



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Budgets

2014/2219(INI)

22.1.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on the annual report from the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the European Parliament
(2014/2219(INI))

Rapporteur: Indrek Tarand

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes that CFSP budgetary appropriations in 2013 amounted to EUR 396 million in commitments and EUR 316 million in payments, with respective increases of 9.5 % and 4.6 % compared to 2012; notes, however, that CFSP expenditure remains at 4 % of commitments and 4.9 % of payments for the whole of Heading 4 in 2013;
2. Underlines the negative consequences of the generalised payments shortfalls of the EU budget for the CFSP, especially for civilian missions and the Instrument for Stability; highlights, furthermore, the fact that the lack of payments is also affecting other external financing instruments, including humanitarian aid, thus seriously undermining their implementation;
3. Recalls that the Lisbon Treaty has provided for new instruments for raising CFSP funds, notably Permanent Structured Cooperation (Article 46 TEU) and the start-up fund for the initial phase of missions, which cannot be financed otherwise (Article 41 TEU); regrets that such tools have never been used;
4. Stresses the importance of improving the fast response capability of EU battle groups by increasing the proportion of common costs within the Athena mechanism, thereby balancing burden sharing among participating states; notices that the ‘costs lie where they fall’ criterion impedes the fast implementation of CFSP military missions, since Member States are extremely reluctant to take the lead in operations under such conditions;
5. Reiterates the importance of transparent information on costs for CFSP missions; stresses that Athena does not provide a full overview of military expenses; welcomes the idea of reviewing the Athena financing mechanism, as proposed in the European Council’s conclusions of December 2013, with a view to rendering it more transparent and efficient;
6. Recalls the need to foster synergies between Member States in order to raise cost efficiency and, thus, the added value of EU action; stresses the importance of pooling and sharing capabilities such as transportation, cyber defence, medical support and training; recalls that this could save billions of euros annually, as 80 % of defence expenditure is still made at national level only;
7. Insists that more flexibility is needed in managing the EU’s financial rules in order to enable faster and more efficient response by the Union to crises, as well as with a view to the efficient and timely conduct of the CSDP missions such as those in Libya, Mali, Ukraine, Georgia and Kosovo; welcomes, in this context, the transfer of ‘common administrative costs’ relating to Commission delegation staff from Section III (Commission) to Section X (EEAS) in the 2015 budget, the aim being simplification of the management of the EU delegations;
8. Stresses the need for better organisation and rationalisation of the senior EEAS management and for streamlining the work of the EU delegations network; calls for further improvements in coordination between EU delegations and diplomatic

representations of Member States;

9. Insists on adoption of the transfer of the budget lines for European Union Special Representatives from Section III (Commission) to Section X (EEAS) in the 2016 budget procedure, in accordance with the proposal made by the High Representative and supported by Parliament.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	20.1.2015
Result of final vote	+ : 27 - : 2 0 : 3
Members present for the final vote	Jean Arthuis, Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, Jean-Paul Denanot, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Ingeborg Gräßle, Monika Hohlmeier, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Ernest Maragall, Clare Moody, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Liadh Ní Riada, Pina Picierno, Patricija Šulin, Paul Tang, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Marco Valli, Monika Vana, Daniele Viotti, Marco Zanni
Substitutes present for the final vote	Tamás Deutsch, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Georgios Kyrtos, Andrey Novakov, Andrej Plenković, Ivan Štefanec