



2015/2132(BUD)

1.9.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for
the financial year 2016
(2015/2132(BUD))

Rapporteur: Cristian Dan Preda

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign 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 increase in commitment and payment appropriations in Heading 4, Global Europe, compared to the preceding year, which should give the means to the European Union to uphold and promote its values and interests and contribute to the protection of its citizen in its relations with the wider world; notes in particular the importance of the considerably increased payments, which will help deal with the substantial backlog that has accumulated in recent years; therefore strongly opposes the cuts proposed by Council to commitment and payment appropriations;
2. Emphasises the particular importance of providing sufficient funding for the European Neighbourhood Instrument, which plays a vital role in supporting stability among Europe's Eastern and Southern neighbours; strongly welcomes the 4.9% increase in commitment appropriations compared to last year; notes critically the severe cuts applied to the ENI by Council and stresses the urgent need to increase appropriations by a substantial margin to meet the needs of the countries covered by the instrument; stresses the critical nature of the problems affecting Libya and Tunisia and the importance of providing more support to contribute to capacity-building for its institutions, justice reform, security sector reform and border assistance;
3. Underlines the importance of increasing commitments and payments in the 2016 budget to fight terrorism;
4. Stresses that the defence of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the promotion of democracy is a matter of vital importance in the current global environment and symbolic of the Union's commitments to its core values; emphasises that the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights is an essential tool in this regard, which needs to be provided with adequate funding;
5. Notes the conclusions of the European Council of 25 June 2015; stresses that the CFSP entails strong commitments to visibility and flexibility, notably to the development of civilian and military capacities, to reinforcing the defence industry and to SMEs; to that end, strongly welcomes the Council's readiness to ensure appropriate funding for the preparatory action on CSDP related research, paving the way for a dedicated and well-funded defence research and technology program in the next MFF;
6. Underlines the importance of budgeting sufficient funds for the Middle East Peace Process, the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA in order to meet the needs on the ground, which have increased in recent years due to multiple regional crises; emphasises the need to address the regular under-planning of EU financial support to UNRWA in the EU budget;
7. Appreciates the ongoing reflection process taking place in the EEAS on the future of EU Special Representatives and their relationship with the EEAS; considers that any change to the budget line for EU Special Representatives should only take place after the current reflection process is concluded;

8. Supports the EEAS' plan to open an EU delegation in Iran in the wake of the successful conclusion of the nuclear talks.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	31.8.2015
Result of final vote	+: 44 -: 7 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Michèle Alliot-Marie, Elmar Brok, Klaus Buchner, James Carver, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Lorenzo Cesa, Arnaud Danjean, Mark Demesmaecker, Georgios Epitideios, Knut Fleckenstein, Eugen Freund, Michael Gahler, Iveta Grigule, Sandra Kalniete, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Janusz Korwin-Mikke, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Arne Lietz, Barbara Lochbihler, Sabine Lösing, Andrejs Mamikins, David McAllister, Tamás Meszerics, Demetris Papadakis, Alojz Peterle, Tonino Picula, Andrej Plenković, Cristian Dan Preda, Jozo Radoš, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Jaromír Štětina, Charles Tannock, Eleni Theoharous, László Tőkés, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Geoffrey Van Orden
Substitutes present for the final vote	Daniel Caspary, Neena Gill, Ana Gomes, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Othmar Karas, Javi López, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Norbert Neuser, Urmas Paet, Gilles Pargneaux, Helmut Scholz
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Heidi Hautala, Jutta Steinruck