based daily management in the field of HR.
- In line with GSC environmental management policy, which ensures that actions and objectives are defined and implemented in different fields (energy, paper, mobility, waste, carbon footprint, etc.), a project to enlarge the area for electrical points had been launched and a payment system for charging electric vehicles was planned.

IV) Achievement of objectives in 2023

Achievement of the objectives established for the 2023 budget year may be summarised as follows:

— Establishment plan

On 1 January 2023, there were 2 917 occupied posts in the GSC. Following turnover during the year, on 31 December 2023 there were 2 951 occupied posts, representing a difference of 34 additional occupied posts in the EC/C Establishment Plan.

NB: Occupied posts also include posts occupied by non-remunerated staff who occupy a post, in line with the definition laid down in the Staff Regulations.

Financial management

To ensure the efficient use of its budget, in 2023 the GSC continued to improve further its financial management processes:

- The integrated management planning exercise, which aims to provide a governance framework combining short-term, medium-term and long-term planning, was streamlined further by incorporating a human resources and skills element in an effort to adopt a holistic approach to evaluating performance and anticipating future needs.
- In terms of financial processes, significant progress was made towards the full digitalisation of the workflow with the introduction of electronic signatures for purchase orders and contracts, with between 30 and 40 % of purchase orders and contracts being signed electronically each month by the end of the year. The aim is to make the financial circuit fully paperless, from opening procurement procedures to paying invoices electronically.
- Based on input from authorising departments, a number of Task Forces were set up to come up with suggestions for improving and simplifying financial processes within the GSC. Their work is set to continue in 2024.
- The monthly financial dashboard, showing key performance indicators across GSC services, was further fine-tuned, and continued to support transparency, decision-making and improvement of performance across the GSC.
- A process of streamlining the Financial Helpline was launched in 2023 by integrating it into the IT Self-Service Portal, and that process will continue by enhancing the Helpline Team, which provides support to financial users in the GSC on a daily basis.

To make payments on time and avoid interest on late payments, the average delay in paying invoices in 2023 decreased significantly from 18 to 13 days, the maximum time limit being 30 calendar days in accordance with Directive 2011/7/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council (²).

— Buildings policy

The Council's buildings policy is stable. Since 2004, the Council's aim has been to accommodate all its activities and those of the European Council in Brussels in buildings which it owns, which are adapted to its needs, and which are located close to one another. This reorganisation was completed with the delivery of the Europa Building in June 2016.

The GSC is currently exploring new ways of working (NWOW), as recommended by the European Court of Auditors in its report entitled 'Office accommodation of EU institutions – Some good management practices but also various weaknesses' (³). A pilot project has been carried out in the Europa and Justus Lipsius buildings. The final evaluation report of the pilot project was approved in December 2023.

The GSC has also been assessing the impact of the digital transformation. The decisions that may be taken in this context could affect the GSC's buildings and its buildings policy.

The GSC is also examining various scenarios for the renovation of the Justus Lipsius building. This project is necessary in order to guarantee the proper functioning of the two institutions in the long term, to ensure a high level of environmental and, in particular, energy performance in view of the applicable regulations, and to provide an optimised, welcoming, stimulating and secure working environment.

In 2023, in order to face up to the steep rise in energy prices and reduce energy consumption, the general temperature in different parts of the buildings was adjusted.

⁽²⁾ Directive 2011/7/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on combating late payment in commercial transactions (OJ L 48, 23.2.2011, p. 1).

⁽³⁾ European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 34/2018.

B. Revenue

Table 5 gives an overview of the overall outcome of revenue operations in 2023. The term 'Established rights 2022' refers to recovery orders which were made in 2022 but for which the recovery of the amounts in question did not take place until 2023. The term 'Established rights 2023' refers to recoveries made in 2023.

Chapter		Established rights 2022	Recovered revenues from 2022	Established rights 2023	Recovered revenues from 2023	Total established rights 2022 +2023	Total recovered 2022+2023	To be recovered in 2024
		1	2	3	4	5=1+3	6=2+4	7=5-6
3 0	Revenue from Staff			68 516 247	68 516 247	68 516 247	68 516 247	
3 1	Revenue linked to property	3 549	3 549	528 068	507 295	531 617	510 844	20 773
3 2	Revenue from the supply of goods, services and work	75 862	62 229	1 602 305	1 596 844	1 678 167	1 659 074	19 093
3 3	Other administrative revenue	2 578 971	2 173 683	29 093 548	28 157 572	31 672 519	30 331 255	1 341 264
4 0	Revenue from investments and accounts			22 342	22 342	22 342	22 342	
	Total	2 658 382	2 239 461	99 762 510	98 800 300	102 420 892	101 039 761	1 381 131

The total volume of revenue operations in terms of established rights, i.e., issued recovery orders, was EUR 102,4 million in 2023. Of that amount, EUR 101,0 million was recovered during the 2023 financial year and EUR 1,4 million will be collected in 2024.

