



2019/2028(BUD)

4.9.2019

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020
(2019/2028(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Antonio Tajani

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the proposed increase in funding for communication actions by 1,9% in commitment appropriations and 2,2% in payment appropriations, as compared to the 2019 budget. Communication with citizens should be fostered in order to ensure a broad public debate and citizens' involvement in the discussion on the future of Europe; recalls the benefits demonstrated by similar citizen consultation events already held in EU Member States;
2. Welcomes therefore the proposed increase of funding of Communication of the Commission Representations', Citizens' Dialogue and 'Partnership' actions by 8,8% in commitment appropriations and 7,9% in payment appropriations; regrets however the Council's position to reduce funding for communication activities;
3. Emphasises the need to continue efforts to fight fake news and disinformation with proper levels of financing for these activities, while ensuring adequate interinstitutional cooperation;
4. Welcomes the proposed increases of 3,1% in commitment appropriations, but regrets the decrease of 3,8% in payment appropriations for the 'Europe for Citizens' programme (budget line: 18 04 01 01); condemns the Council for its position to reduce by 4,4% the commitments appropriations for that aim considering that this programme is of key institutional importance for fostering a democratic Union; welcomes the 5,3% increase in commitment appropriations and 21,3% in payment appropriations for the "Rights, Equality and Citizenship" programme (budget line: 33 02 01) but regrets the Council position to reduce by 3,5% the commitment appropriations; welcomes the fact that a dedicated amount is allocated for the budgetary line of the European Citizens Initiative (ECI);
5. Underlines the need to provide the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat with sufficient and adequate administrative and financial means in order to fulfil its tasks, as it plays a key role in ensuring fair and transparent activities of interest representatives;
6. Calls on the Commission to make the necessary proposals to fund the proposed Conference on the Future of Europe; points out that the Conference should be able to function with the necessary degree of autonomy and the involvement of the European Parliament on equal footing with the other European institutions; underlines furthermore that the Conference should allow for the participation and engagement of a broad range of citizens including young people;
7. Considers that the EU needs to build more knowledge and trust among citizens in the EU budget and its added value, by providing budgetary analysis for every new programme and new task in terms of savings made at national level and added value generated at the EU level; believes that by doing so, we can win the support of the EU citizens and Member States, change the mind-set regarding the EU budget contributions

and contribute to furthering the European project.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	3.9.2019
Result of final vote	+: 21 -: 3 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Martina Anderson, Gerolf Annemans, Catherine Bearder, Gabriele Bischoff, Damian Boeselager, Richard Corbett, Pascal Durand, Daniel Freund, Charles Goerens, Maria Grapini, Brice Hortefeux, Laura Huhtasaari, Giuliano Pisapia, Paulo Rangel, Antonio Maria Rinaldi, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Antonio Tajani, László Trócsányi, Guy Verhofstadt, Loránt Vincze
Substitutes present for the final vote	Vladimír Bilčík, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Othmar Karas, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

21	+
GUE/NGL	Martina Anderson
PPE	Vladimír Bilčík, Brice Hortefeux, Othmar Karas, Paulo Rangel, Antonio Tajani, László Trócsányi, Loránt Vincze
RENEW	Catherine Bearder, Pascal Durand, Charles Goerens, Guy Verhofstadt
S&D	Gabriele Bischoff, Richard Corbett, Maria Grapini, Miapetra Kumpula Natri, Giuliano Pisapia, Domènec Ruiz Devesa
VERTS/ALE	Damian Boeselager, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Daniel Freund

3	-
ID	Gerolf Annemans, Laura Huhtasaari, Antonio Maria Rinaldi

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention