



27.4.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (Eurofound), and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75
(COM(2016)0531 – C8-0342/2016 – 2016/0256(COD))

Rapporteur: Jens Geier

PA_Legam

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Commission proposed the present draft Regulation in order to align certain provisions of the existing Regulation governing Eurofound with the Common Approach on Decentralised Agencies. The revision also offers the opportunity to update the objectives and tasks of Eurofound.

The other two so-called tripartite Agencies of the European Union, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) are undergoing a revision of their respective Founding Regulations at the same time as Eurofound.

The budgetary implications in terms of human and financial resources, as presented in more detail in the Legislative Financial Statement, are in line with Commission Communication (2013)519.

The Rapporteur proposes to amend certain provisions relating to the cooperation between the tripartite Agencies, with a view of enhancing this cooperation.

Further, the Rapporteur proposes to introduce a representative designated by the European Parliament into the Management Board of the Agency, to replace one Commission representative. This approach is in line with the Joint Statement of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on decentralised agencies of 19 July 2012.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) As the three so-called tripartite agencies, the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (Eurofound), the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) address issues related to the labour market and working environment and vocational education and training and skills, close coordination among the three Agencies is required and ways to enhance

Amendment

(5) As the three so-called tripartite agencies, the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (Eurofound), the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) address issues related to the labour market and working environment and vocational education and training and skills, close coordination among the three Agencies is required and ways to enhance

efficiency and synergies should be exploited. In addition, where relevant, the Agency should seek to engage in efficient cooperation with the European Commission's in-house research capacities.

efficiency and synergies should be exploited. ***In particular, sharing or pooling of administrative tasks between these agencies is envisaged and the agencies should adopt their respective annual work programmes in close co-operation with one another, in order to avoid overlaps.*** In addition, where relevant, the Agency should seek to engage in efficient cooperation with the European Commission's in-house research capacities.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 6 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(6a) The Agency's budget should be prepared in accordance with the principle of performance-based budgeting taking into account its objectives and expected results.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Article 2 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2. In carrying out its tasks, the Agency shall maintain a close dialogue particularly with specialised bodies, whether public or private, public authorities and workers' and employers' organisations. ***The Agency, without prejudice to its own aims, shall ensure cooperation with other European Union Agencies aimed at avoiding overlaps and promoting synergy and complementarity in their activities, in particular with the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training and, where relevant, with other***

2. In carrying out its tasks, the Agency shall maintain a close dialogue particularly with specialised bodies, whether public or private, public authorities and workers' and employers' organisations.

EU Agencies.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2a. The Agency, without prejudice to its own aims, shall cooperate with other Union agencies, in particular with the European Training Foundation, the European Institute for Gender Equality, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, in order to achieve coordination and financial savings, and to avoid duplication and promote synergy and complementarity in their activities.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation

Article 2 – paragraph 2 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

2b. The Agency shall conclude cooperation agreements with other relevant Union agencies in order to facilitate and promote cooperation with them.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation

Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

1. The Management Board shall be

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composed of:

- (a) one member representing the Government from each Member State;
- (b) one member representing the employers' organisations from each Member State;
- (c) one member representing the employees' organisations from each Member State;
- (d) **three** members representing the Commission.

All members referred to in points (a)-(d) shall have voting rights.

The members referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) shall be appointed by the Council on the basis of lists of candidates submitted by the Member States, the European employers' and employees' organisations respectively. The Commission shall appoint the members who are to represent it.

composed of:

- (a) one member representing the Government from each Member State;
- (b) one member representing the employers' organisations from each Member State;
- (c) one member representing the employees' organisations from each Member State;
- (d) **two** members representing the Commission;

(da) one independent member representing the European Parliament.

All members referred to in points (a)-(da) shall have voting rights.

The appointment shall take effect upon signing by the person concerned of a declaration of absence of conflict of interests.

The members referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) shall be appointed by the Council on the basis of lists of candidates submitted by the Member States, the European employers' and employees' organisations respectively. The **Commission and the European Parliament** shall appoint the members who are to represent it.

A representative of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and a representative of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training shall have observer status at the meetings of the Management Board.

