



21.6.2018

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the mandate for the trilogue on the 2019 draft budget  
(2018/2024(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Highlights the important role that both agriculture and rural development play in delivering a number of EU objectives in the fields of food security, sustainable economic growth, animal welfare, job creation, forestry, climate change, innovation, and territorial and environmental balance; stresses the fact that agriculture and rural development constitute an important part of the overall EU budget, and underlines the need for sustained funding of those areas; recalls that spending on agriculture has declined and that budgetary reductions to the CAP may have negative effects, compromising the monitoring and control process and jeopardising the fulfilment of CAP objectives;
2. Stresses that it is essential that funds earmarked for research in the agri-food sector, in particular from the Horizon 2020 budget, remain fully available as such in order to stimulate innovation in the agricultural sector;
3. Advocates stability in the agriculture budget, and hence strongly opposes any cuts to it in the 2019 budget, especially in view of the serious crises and price volatility experienced by the agricultural sector in recent years;
4. Calls on the Member States to step up their contributions to the Union budget in order to ensure stability and avert the possibility of future crises in the agricultural sector;
5. Highlights the need for a fairer distribution of CAP direct aid between countries and between large, small and medium-sized farms;
6. Notes that the frequency of crises and increased price volatility indicate the need for a higher budget for agriculture;
7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to monitor, in a timely way, the price volatility of agricultural products, which has adverse effects on farmers' incomes, and to react promptly and effectively when needed, giving farmers the option of combating such price volatility directly;
8. Stresses the need to reverse the long-term trend of falling farmers' incomes seen in recent decades;
9. Expresses its concern and disappointment, having noted the difficulties experienced by producers in finding new markets, at the Commission's decision to end support measures from 30 June 2018 for the sectors adversely affected by the Russian veto, which, in effect, amounts to penalising these sectors for events beyond their control;
10. Urges the Commission to constantly renew its efforts to identify new market outlets;
11. Underscores the importance of developing new markets in maintaining competitiveness and increasing the resistance of European agriculture to market crises such as in the

case of the Russian embargo; calls, therefore, for financial support to be given to new market opportunities;

12. Calls on the Commission to adopt a decision prolonging aid for those affected by the embargo imposed by Russia before adopting its draft legislation on the 2019 budget or, at the latest, prior to the amending letter in autumn;
13. Expresses concern at the consequences that any failure of the ongoing negotiations on the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union might have for the 2019 budget;
14. Draws attention to the volume of food imports currently destined for the UK market that will subsequently have to be absorbed within the single market;
15. Calls on the Commission to support sustainable agriculture tailored to EU markets and to encourage the use of safe and environmentally friendly alternatives to pesticides and to step up support for such solutions in 2019 accordingly;
16. Questions once more the value of the current crisis reserve and financial discipline mechanism, which, in the case of the 2019 budget, will again simply create an administrative burden; notes that European agriculture has increasingly been exposed to crises in recent years; urges, therefore, the Commission to look into introducing a multiannual reserve that is independent from direct payments and deals with overheating markets and severe crises;
17. Points out that market organisations must guarantee targeted quantity control in order to avoid surplus production;
18. Urges the Member States and the Commission to strengthen support measures for young farmers in 2019, to enhance generational renewal, which remains at a low level and has a long-term impact on European agriculture; points out that the insufficient generational renewal is caused, among other factors, by the lack of a fair and viable return from farming; considers it important, therefore, to simplify and reduce the bureaucratic obstacles encountered by young people and to promote the good practices successfully implemented in a number of Member States that can demonstrably contribute to generational renewal;
19. Highlights the importance of investing in new technologies and innovation in order to make European farming more competitive and environmentally sustainable; calls, in this regard, on the Commission to design an agricultural budget particularly focused on farmers' needs and policy goals with a higher uptake of smart and innovative practices that will assure the viability of EU farming in the long-term.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	20.6.2018
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 35 -: 1 0: 7
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	John Stuart Agnew, Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Eric Andrieu, Richard Ashworth, José Bové, Daniel Buda, Nicola Caputo, Matt Carthy, Michel Dantin, Paolo De Castro, Albert Deß, Diane Dodds, Jørn Dohrmann, Herbert Dorfmann, Norbert Erdős, Luke Ming Flanagan, Karine Gloanec Maurin, Beata Gosiewska, Martin Häusling, Esther Herranz García, Jan Huitema, Peter Jahr, Ivan Jakovčić, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Norbert Lins, Philippe Loiseau, Mairead McGuinness, Giulia Moi, Ulrike Müller, Maria Noichl, Marijana Petir, Bronis Ropè, Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Marc Tarabella, Maria Gabriela Zoană, Marco Zullo
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Franc Bogovič, Karin Kadenbach, Elsi Katainen, Anthea McIntyre, Momchil Nekov, Miguel Viegas
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Krzysztof Hetman

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

35	+
ALDE	Ivan Jakovčić, Elsi Katainen, Ulrike Müller
ECR	Jørn Dohrmann, Beata Gosiewska, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Anthea McIntyre
ENF	Philippe Loiseau
NI	Diane Dodds
PPE	Richard Ashworth, Franc Bogovič, Daniel Buda, Michel Dantin, Albert Deß, Herbert Dorfmann, Norbert Erdős, Krzysztof Hetman, Peter Jahr, Norbert Lins, Mairead McGuinness, Marijana Petir, Czesław Adam Siekierski
S&D	Clara Eugenia Aguilera García, Eric Andrieu, Nicola Caputo, Paolo De Castro, Karine Gloanec Maurin, Karin Kadenbach, Momchil Nekov, Maria Noichl, Marc Tarabella, Maria Gabriela Zoană
Verts/ALE	José Bové, Martin Häusling, Bronis Ropé

1	-
EFDD	John Stuart Agnew

7	0
ALDE	Jan Huitema
EFDD	Giulia Moi, Marco Zullo
GUE/NGL	Matt Carthy, Luke Ming Flanagan, Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez, Miguel Viegas

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention