



2015/2095(INI)

4.9.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration
(2015/2095(INI))

Rapporteur: Gérard Deprez

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the Commission's adoption of an ambitious EU migration agenda; regrets that the European Council, aside from its declarations, does not have the same level of ambition and is failing to support the Commission;
2. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to introduce a mechanism for the relocation of 40 000 people over the course of 2016 and 2017, at a total cost of EUR 240 000 000; supports the efforts made by some Member States that have accepted the number proposed by the Commission and in some cases even more, while deploring the fact that owing to the unwillingness of some Member States the figure of 40 000 persons has still not been reached;
3. Welcomes, further, the Commission's recommendation concerning a resettlement programme and the additional EUR 50 000 000 set aside for this purpose in 2015 and 2016; stresses that the amount set aside should correspond to real needs depending on future migration flows and therefore should be adapted accordingly;
4. Applauds the decision to increase the appropriations for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) by EUR 57 000 000 in the fifth draft amending budget for 2015 and by more than EUR 169 000 000 (EUR 171 900 000 after reprogramming) in the 2016 draft budget; criticises, however, the fact that while the funding set aside for the strengthening and development of a common EU asylum system is to be increased by more than EUR 174 000 000 (EUR 161 694 285 after reprogramming), funding for legal migration and integration and better, fairer and more effective repatriation strategies is to be cut by nearly EUR 5 000 000 (+ EUR 9 985 847 after reprogramming);
5. Calls on the Commission to provide as accurate an assessment as possible of the appropriations needed for AMIF over the period to 2020 and, on that basis, to present a proposal for an increase in the heading 3 appropriations and, if necessary, an adjusted allocation among the various implementing programmes in the context of the revision of the multiannual financial framework, due by the end of 2016; stresses also the need for such funding to have genuine European added value rather than simply supporting existing national programmes;
6. Makes clear its intention to modify the budgetary nomenclature of AMIF in an effort to make it more transparent and make it easier to monitor the allocation of annual appropriations among the various implementing programmes and instruments; calls for a greater flexibility margin for this fund in the future;
7. Welcomes the increase of EUR 41 245 000 in funding for Frontex in the 2016 draft budget; calls for reliable statistics to be provided on the cost of the Triton and Poseidon; regrets that, eleven years after its establishment in Warsaw, the headquarters agreement between Frontex and the Polish Government has still not been signed, thereby preventing agency staff from working under optimum conditions; calls on the Commission to provide

more information on the proposed amendment to the part of Frontex's mandate relating to the organisation of repatriation;

8. Acknowledges that the Council did not cut the main lines of AMIF and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) in heading 3, underlining that an increase would be needed; criticises, however, the reductions in the migration and asylum line under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) (-EUR 200 000 in commitment appropriations, -EUR 5 million in payment appropriations), and in the poverty reduction lines for both Mediterranean countries (-EUR 50 million in payment appropriations) and the Eastern Partnership (-EUR 12 million in payment appropriations) and more generally for the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA); believes that the proposed cuts are counterproductive in relation to the general management strategy for future migration flows;
9. Stresses that the European Asylum Support Office will be called upon to play a greater role in asylum management in future; points out that the addition of just four people to its staff complement is nowhere near enough, and that the funding, not including assigned revenue, allocated to it in the 2016 draft budget has been reduced at a time when real needs dictate that it should be increased;
10. Acknowledges the role of Europol in countering human trafficking and more specifically its activities in combating criminal networks, which requires additional staff in at least three newly established hot spots; points out that the addition of just three people to its establishment plan is not sufficient to fulfil these extremely demanding tasks, and that the funding allocated to it in the 2016 draft budget does not ensure sufficient resources to perform these tasks in an adequate manner;
11. Stresses that staff at the JHA agencies must not be reduced or automatically redeployed; calls for a genuine medium- and long-term strategy to be drawn up for these agencies;
12. Welcomes the planned increase in funding for asylum and immigration in the 2016 draft budget; stresses that unspent money may be transferred to other budget lines to address unforeseen challenges and developments such as those outlined in the European Agenda for Migration;
13. Considers it essential to keep a close eye on the use made of all funding related to immigration, in particular with regard to contracting and subcontracting procedures, in view of a number of instances of fraud and mismanagement that have occurred in the Member States.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	3.9.2015
Result of final vote	+: 23 -: 4 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Nedzhmi Ali, Jonathan Arnott, Lefteris Christoforou, Jean-Paul Denant, Gérard Deprez, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Carlos Iturgaiz, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Ernest Maragall, Clare Moody, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Liadh Ní Riada, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Paul Tang, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Inese Vaidere, Daniele Viotti, Marco Zanni
Substitutes present for the final vote	Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Andrey Novakov, Nils Torvalds, Tomáš Zdechovský
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Anthea McIntyre, Tatjana Ždanoka