



Coronavirus: Commission boosts budget for repatriation flights and rescEU stockpile

Brussels, 27 March 2020

Today, the European Commission has proposed to make €75 million from the EU budget available to help Member States repatriate EU nationals and to increase the budget of the RescEU medical stockpile.

Commissioner Johannes **Hahn**, in charge of the EU budget, said: "*Today's measure is yet another illustration of how the EU budget can add value when and where needed the most. It is also an illustration of European solidarity and cooperation at its best.*"

Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez **Lenarčič**, said: "*The safe return of our citizens is a priority. We are doing all we can to ensure they are reunited with their families as soon as possible during these difficult times. I would like to thank Member States for their efforts during this process. Our Emergency Response Coordination Centre continues working 24/7 with Member States in order to meet their requests.*"

Repatriation flights

Thanks to repatriation flights organised through the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and co-financed by the EU, [2,312 people have been already repatriated to Europe from China, Japan, the U.S., Morocco, Tunisia, Georgia, the Philippines and Cabo Verde since the beginning of the outbreak](#). More than 80 further repatriation flights are planned in the coming days.

Under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the EU contributes to the costs of repatriation flights that carry nationals of more than one Member State, based on a principle of solidarity.

RescEU stockpile

This European Commission proposal will increase the total budget of the first ever [rescEU stockpile of medical equipment](#) (ventilators, protective masks and essential medical gear) to €80 million.

Background

The Commission is putting forward a draft amending budget – a proposal to reorganise part of the EU spending for the year in line with the latest priorities – to secure funding for these operations.

The draft amending budget also foresees:

- **€350 million** of migration management assistance to Greece, to add to the extra **€350 million** emergency assistance already being deployed, in line with the [commitment](#) of President **von der Leyen** during her visit to Greece;
- **€3.6 million** for the the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control to enhance the capacity to identify, assess and communicate threats to human health from communicable diseases, and in particular to increase the expert capacity in the light of the coronavirus crisis;
- **€100 million** to help Albania recover from the devastating earthquake on 26 November 2019, part of the **€115 million** Commission pledge and the [total pledge of €1.15 billion](#);
- **€3.3 million** additional funding for the European Public Prosecutors' Office (EPPO) to boost its 2020 budget. The money will, for example, enable EPPO to recruit more quickly qualified staff and to buy IT equipment to start processing the first cases. Together with case-management support for EPPO mobilised already earlier this year, EPPO's total funding increase for 2020 is therefore at 48%.

Next steps

The European Parliament and the Council are now invited to approve the budgetary changes as quickly as possible, to make sure the money can go where the needs are the most pressing.

For more information

[European Commission coronavirus response webpage](#)

[Draft amending budget 1](#)

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