



LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS FISKĀLĀS DISCIPLĪNAS PADOME

Reģ.nr. 90010248231; Smilšu ielā 1-512, Rīgā, LV-1919
tālrunis: (+371) 6708 3650; e-pasts: info@fdp.gov.lv; mājaslapa: http://fdp.gov.lv

RĪGĀ

29.08.2018. _____ Nr. 1-08/1049 _____

Uz _____ Nr. _____

Prime Minister
Republic of Latvia
Māris Kučinskis
vk@mk.gov.lv

Chairman of the Budget and Finance (Tax) Committee
Saeima of the Republic of Latvia
Jānis Vucāns
budzeta.komisija@saeima.lv

Minister of Finance
Republic of Latvia
Dana Reizniece-Ozola
pasts@fm.gov.lv

Dear Mister Kučinskis,
Dear Mister Vucāns,
Dear Madam Reizniece-Ozola,

Non-conformity report regarding the maximum expenditure ceilings

According to Part 1, Section 28 of the Fiscal Discipline Law, the Fiscal Discipline Council (hereafter – Council) shall monitor whether the medium term budget framework law and the annual state budget law are prepared and implemented in compliance with the fiscal rules stipulated in the Fiscal Discipline Law.

According to Article 29 Part 2 the Council shall prepare a non-conformity report, including recommendations for the rectification of non-conformities if the Council detects infringements of the Fiscal Discipline Law. The non-conformity report shall be prepared as soon as the non-conformity has been detected, submitted to the Cabinet and Saeima, and published on the website of the Council and of the Ministry of Finance.

During the Cabinet meeting that took place on 28 August 2018 the Cabinet discussed an agenda item that foresees the redistribution of 1 287 700 euro within the budget sub-programme 20.01.00. "State Social Benefits". These funds will be allocated among the social groups as it is envisaged not to reach the planned number of beneficiaries of benefits in the group of invalids requiring special care, redistributed the saved balance as a one-off benefit to another group of

social benefits – politically repressed persons and members of the national resistance movement.

The Council took into account calculations of the Ministry of Finance for budget expenditures for state social benefits in order to determine the maximum amount of state budget expenditures for 2018. Any expenditure savings resulting from the budget categories listed under the Article 5(1) of the Fiscal Discipline Law requires a revision of the specified ceilings, thus redistributing appropriations through savings in these items of expenditure creates a breach of the Fiscal Discipline Law.

Article 8 of the Fiscal Discipline Law stipulates that amendments to the budget should be accompanied by a re-assessment of the corrected state budget expenditure ceilings in the cases stipulated by the Article 5 of the Fiscal Discipline Law.

Article 5 (1-1) of the Fiscal Discipline Law stipulates that this applies to cases when there are changes to basic budget expenditure in relation to more current forecasts for the contingent of beneficiaries of the state social benefits and pensions.

According to Article 9 (2) of the Fiscal Discipline Law, if the Cabinet adopts a regulatory enactment which causes budget expenditure to exceed state budget expenditure ceiling established in the Medium-term Budget Framework Law that is related to the cases referred to in Section 5, Part 1 of the Fiscal Discipline Law, or causes a decrease of planned state budget revenues, the Cabinet shall ensure that a regulatory enactment or regulatory enactments come into force concurrently, which compensate the increase in expenditure or decrease in revenues.

The Council can not agree with the view that the reallocation of appropriations is permissible in the sense of Latvian law as redistribution results in the modification of the appropriations covered by the provisions of Chapter II of the Fiscal Discipline Law.

In view of the above, the Council finds the decision made during the Cabinet meeting on 28 August to reallocate saved funds from the Ministry of Welfare's budget sub-programme "State Social Benefits" not compliant with the requirements of the Fiscal Discipline Law. The decision to allocate additional funds reducing any appropriation that has flexibility clauses established in the Article 5 (1) of the Fiscal Discipline Law is causing allocation in excess of the expenditure ceilings stipulated in the Medium-term Budget Framework Law.

In order to rectify the non-conformity created on 28 August 2018 the Council recommends the following:

1. The Cabinet should prepare and adopt legislative acts that would fully compensate the decision to allocate an additional 1 287 700 euro over the maximum allowable amount of state budget expenditure fixed in the 2018 budget for the corrected medium-term budgetary framework.
2. The Cabinet should not consider proposals to reallocate the expenditure savings achieved under the categories outlined in Article 5(1) of the Fiscal Discipline Law and thus exceed maximum permissible state budget expenditures for 2018 and further years stipulated in the medium-term budget framework.

Chairman of the Council

Jānis Platais