Justification

The Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on decentralised agencies of 19 July 2012 envisages a possibility for the Parliament to designate one member of the Management Board.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Article 6 – paragraph 4 – subparagraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The Management Board shall amend the adopted annual work programme when a new task is given to the Agency. The Management Board may delegate the power to make non-substantial amendments to the annual work programme to the Executive Director.

Amendment

The Management Board shall amend the adopted annual work programme when a new task is given to the Agency. ***It shall be responsible for avoiding programming overlaps with the other tripartite Union agencies and for ensuring that reprioritization of activities is always considered as a valid alternative before potentially granting additional financial resources.*** The Management Board may delegate the power to make non-substantial amendments to the annual work programme to the Executive Director.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Article 11 – paragraph 5 – point j a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ja) cooperating with other Union agencies, and concluding cooperation agreements with them.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

The provisional draft estimate shall be based on the objectives and expected results of the annual programming document referred to in Article 6(1) and shall take into account the financial resources necessary to achieve those objectives and expected results, in

accordance with the principle of performance-based budgeting.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation

Article 14 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Commission shall send draft estimates to the budgetary authority together with the draft general budget of the Union.

Amendment

4. The Commission shall send draft estimates to the budgetary authority together with the draft general budget of the Union. ***The Commission shall send these draft estimates simultaneously to the Agency.***

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Article 23 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. The translation services required for the functioning of the Agency shall be provided by the Translation Centre of the bodies of the European Union.

Amendment

3. The translation services required for the functioning of the Agency shall be provided by the Translation Centre of the bodies of the European Union ***or other translation service providers in accordance with the procurement rules and within the limits established by the relevant financial rules.***

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation

Article 28 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. No later than 5 years after the date referred to in Article 37, and every 5 years thereafter, the Commission shall ***perform***

Amendment

1. No later than 5 years after the date referred to in Article 37, and every 5 years thereafter, the Commission shall ***submit*** an

an evaluation in compliance with the Commission guidelines to assess the Agency's performance in relation to its objectives, mandate and tasks. The evaluation shall, in particular, address the possible need to modify the mandate of the Agency, and the financial implications of any such modification.

evaluation in compliance with the Commission guidelines to assess the Agency's performance in relation to its objectives, mandate and tasks. The evaluation shall, in particular, address the possible need to modify the mandate of the Agency, and the financial implications of any such modification.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (Eurofound)						
References	COM(2016)0531 – C8-0342/2016 – 2016/0256(COD)						
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	EMPL 12.9.2016						
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 12.9.2016						
Rapporteur Date appointed	Jens Geier 15.9.2016						
Date adopted	25.4.2017						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>30</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	+:	30	–:	2	0:	0
+:	30						
–:	2						
0:	0						
Members present for the final vote	Nedzhmi Ali, Jean Arthuis, Richard Ashworth, Lefteris Christoforou, Gérard Deprez, Manuel dos Santos, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Esteban González Pons, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Clare Moody, Victor Negrescu, Jan Olbrycht, Younous Omarjee, Paul Rübig, Petri Sarvamaa, Jordi Solé, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Indrek Tarand, Inese Vaidere, Monika Vana, Daniele Viotti, Stanisław Żółtek						
Substitutes present for the final vote	Jean-Paul Denanot, Ivana Maletić, Derek Vaughan, Rainer Wieland, Tomáš Zdechovský						

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

30	+
ALDE	Nedzhmi Ali, Jean Arthuis, Gérard Deprez
ECR	Richard Ashworth, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Bernd Kölmel
GUE/NGL	Younous Omarjee
PPE	Lefteris Christoforou, José Manuel Fernandes, Esteban González Pons, Ivana Maletić, Jan Olbrycht, Paul Rübig, Petri Sarvamaa, Patricija Šulin, Inese Vaidere, Rainer Wieland, Tomáš Zdechovský
S&D	Jean-Paul Denanot, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Vladimír Maňka, Clare Moody, Victor Negrescu, Derek Vaughan, Daniele Viotti, Manuel dos Santos
Vers/ALE	Jordi Solé, Indrek Tarand, Monika Vana

2	-
ENF	Stanisław Żółtek
NI	Eleftherios Synadinos

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention