

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
DRAFT BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2017

DRAFT AMENDMENT*

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SECTION (delete options not used):

III: Commission

Heading: IV								
Line n°:22 04 77 XX								
Line Title: Pilot Project: SUPPORT TO EU NEIGHBOURS TO IMPLEMENT ASSET RECOVERY								
	Commission - DB 2017		Council - 2017		Amendment		New amounts	
	Commit.	Paym.	Commit.	Paym.	Commit.	Paym.	Commit.	Paym.
Appropriations							1.500.000	1.500.000
Reserve								

NOMENCLATURE (delete options not used):

Create the following new line: Pilot Project: SUPPORT TO EU NEIGHBOURS TO IMPLEMENT ASSET RECOVERY

REMARKS (delete options not used):

Add the following:

The proposed PP builds on successful practices implemented under the EU funded Preparatory Action to Support Arab Spring Countries to Implement Asset Recovery (hereafter the 'PA'). The PA focussed on supporting Egypt, Libya and Tunisia in furthering asset recovery cases resulting from the 2011 revolutions that toppled their former leaders, in particular with respect to bilateral judicial cooperation with EU Member States and other countries. This has resulted in, among other achievements, strengthened coordination between Arab Spring countries and EU Member States on asset recovery, and in facilitating the recovery and return of over 300 million US dollars. In light of the above, officials from EU Member States and high-level officials of the original beneficiary States (including the Prime Minister of Libya, the Prosecutor General of Egypt and the Minister of State Property for Tunisia) have indicated a strong interest in seeing a broader, more permanent, EU Programme to Implement Asset Recovery, to include the activities mentioned above. (Please see "Main Activities").

1. Strengthening regional platforms for dialogue, exchange of best practices and operational cooperation (particularly with EU counterparts) on asset recovery;
2. Strengthening legislation on seizure and confiscation of assets linked to corruption;
3. Specialized case mentoring for asset recovery practitioners, to produce better operational practices in tracing and recovering stolen assets;
4. Technical advice to ensure that recovered stolen assets are directed to high-priority development needs in national health and education sectors to help further stabilize EU Neighbours;
5. Technical advice to ensure greater operational harmonization with both EU and FATF standards;
6. Diffusion of evidence-based research to enhance widespread knowledge of how assets are corruptly diverted and stolen, and to educate policymakers on how development is impeded by delays in the recovery of assets; and
7. Strengthening civil society's role in prioritizing the final destination of recovered assets.

* Amendment has to be sent by mail budg-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu and signed version by fax (49012)

Important Note: The planned DEVCO Global Project to combat Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (CRIS number: 038875) focuses principally on AML/CFT, while this Action focuses principally on asset recovery and continuing the work of assisting beneficiary countries in actual high-level cases linked to acts of corruption and other forms of organized criminal activity. Accordingly, this project is distinct in nature, but will serve as a useful complement to (and strengthened impact of) the DEVCO project.

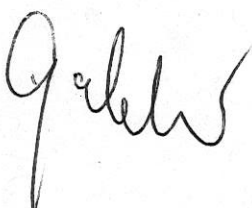
Given the value of asset recovery work in contributing to stabilization among EU neighbours, the ownership taken up by national counterparts and the results achieved thus far through the expertise provided through the preliminary PA, this Action will be highly relevant to Tunisia and Libya, as well as to other ENP South Partner countries (Jordan and Lebanon). Egypt will be involved in region-wide activities. The Action, while distinct in scope to other pending or planned projects, will also serve to reinforce and complement such efforts to assist these countries in combating corruption, money laundering, the financing of terrorism and other forms of organised crime. This Action will also directly support existing EU and UN sanctions regimes affecting countries in the MENA Region

- JUSTIFICATION -

(This **must** be filled in)

NB: Max. 500 characters.

The PP broadens the successful work done through the EU-funded project for Arab Spring countries on Asset Recovery (which facilitated the recovery of over 300 million US dollars in stolen assets). This Action expands the work to Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Tunisia, with Egypt also being involved on regional activities; The Action also will strengthen coordination with EU Member States, and will help these countries to direct recovered stolen assets, to high-priority development needs (e.g., in the health in education sectors), thus further stabilizing these EU neighbours.


(H. Fehler)


(J. Iou)


(A. Gomer)