



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development*

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**2014/2040(BUD)**

23.7.2014

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015 - all sections  
(2014/2040(BUD))

Rapporteur: Peter Jahr

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes that, given the ceiling imposed by the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for Heading 2, major categories of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) spending are likely, in practice, to be cut in 2015, including direct payments, market measures and rural development;
2. Notes that under the Draft Budget (DB) the Heading 2 budget will see a cut of 0,1% in commitments and a slight increase of 0,5% in payments respectively in 2015 relative to 2014;
3. Notes that under DB 2015 funding for rural development under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) will be cut by 0,8% in payments;
4. Insists, in this context, that the Council respect its promises to provide sufficient payment appropriations in the 2015 budgetary procedure to allow the Union to meet its outstanding commitments, if necessary via a third draft amending budget to be presented by the Commission;
5. Points out that the MFF allocation does not account for any inflation; asks that Heading 2 should be adjusted according to the deflator;
6. Reiterates that measures to bring the level of unpaid commitments under control are a precondition for making a successful start to the programming period for 2014-2020;
7. Notes that, while the budget for direct payments and market measures under the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) will be increased in 2015 by 0,2% relative to 2014, for both commitments and payments, the Commission must explain how to meet increased needs associated to the phasing-in of direct payments in the EU-12 and the creation of the fund for agricultural crises;
8. Regrets the cuts in the operational funds for producer organisations in excess of EUR 3,3 million in both commitments and payments and also in aid to producer groups for preliminary recognition of EUR 1 million; insists that both cuts will be reversed;
9. Regrets the cut of EUR 481 289 for the school milk programme and the cut of EUR 900 073 for the school fruit programme, as both programmes have proven to be useful and efficient within the Member States; asks to increase the fund for both programmes to previous levels; asks that both programmes are designed to be less bureaucratic and more user friendly;
10. Points out, that due to the application of the 'financial discipline' mechanism, a large number of the Union's farmers will suffer a cut in direct payments paid out in the 2015 financial year;

11. Calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that funds allocated to the Reserve for crises in the agricultural sector in the 2015 budget which are subsequently left unspent are made available in full as direct payments in the following budgetary year;
12. Calls on the Commission and Member States to monitor the significant price volatility of agricultural products, which has adverse effects on farmers' incomes, and to react promptly and effectively when needed;
13. Regrets the cut in funds to support beekeeping, as Parliament has consistently viewed beekeeping as a priority for the future of agriculture;
14. Points out, that resources provided must fulfil the objectives of increasing the competitiveness and sustainability of European agriculture;
15. Calls for the full alignment in sum of direct payments and rural development payments in the EU-28 as soon as possible.