Most of the total recovered revenue (68 %, or EUR 68,5 million out of EUR 101,0 million) in 2023 relates to taxes and special levies on renumerations collected from GSC personnel. Of that amount, deductions from staff remuneration yield EUR 36,5 million, while EUR 32,0 million corresponds to staff contributions to the pension scheme.

The remainder, or 32 % (EUR 32,5 million), was accrued from various administrative operations, mainly from the following sources:

- recovery of parts of the amounts paid to Member States in previous years for delegates' travel expenses following their declarations for 2022 and 2023 (EUR 13,5 million, Chapter 33);
- payments by Member States for supplementary on-request interpretation into certain languages (EUR 12,9 million, Chapter 33);
- contributions to the administrative costs arising within the framework of the 'Schengen acquis' with Iceland and Norway (EUR 1,5 million, Chapter 33);
- payments by the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors and the European University Institute in Florence as their contributions to the common financial system they share with the Council (EUR 0,8 million, Chapter 32);
- contributions by other institutions and payments by Council officials for the Council crèche (EUR 1,0 million, Chapter 33);
- proceeds from renting out premises and related reimbursements (EUR 0,5 million, Chapter 31);

 transfers from the EEAS to the Council as payment for the services provided by the GSC to the EEAS (EUR 0,09 million, Chapter 33).

C. Expenditure in 2023

I) Modification of the budget in 2023

During the 2023 financial year, appropriations were reallocated by means of various transfers. Table 6 shows the decisions which modified the budget appropriations in 2019-2023.

Table 6

Number of budget modifications by type in 2019-2023

Modif	Year					
Туре	Legal basis	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Amending budget	FR Article 44	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer B	FR Article 29	39	44	41	58	38
Transfer C	FR Article 29	2	2	2	6	3
Transfer D	FR Article 31	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	41	46	43	64	41

Three C transfers, which involved informing the budget authority (in accordance with Article 29 of the Financial Regulation), were carried out in 2023:

- C1 transfer of EUR 350 000 of 27 March 2023 to:
 - cover the transportation costs of the delegations and guests invited to the additional multilateral summit EU-CELAC scheduled for July 2023 (EUR 350 000).
- C2 transfer of EUR 2 200 000 of 18 July 2023 to:
 - cover the needs relating to the cleaning of building spaces, as well as the shortfall identified due to the indexation of maintenance contracts in the second half of the year (EUR 1 300 000);
 - cover the additional needs for electricity until year-end, estimated at market prices (EUR 900 000).
- C3 transfer of EUR 3 826 000 of 21 November 2023 to:
 - cover the needs relating to fitting-out and installation work, in particular in order to carry out essential maintenance of the Europa building (EUR 412 000);
 - finance the replacement of an obsolete radio system for complete coverage of the three main GSC buildings, used on
 a daily basis by the security, safety and protocol teams, and provide a new tool for the management of traineeship
 applications (EUR 520 000);
 - cover additional needs for IT external assistance in the area of information management in respect of Council documents and the provision of legal advice, for security (including the handling of access to EU-restricted information and the introduction of multi-factor authentication for some systems), and for a new software tool for the planning and execution of Council events (EUR 2 797 000);
 - finance a study to identify viable AI applications adapted to GSC digital communication needs and constraints and cover the additional needs for implementing the existing main communications products and initiatives relating to students and young people (EUR 97 000).

In addition, 38 internal B transfers based on Article 29(4) of the Financial Regulation modified the EC/C budget in 2023.

Table 7 gives an overview of the budget lines which were significantly (4) modified in 2023 by the internal reallocation of appropriations.

 ${\it Table~7}$ Budget lines which were subject to significant transfers in 2023 (EUR)

Item	Heading	Initial Budget 2023	Transfers	Final appropriations	Difference
1105	Overtime	1 290 000	- 390 000	900 000	-30 %
1106	Entitlements under the Staff Regulations related to entering the service, transfer and leaving the service	1 985 000	430 000	2 415 000	22%
1 3 2 0	Medical service	720 000	- 265 000	455 000	-37 %
1 3 2 2	Crèches and childcare facilities	2 956 000	448 368	3 404 368	15 %
2003	Fitting-out and installation work	10 171 000	1 412 527	11 583 527	14 %
2005	Expenditure preliminary to the acquisition, construction and fitting-out of buildings	1 083 000	- 730 737	352 263	-67 %
2011	Water, gas, electricity and heating	6 302 000	2 074 000	8 376 000	33 %
2012	Buildings security and surveillance	18 758 000	- 500 000	18 258 000	-3 %
2100	Acquisition of equipment and software	14 085 000	2 176 455	16 261 455	15 %
2101	Outside assistance for the operation and development of computer systems	29 376 000	2 455 941	31 831 941	8 %
2102	Servicing and maintenance of equipment and software	7 867 000	- 1 184 941	6 682 059	-15 %
2132	Rental, maintenance and repair of the vehicle fleet	1 410 000	350 000	1 760 000	25 %
2 2 0 0	Travel expenses of delegations	15 505 000	- 5 686 212	9 818 789	-37 %

⁽⁴⁾ Net amount > EUR 250 000.

