



**2019/2028(BUD)**

24.7.2019

# **DRAFT 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

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## 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.
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.
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; condemns the Council for its position to reduce by 4,4% the commitments appropriations for that aim. Welcomes the 5,3% increase in commitment appropriations and 21,3% in payment appropriations for the "Rights, Equality and Citizenship" programme 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. Calls on the Commission to make the necessary proposals to fund the proposed Conference on the Future of Europe.