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on the Council position on Draft amending budget No 2/2013 of the European Union for the financial year 2013, Section III – Commission (00000/2013 – C7-0000/2013 – 2013/2056(BUD))

Committee on Budgets

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MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the Council position on Draft amending budget No 2/2013 of the European Union for the financial year 2013, Section III – Commission (00000/2013 – C7-0000/2013 – 2013/2056(BUD))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 314 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Article 106a of the Euratom Treaty,
 - having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002¹,
 - having regard to the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013, as definitively adopted on 12 December 2012²,
 - having regard to the joint declarations on the payments for 2012 and 2013 signed by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission in December 2012,
 - having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management³,
 - having regard to Council Decision 2007/436/EC, Euratom of 7 June 2007 on the system of the European Communities' own resources⁴,
 - having regard to Draft amending budget No 2/2013, which the Commission submitted on 27 March 2013 (COM(2013)0183),
 - having regard to the position adopted by the Council on XX/YY 2013 on Draft amending budget No 2/2013 (XXXXXX/2013 – C7-XXXX/2013),
 - having regard to its resolution of 13 March 2013 on the European Council conclusions of 7/8 February concerning the Multiannual Financial Framework⁵
 - having regard to Rule 75b and 75e of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A7-0000/2013),
- A. whereas Draft amending budget No 2/2013 to the general budget 2013 proposes to increase both the forecast of revenue stemming from fines and penalties by EUR 290

¹ OJ L 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.

² OJ L 66, 8.3.2013.

³ OJ C 139, 14.6.2006, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 163, 23.6.2007, p. 17.

⁵ P7_TA (2013)0078.

million and the payments appropriations by EUR 11,2 billion across headings 1a, 1b, 2, 3a, 3b and 4 of the multi-annual financial framework (MFF), with the aim of meeting payment needs until the end of the year by covering obligations stemming from past and current commitments;

- B. whereas the overall amount of payment claims pending at the end of 2012 for cohesion policy (2007-2013), amounting to EUR 16,2 billion, had to be rolled over to 2013; consequently reducing the level of payments available in the budget 2013 to cover the payment needs of this year;
 - C. whereas the Parliament, the Council and the Commission engaged through a joint declaration in December 2012 to cover all unpaid payment claims for 2012 through an amending budget at an early stage in 2013;
 - D. whereas out of the total of DAB 2/2013 only EUR 7,3 billion are meant to cover 2007-2013 programmes under the cohesion policy, the rest relating to the closure of the 2000-2006 programmes (EUR 1,7 billion) and payment needs stemming from other headings (EUR 2,2 billion), meaning that less than half of the outstanding payments from 2012 relating to 2007-2013 programmes (EUR 16,2 billion) are covered by DAB 2/2013;
 - E. whereas the Council formally engaged to cover a first tranche of outstanding needs amounting to EUR 7,3 billion with DAB 2/2013;
 - F. whereas the commitment the Parliament requires of the Council to ensure that later in the year the second tranche of EUR 3,9 billion will be covered through a second amending budget on payments represents a precondition for Parliament's final vote on the MFF/IIA,
1. Takes note of Draft amending budget No 2/2013 as proposed by the Commission and of Council's position thereon;
 2. Understands that the overall increase of EUR 11,2 billion is set at this level in order not to challenge the 2013 MFF payment ceiling and, therefore, avoid a revision of the current MFF; fears, however, that it might not be sufficient to cover all payment claims submitted until the end of 2013; reminds, in particular, that the bulk of invoices under heading 1b are traditionally submitted by Member States towards the end of each financial year in order to prevent possible de-commitments due to the application of N+2 and N+3 rules;
 3. Stresses that the joint declarations of December 2012 were an integral part of the agreement on the Budget 2013, and represent a formal engagement on the side of the three institutions which must be fully respected as a sign of mutual trust and loyal cooperation; understands however the financial constraints to which the Member States are subject and accepts therefore that outstanding needs in payments until the end of 2013 (EUR 11,2 billion EUR as estimated by the Commission) are covered in two consecutive steps;
 4. Reminds the Council of the formal engagement required by the Parliament to ensure as well coverage for the second tranche of outstanding payments so as to ensure the settlement of the payments issue before the new MFF period begins; urges the Commission to come up as soon as possible with an Amending budget solely devoted to this issue;

5. Reiterates its position as set out in its resolution of 13 March 2013 on the MFF 2014-2020 that the Parliament will conclude the negotiations on the MFF only on the basis of a binding commitment by the Council that the full amount of the outstanding payments as identified by the Commission DAB 2/2013, i.e. EUR 11,2 billion, will be ensured by the end of the year;
6. Considers the amount of EUR 11,2 billion as a bare minimum to cover the actual needs until the end of 2013; calls on the three institutions to come up with a concrete, binding solution, should the reinforcements proposed in the two tranches of DAB 2/2013 prove not to be enough and not fully prevent any shifts of payments to the next MFF;
7. Considers the Commission as the only institution that can provide the budgetary authority with accurate data on the expected payment needs based on the Member States' claims from year N and their estimates for year N+1; points out that the Council lacks any objective basis to question the figures presented by the Commission, which are based on the aggregation of data from 27 Member States; recalls that each Member State is only responsible for its own data, which are therefore the only figures it can contest;
8. Reminds that the adoption of Draft amending budget No 3/2013 would reduce the share of the GNI contribution by Member States to the Union budget and therefore partly compensate their contribution to Amending budget No 2/2013; highlights therefore that the two dossiers are subject to a common calendar for adoption, since strictly linked from a political point of view;
9. Approves the Council position on Draft amending budget No 2/2013;
10. Instructs its President to declare that Amending budget No 2/2013 has been definitively adopted and arrange for its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the national parliaments.