II) Overview of implementation of the budget 2019-2023

Over the past five years (Graph 1), the overall implementation rate of the EC/C budget increased from 92,3 % to 97,0 %. The implementation rate refers to the commitments made during the budget year out of the available adopted budget.

The actual annual payments rate between 2019 and 2023 was, on average, 82,2 % of the budget. The difference between the overall implementation and payments in a given year (i.e. non-paid commitments) has been carried over, in accordance with Article 12(7) of the Financial Regulation, to the next budget year for payments. Expenditure for remuneration and allowances for members and for staff of Union institutions cannot be carried over (Article 12(8) of the Financial Regulation).

EUR, millions 650 600 550 500 450 400 350 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 ■Payments ■ Carry over □ Cancelled appropriations

Graph 1

Overall budget implementation for 2019-2023

For 2023, the appropriations carried over relate to obligations duly contracted before the end of the budget year but where the goods and services had not yet been delivered and/or no invoices had been received by the end of the year.

III) Implementation of appropriations by category in 2023

The analysis of expenditure in 2023 is presented in 14 expenditure categories.

Table 8 compares the final budget after transfers (column 2) with the budget outturn in terms of commitments (column 3). The difference between the final budget and the committed appropriations corresponds to the amounts not used in 2023 and therefore cancelled.

Table 8

Overview of the implementation of the 2023 budget (by category, EUR)

Category	Budget 2023 (initial)	Budget 2023 (final (*))	Commitments	Outturn rate	Cancelled appropriations
	1	2	3	4=3/2	5=2-3
Establishment plan	386 034 757	386 034 757	376 150 669	97,4 %	9 884 088
Other staff expenditure	30 069 000	30 069 000	26 582 182	88,4 %	3 486 818
Buildings (excluding acquisitions)	59 203 000	61 147 000	60 776 095	99,4%	370 905
Computer systems	52 823 000	56 140 000	56 128 630	100,0 %	11 370
Furniture	1 051 000	1 051 000	1 048 546	99,8 %	2 454

Category	Budget 2023 (initial)	Budget 2023 (final (*))	Commitments	Outturn rate	Cancelled appropriations
	1	2	3	4=3/2	5=2-3
Technical equipment	3 577 000	3 326 000	3 268 758	98,3 %	57 242
Transport	2 080 000	2 430 000	2 382 015	98,0 %	47 985
Delegations' travel expenses	15 505 000	9 818 789	9 818 789	100,0 %	
Interpreting costs	80 000 000	79 979 212	75 354 196	94,2 %	4 625 016
Meetings and conferences	7 090 000	7 340 000	6 668 752	90,9 %	671 248
Information	9 104 000	9 201 000	9 200 926	100,0 %	74
Miscellaneous	1 372 000	1 372 000	1 156 841	84,3 %	215 159
Reserve					
Total (excl. acquisition)	647 908 757	647 908 757	628 536 397	97,0 %	19 372 360
Acquisition of immovable property					
Grand total	647 908 757	647 908 757	628 536 397	97,0 %	19 372 360

^(*) Includes internal reallocation of appropriations

The overall implementation rate of the 2023 budget is 97,0 %. The difference between the final budget and implementation can be explained as follows:

- The total underspend in the establishment plan category is EUR 9,9 million (2,6% of the final staff budget). That underspend results mainly from lower needs for basic salaries (EUR 3,2 million), for household, expatriation, and foreign residence allowances (EUR 0,7 million) and for adjustment of the remuneration (EUR 4,9 million). Other factors contributing to the underspend are lower needs relating to allowances in the event of retirement in the interests of the service (EUR 0,4 million) and for overtime (EUR 0,1 million).
- In the other staff expenditure category, 40 % of the underspend (EUR 1,4 million out of EUR 3,5 million) relates to the travel expenses of members and staff. Savings in other expenditure related to staff (training, medical expenses, social services, etc.) total EUR 0,6 million. Lower payments for contract staff, seconded national experts and other external services account for another EUR 0,7 million.
- The overall implementation of building-related expenditure stands at 99,4 %, leaving an underspend of EUR 0,4 million. Of that amount, EUR 0,3 million comes from savings in building surveillance and prevention. The implementation of the budget for water, gas, electricity, and fuel was 100 %.
- In the IT domain and in furniture, budget implementation was 100 % and 99,8 % respectively.

- The implementation in technical equipment and transportation was above 98 %.
- The implementation of delegations' travel expenses was 100 %. The amount available for delegations' travel expenses after transfers amounted to EUR 9,8 million. The initial budget was EUR 15,5 million, to which EUR 9,6 million was transferred from savings in some interpretation envelopes. On the other hand, EUR 13 million was transferred to interpretation for the 'technical envelope' (5). The technical interpreting envelope partially funds the languages currently used as pivot languages, a tool used as a bridge between combinations which is instrumental in ensuring multilingual communication.
- The underspend in appropriations for interpretation amounts to EUR 4,6 million. That underspend follows the transfer of EUR 9,6 million from interpretation envelopes to delegations' travel envelopes (6). The final result also includes the transfer of EUR 13 million from delegations' travel expenses as part of the implementation of the technical envelope.
- EUR 0,3 million of the total underspend of EUR 0,7 million on organising meetings and conferences reflects lower needs for event management and catering than what had been budgeted for.
- The implementation rate for appropriations in the 'Information' category was 100 %.
- In the 'Miscellaneous' category, the underspend of EUR 0,2 million stems mainly from legal expenses and costs, which were lower than had been estimated (EUR 0,14 million).

D. Appropriations carried over

I) Appropriations carried over automatically from 2022 to 2023

As presented in Table 9, an amount of EUR 77,4 million was carried over from 2022 to 2023 for payment in accordance with Article 12(7) of the Financial Regulation.

Table 9

Implementation of appropriations carried over from 2022 to 2023 (by category, EUR)

Category	Appropriations carried over from 2022	Payments 2023	Outturn rate	Cancelled appropriations
	1	2	3=2/1	4=1-2
Establishment plan	470 797	457 639	97,2 %	13 158
Other staff expenditure	2 180 896	1 587 034	72,8 %	593 862
Buildings	19 539 241	15 763 633	80,7 %	3 775 607
Computer systems	27 821 485	27 364 377	98,4 %	457 108
Furniture	490 796	485 836	99,0 %	4 960
Technical equipment	1 191 104	1 136 513	95,4%	54 591
Transport	601 851	276 294	45,9 %	325 557
Delegations' travel expenses				
Interpreting costs	19 826 193	19 766 872	99,7 %	59 322
Meetings and conferences	2 085 072	1 757 321	84,3 %	327 750

⁽⁵⁾ In accordance with Article 10(3) of Decision 54/18 of the Secretary-General of the Council, an amount equivalent to the underspent amount from the previous year under delegates' travel expenses is to be transferred annually to interpretation. In 2023, that amount was EUR 13 million.

⁽⁶⁾ In accordance with Article 10(1) of Decision 54/18, the GSC transfers 66 % of the unused amounts of the interpretation language envelopes to the delegates' travel envelopes to be used during the same budget year. In 2023, that amount was EUR 9,6 million.

Category	Appropriations carried over from 2022	Payments 2023	Outturn rate	Cancelled appropriations
	1	2	3=2/1	4=1-2
Information	2 175 945	2 119 085	97,4%	56 861
Miscellaneous	1 004 392	676 616	67,4%	327 775
Reserve				
Total	77 387 772	71 391 221	92,3 %	5 996 551

The implementation rate for the appropriations carried over from 2022 amounted to 92,3 %, continuing the upward trend of the last three years.

The main reasons for the underspend of a little less than EUR 6 million are:

- partial or complete non-delivery of works/goods/services ordered by the GSC during the previous year;
- invoices not received for works/goods/services delivered; this inevitably constitutes a budgetary burden for the next budget year, as new commitments will have to be introduced in 2024 for those transactions.

II) Appropriations carried over automatically from 2023 to 2024

Appropriations carried over from 2023 to 2024 totalled EUR 85,5 million.

Table 10 Appropriations carried over from 2023 to 2024 (by category, EUR)

Category	Budget 2023 (initial)	Budget 2023 (final (*))	Commitments	Payments 2023	Appropriations carried over to 2024	Carry over rate
	1	2	3	4	5=3-4	6=5/3
Establishment plan	386 034 757	386 034 757	376 150 669	375 688 750	461 919	0,1 %
Other staff expenditure	30 069 000	30 069 000	26 582 182	24 832 118	1 750 064	6,6 %
Buildings	59 203 000	61 147 000	60 776 095	42 478 242	18 297 853	30,1 %
Computer systems	52 823 000	56 140 000	56 128 630	26 632 905	29 495 724	52,6 %
Furniture	1 051 000	1 051 000	1 048 546	766 231	282 314	26,9 %
Technical equipment	3 577 000	3 326 000	3 268 758	1 234 242	2 034 516	62,2 %
Transport	2 080 000	2 430 000	2 382 015	1 868 009	514 005	21,6 %
Delegations' travel expenses	15 505 000	9 818 789	9 818 789	9 818 789		0,0 %
Interpreting costs	80 000 000	79 979 212	75 354 196	47 708 094	27 646 102	36,7 %
Meetings and conferences	7 090 000	7 340 000	6 668 752	5 322 317	1 346 434	20,2 %
Information	9 104 000	9 201 000	9 200 926	6 054 618	3 146 308	34,2 %

Category	Budget 2023 (initial)	Budget 2023 (final (*))	Commitments	Payments 2023	Appropriations carried over to 2024	Carry over rate
	1	2	3	4	5=3-4	6=5/3
Miscellaneous	1 372 000	1 372 000	1 156 841	611 384	545 457	47,2 %
Reserve						
Total (excl. acquisition)	647 908 757	647 908 757	628 536 397	543 015 700	85 520 696	13,6 %
Acquisition of immovable property						
Grand total	647 908 757	647 908 757	628 536 397	543 015 700	85 520 696	13,6 %

*) Includes internal reallocation of appropriations

The amounts carried over from 2023 to 2024 come mainly from the following categories:

- computer systems: EUR 29,5 million, of which EUR 18,9 million relates to outside assistance, EUR 8,5 million to the
 acquisition of equipment and software, EUR 1,6 million to IT services and maintenance and EUR 0,5 million to
 telecommunications;
- EUR 27,6 million to cover part of the cost of interpretation provided in 2023, for which invoices have not been yet agreed with the European Commission services at the time of the closure;
- buildings: EUR 18,3 million, of which various fitting-out works account for EUR 8,7 million, cleaning and maintenance EUR 3,5 million, security and health and safety EUR 2,0 million, water, gas, electricity and heating another EUR 1,8 million, works to make the premises secure EUR 1,7 million, and EUR 0,2 million of other expenditure related to buildings, e.g. building studies;
- EUR 3,1 million relates to information expenditure, of which EUR 2,2 million concerns information and public events, and EUR 0,9 million documentation and library expenditure;
- technical equipment: EUR 2,0 million, which corresponds mostly to the purchase and maintenance of audiovisual and conference equipment;
- other staff expenditure: EUR 1,8 million, mainly further training expenditure (EUR 0,5 million), mission expenses (including staff travel) (EUR 0,5 million), the medical service and childcare facilities (EUR 0,4 million) and support measures to assist staff (EUR 0,1 million);
- meetings and conferences: EUR 1,3 million, mostly relating to invoices not yet received for organising European Council
 and Council meetings and multilateral summits in 2023, in particular for catering (EUR 0,9 million);
- miscellaneous expenses: EUR 0,5 million, corresponding mostly to legal expenses (EUR 0,2 million), office supplies (EUR 0,2 million) and postal charges (EUR 0,04 million);
- transport: EUR 0,5 million, covering provision for rental and repair costs of the vehicle fleet;
- establishment plan: EUR 0,5 million, corresponding to non-salary related appropriations covering entitlements under the Staff Regulations related to entering the service, transfer and leaving the service (travel expenses, installation/removal allowances, etc.);

 furniture: EUR 0,3 million, corresponding mainly to purchases of furniture for meeting rooms and renewal of furniture stock.

E. Assigned revenue

I) Assigned revenue accrued before 2023

The total amount of assigned revenue accrued before 2023 was EUR 28,7 million.

Table 11 Implementation of assigned revenue accrued before 2023 (by category, EUR)

Category	Assigned revenues before 2023 (final (*))	Commitments 2023	Payments 2023	Outturn rate	Cancelled assigned revenues
	1	2	3	4=2/1	4=1-2
Establishment plan	1 034 691	1 034 691	900 000	100,0 %	
Other staff expenditure	1 327 867	1 327 840	1 321 335	100,0 %	26
Buildings	850 484	850 127	792 481	100,0 %	357
Computer systems	916 750	915 989	618 277	99,9 %	761
Furniture					
Technical equipment	10 953	10 953	10 532	100,0 %	
Transport	16 545	9 728	9 728	58,8 %	6 816
Delegations' travel expenses	13 041 050	13 041 050	13 041 050	100,0 %	
Interpreting costs	11 310 294	11 310 294	11 310 294	100,0 %	
Meetings and conferences	105 518	104 838	101 901	99,4 %	680
Information	100 005	99 97 5	46 590	100,0 %	30
Miscellaneous	40	40	40	100,0 %	
Total EC/C	28 714 196	28 705 525	28 152 228	100,0 %	8 672
SLAs with EEAS					
Grand total	28 714 196	28 705 525	28 152 228	100,0 %	8 672

^(*) Includes internal reallocation of appropriations

Of the total assigned revenue to the amount of EUR 28,71 million, EUR 28,70 million was duly committed in 2023. The remainder, EUR 0,01 million, was cancelled in accordance with Article 12(1) of the FR.

II) Assigned revenue accrued before 2023 and carried over for payment from 2022

The total amount of assigned revenue accrued before 2023 and carried over for payment from 2022 was EUR 1,5 million.

Table 12

Implementation of assigned revenue accrued before 2023 and carried over from 2022 for payment (by category, EUR)

Category	Assigned revenues carried over for payment from 2022	Payments 2023	Outturn rate	Cancelled assigned revenues
	1	2	4=2/1	4=1-2
Establishment plan	911 793	911 793	100,0 %	
Other staff expenditure	118 428	98 485	83,2 %	19 943
Buildings	20 494	13 139	64,1 %	7 355
Computer systems	291 067	286 012	98,3 %	5 055
Furniture				
Technical equipment	144	144	100,0 %	
Transport				
Delegations' travel expenses				
Interpreting costs	5 470	5 470	100,0 %	
Meetings and conferences				
Information	137 239	136 609	99,5 %	630
Miscellaneous	613	613	100,0 %	
Total EC/C	1 485 248	1 452 264	97,8 %	32 983
SLAs with EEAS				
Grand total	1 485 248	1 452 264	97,8 %	32 983

III) Assigned revenue accrued in 2022 and carried over to 2023 for payment

The total assigned revenue accrued in 2022, duly committed in 2022 but not paid and carried over to 2023 for payment, totalled EUR 0.2 million.

Table 13

Assigned revenue accrued in 2022 and carried over to 2023 for payment (by category, EUR)

Category	Assigned revenues carried over for payment from 2022	Payments 2023	Outturn rate	Cancelled assigned revenues	
	1	2	4=2/1		
Establishment plan					
Other staff expenditure	57 890	57 890	100,0 %		
Buildings					
Computer systems	6 399	6 138	95,9 %	261	
Furniture					
Technical equipment	11 965	11 965	100,0 %		
Transport					
Delegations' travel expenses					
Interpreting costs					
Meetings and conferences					
Information	140 272	132 431	94,4 %	7 842	
Miscellaneous					
Total EC/C	216 527	208 424	96,3 %	8 103	
SLAs with EEAS					
Grand total	216 527	208 424	96,3 %	8 103	

IV) Assigned revenue accrued before 2023 and carried over to 2024 for payment

The assigned revenue accrued before 2023, duly committed but not paid in 2023, totalled EUR 0,6 million and was carried over from 2023 to 2024 for payment.

Table 14

Assigned revenue accrued before 2023 and carried over to 2024 (by category, EUR)

Category	Assigned revenues before 2023 (final (*))	Commitments 2023	Payments 2023	Assigned revenues carried over to 2024	Carry over rate
	1	2	3	4=2-3	5=4/2
Establishment plan	1 034 691	1 034 691	900 000	134 691	13,0 %
Other staff expenditure	1 327 867	1 327 840	1 321 335	6 505	0,5 %
Buildings	850 484	850 127	792 481	57 646	6,8 %
Computer systems	916 750	915 989	618 277	297 712	32,5 %
Furniture					
Technical equipment	10 953	10 953	10 532	422	3,9 %
Transport	16 545	9 728	9 728		0,0 %
Delegations' travel expenses	13 041 050	13 041 050	13 041 050		0,0 %
Interpreting costs	11 310 294	11 310 294	11 310 294		0,0 %
Meetings and conferences	105 518	104 838	101 901	2 936	2,8 %
Information	100 005	99 97 5	46 590	53 385	53,4 %
Miscellaneous	40	40	40		0,0 %
Total EC/C	28 714 196	28 705 525	28 152 228	553 297	1,9 %
SLAs with EEAS					
Grand total	28 714 196	28 705 525	28 152 228	553 297	1,9 %

^(*) Includes internal reallocation of appropriations

The amounts carried over relate mainly to outside IT assistance (EUR 0,3 million), the establishment plan (EUR 0,1 million), building maintenance and recurrent fitting-out (EUR 0,06 million) and host broadcaster and video-streaming services (EUR 0,05 million).

V) Assigned revenue accrued in 2023

The total assigned revenue accrued in 2023 amounted to EUR 32,5 million.

Table 15

Implementation of assigned revenue accrued in 2023 (by category, EUR)

Category	Assigned revenues 2023 (final (*))	Commitments 2023	Payments 2023	Not committed	Available for payment
0 /	1	2	3	4=1-2	5=2-3
Establishment plan	1 495 175			1 495 175	
Other staff expenditure	1 751 275	468 607	273 010	1 282 668	195 597
Buildings	763 146	37 592	841	725 554	36 752
Computer systems	1 525 687	904 532	150	621 156	904 382
Furniture					
Technical equipment	21 427	4 830		16 596	4 830
Transport	2 275	2 27 5	2 275		
Delegations' travel expenses	13 494 011			13 494 011	
Interpreting costs	12 860 098	278 922	278 922	12 581 176	
Meetings and conferences	543 378	83 955	83 955	459 423	
Information	40 472			40 472	
Miscellaneous	26 179			26 179	
Total EC/C	32 523 124	1 780 713	639 152	30 742 411	1 141 561
SLAs with EEAS					
Grand total	32 523 124	1 780 713	639 152	30 742 411	1 141 561

^(*) Includes internal reallocation of appropriations

The assigned revenue in 2023 relating to the activities of the GSC amounted to EUR 32,5 million. During the financial year, EUR 1,8 million was committed, while EUR 30,7 million was carried over to 2024 in accordance with Article 12(4) of the Financial Regulation.

Around 41,5 % of the assigned revenue (EUR 13,5 million) relates to the balance of delegations' travel expenses after submission of their travel declarations. Another 39,5 % (EUR 12,9 million) corresponds to the payments made by Member States to cover interpretation exceeding their language envelope.

The remainder relates mainly to the reimbursement of amounts connected with various administrative operations at the Council, such as parental contributions to the Council crèche (EUR 1,0 million) in the category 'Other staff expenditure'.

COUNCIL USE OF THE APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2023

			002 01 1112	1111101111111111111	3 TON 2029				
	Budget line	Initial Appropriations	Transfers/ Amendments	Final Appropriations	Commitments	Payments	Carry Over by Right to	Carry Over by Decision to	Cancelled Appropriations
		2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2024	2024	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 = 3 - 5 - 6 - 7
1000	Basic salary	400 000,00		400 000,00	383 304,96	383 304,96			16 695,04
1001	Entitlements related to the post held	82 000,00		82 000,00	78 267,54	78 267,54			3 732,46
1002	Entitlements related to the personal circumstances	39 000,00		39 000,00	27 517,44	27 517,44			11 482,56
1003	Social security cover	20 000,00		20 000,00	14 495,76	14 495,76			5 504,24
1004	Other managements expenditure	1 478 000,00		1 478 000,00	560 308,19	433 180,09	127 128,10		917 691,81
100	Remuneration and other entitlements	2 019 000,00		2 019 000,00	1 063 893,89	936 765,79	127 128,10		955 106,11
7	Total Chapter 10 - Members of the Institution	2 019 000,00		2 019 000,00	1 063 893,89	936 765,79	127 128,10		955 106,11
1100	Basic salaries	288 855 757,00		288 855 757,00	285 649 909,71	285 649 909,71			3 205 847,29
1101	Entitlements under the Staff Regulations related to the post held	1 831 000,00	- 203 000,00	1 628 000,00	1 466 967,44	1 466 967,44			161 032,56
1102	Entitlements under the Staff Regulations related to the personal circumstances of the staff member	72 824 000,00	213 000,00	73 037 000,00	72 270 411,82	72 270 411,82			766 588,18
1103	Social security cover	11 934 000,00		11 934 000,00	11 627 393,38	11 627 393,38			306 606,62
1104	Salary weightings	153 000,00	- 50 000,00	103 000,00	95 213,91	95 213,91			7 786,09
1105	Overtime	1 290 000,00	- 390 000,00	900 000,00	788 482,83	788 482,83			111 517,17

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	Budget line	Initial Appropriations 2023	Transfers/ Amendments 2023	Final Appropriations 2023	Commitments 2023	Payments 2023	Carry Over by Right to 2024	Carry Over by Decision to 2024	Cancelled Appropriations
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 = 3 - 5 - 6 - 7
1300	Miscellaneous expenditure on recruitments	158 000,00		158 000,00	106 901,17	42 668,98	64 232,19		51 098,83
1301	Professional development	2 518 000,00		2 518 000,00	2 032 367,40	1 534 958,60	497 408,80		485 632,60
130	Expenditure relating to staff management	2 676 000,00		2 676 000,00	2 139 268,57	1 577 627,58	561 640,99		536 731,43
1310	Special assistance grants	25 000,00	- 2 560,00	22 440,00	1 199,62	1 199,62			21 240,38
1311	Social contacts between members of staff	133 000,00	22 560,00	155 560,00	154 660,00	132 935,97	21 724,03		900,00
1 3 1 2	Supplementary aid for the disables	250 000,00		250 000,00	250 000,00	159 885,42	90 114,58		
1313	Other welfare expenditure	74 000,00	- 20 000,00	54 000,00	53 640,50	29 775,58	23 864,92		359,50
131	Measures to assist the institution's staff	482 000,00		482 000,00	459 500,12	323 796,59	135 703,53		22 499,88
1 3 2 0	Medical service	720 000,00	- 265 000,00	455 000,00	385 949,87	258 329,55	127 620,32		69 050,13
1 3 2 2	Crèches and childcare facilities	2 956 000,00	448 368,00	3 404 368,00	3 373 518,34	3 114 468,34	259 050,00		30 849,66
1323	Interinstitutional cooperation in the field of personnel management	1 260 000,00	- 183 368,00	1 076 632,00	857 433,60	857 433,60			219 198,40
132	Activities relating to all persons working with the institution	4 936 000,00		4 936 000,00	4 616 901,81	4 230 231,49	386 670,32		319 098,19
1 3 3 1	Mission expenses of the Council Secretariat	2 855 000,00		2 855 000,00	2 552 142,61	2 218 947,76	333 194,85		302 857,39
1332	Travel expenses of staff related to the European Council	1 500 000,00		1 500 000,00	1 310 819,00	1 250 630,46	60 188,54		189 181,00

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	Budget line	Initial Appropriations	Transfers/ Amendments	Final Appropriations	Commitments	Payments	Carry Over by Right to	Carry Over by Decision to	Cancelled Appropriations
		2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2024	2024	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 = 3 - 5 - 6 - 7
2100	Acquisition of equipment and software	14 085 000,00	2 176 455,33	16 261 455,33	16 261 032,97	7 778 353,78	8 482 679,19		422,36
2101	Outside assistance for the operation and development of computer systems	29 376 000,00	2 455 941,06	31 831 941,06	31 820 993,11	12 920 814,58	18 900 178,53		10 947,95
2102	Servicing and maintenance of equipment and software	7 867 000,00	- 1 184 940,74	6 682 059,26	6 682 059,23	5 078 506,86	1 603 552,37		0,03
2103	Telecommunications	1 495 000,00	- 130 455,65	1 364 544,35	1 364 544,35	855 229,98	509 314,37		
210	Computer systems and telecommunications	52 823 000,00	3 317 000,00	56 140 000,00	56 128 629,66	26 632 905,20	29 495 724,46		11 370,34
2111	Purchase and replacement of furniture	990 000,00	50 000,00	1 040 000,00	1 039 990,53	762 658,58	277 331,95		9,47
2112	Rental, servicing, maintenance and repair of furniture	61 000,00	- 50 000,00	11 000,00	8 555,00	3 572,50	4 982,50		2 445,00
211	Furniture	1 051 000,00		1 051 000,00	1 048 545,53	766 231,08	282 314,45		2 454,47
2120	Purchase and replacement of technical equipment and installation	2 150 000,00	- 51 599,41	2 098 400,59	2 085 771,24	505 362,06	1 580 409,18		12 629,35
2121	Outside assistance for the operation and development of technical equipment and installations	100 000,00		100 000,00	95 000,00	71 802,30	23 197,70		5 000,00
2122	Rental, servicing, maintenance and repair of technical equipment and installations	1 327 000,00	- 199 400,59	1 127 599,41	1 087 986,63	657 077,81	430 908,82		39 612,78
212	Technical equipment and installation	3 577 000,00	- 251 000,00	3 326 000,00	3 268 757,87	1 234 242,17	2 034 515,70		57 242,13
2131	Purchase and replacement of the vehicle fleet								

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	Budget line	Initial Appropriations	Transfers/ Amendments	Final Appropriations	Commitments	Payments	Carry Over by Right to	Carry Over by Decision to	Cancelled Appropriations
		2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2024	2024	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8 = 3 - 5 - 6 - 7
2 2 3 0	Office supplies	398 000,00	31 595,00	429 595,00	429 027,67	200 619,21	228 408,46		567,33
2231	Postal charges	35 000,00	16 500,00	51 500,00	51 499,91	14 399,49	37 100,42		0,09
2232	Expenditure on studies, surveys and consultation	45 000,00	- 16 500,00	28 500,00	19 500,00	19 500,00			9 000,00
2 2 3 4	Removals	33 000,00	8 000,00	41 000,00	41 000,00	35 755,04	5 244,96		
2235	Financial charges	20 000,00		20 000,00	6 880,00	5 601,48	1 278,52		13 120,00
2236	Legal expenses and costs, damages and compensation	550 000,00		550 000,00	375 637,14	142 865,28	232 771,86		174 362,86
2237	Other operating expenditure	291 000,00	- 39 595,00	251 405,00	233 296,44	192 643,43	40 653,01		18 108,56
223	Miscellaneous expenses	1 372 000,00		1 372 000,00	1 156 841,16	611 383,93	545 457,23		215 158,84
	Total Chapter 22 - Operating expenditure	113 071 000,00	- 5 360 000,00	107 711 000,00	102 199 502,94	69 515 201,54	32 684 301,40		5 511 497,06
TOTAL TITLE 2 - Buildings, equipment and operating expenditure 231 80				231 805 000,00	225 803 545,70	142 494 831,64	83 308 714,06		6 001 454,30
	TOTAL BUDGET	647 908 757,00		647 908 757,00	628 536 396,59	543 015 700,29	85 520 696,30		19 372 360,41