



Committee on Development

2015/2353(INI)

30.5.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the preparation of the post-electoral revision of the MFF 2014-2020:
Parliament's input ahead of the Commission's proposal
(2015/2353(INI))

Rapporteur: Paul Rübig

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recalls that the first years of the new MFF were characterised by severe payment shortages in the budget with negative implications for the implementation of external action programmes; calls for an adequate payment level in Heading 4 to be provided in order to prevent the recurrence of this problem;
2. Notes the massive scale of the global needs for humanitarian aid and for disaster risk reduction, disaster and epidemic preparedness and the building of resilience in developing countries; notes, in addition, the upward pressure on these needs stemming from the effects of conflicts and wars, human rights violations, bad governance and corruption, poor provision of basic social services, including weak health systems, the lack of universal health coverage and investments into health innovation, growing economic and social inequality, as well as climate change and competition for scarce resources; considers it necessary to strengthen transparency, accountability and reporting of the resources for the development and humanitarian aid, as well as the financial means for this aid, with rapid approval by the budgetary authority, whenever needed, especially bearing in mind the newly established 2030 Agenda, and with a view to fulfilling the policy coherence for development (PCD) principles; is convinced that this also serves the EU's interests as it will prevent future migratory pressures;
3. Notes that expenditure related to the in-donor refugee costs, although covered in part by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) definition of official development assistance (ODA), does not contribute to sustainable development in developing countries and to fighting the root causes of migration; notes an increase in some Member States' reporting of in-donor refugee costs as ODA; reiterates that effective humanitarian aid actions and development programmes should aim at combating the root causes of migration in developing countries and should not be made at the expense of the EU's development funding and policies in other areas;
4. Recalls that the migrant and refugee crisis has significantly impacted the EU budget and will continue to demand a dynamic response in the coming years; supports the exhaustion of the resources available under Headings 3 and 4 of the EU budgets 2014-2016; calls in this regard for an appropriate increase in the ceilings in order to address the migration and refugee crisis properly;
5. Recognises the need for expenditure in order to achieve all aspects of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16; believes that promoting peace, the rule of law, human rights, good governance, and education in developing countries is crucial for the achievement of peace and security, for poverty and inequality reduction, and in the longer term for the eradication of poverty; rejects any use of development aid for non-development objectives, which are clearly stated in Article 208 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU); emphasises that the funding concerned, which does not constitute ODA, must come from instruments other than the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) or the European Development Fund (EDF) or any other mechanisms that benefit solely from these instruments, such as the EU Emergency Trust

Fund for Africa;

6. Stresses the need for sufficient health-related expenditure in view of emerging epidemics; recalls the necessity for effective and comprehensive health systems with affordable medicines in order to deliver SDG 3; encourages the better use of all MFF programmes such as Horizon 2020, the DCI, the EDF or the health for growth programme in order to tackle global health challenges that can easily affect Europe itself;
7. Stresses that trust funds were established because the EU budget lacks the resources and flexibility needed for a rapid and comprehensive response to major crises; calls for a viable solution which will allow full scrutiny by the budgetary authority in order to improve unity of the budget and respect for the principle of democratic ownership;
8. Recalls that the EU has made strong commitments regarding aid effectiveness, in particular the principle of democratic ownership of development programmes by aid recipients and the alignment of EU aid to developing countries' priorities; notes that this principle has to be upheld in the EU response to migration, e.g. in the set-up of the EU Trust Fund for Africa which was specifically created in order to circumvent lengthier EDF procedures which respect aid effectiveness principles; calls on the Commission to make a proposal on financing the African Peace Facility through other means;
9. Notes, in addition, that encouraging developments like those in Myanmar/Burma and Colombia require adequate responses and funds on the part of the EU;
10. Underlines the need for adequate resources for the pursuit of the SDGs, while acknowledging that the EU's collective ODA represented 0.47 % of the EU's GNI in 2015; deplores the EU's failure to achieve the 0.7 % ODA/GNI commitment for 2015; recalls the EU's recent renewal of its collective commitment to raise its ODA to 0.7 % of its GNI; points out that this requires substantial increases and stresses that the MFF revision should take this into account; calls on the Member States to adopt a clear plan on fulfilling their commitment to contribute 0.7 % of their GNI to ODA;
11. Recalls that timely and predictable funding for humanitarian assistance is best supported when there is no gap between payments and commitments and requests the Commission to make a proposal on making payments systematically equal to commitments for humanitarian aid actions;
12. Urges the EU and its Member States to stop inflating aid and to exclude inflated aid items from ODA reporting (e.g. refugee costs, imputed student costs, tied aid, interest on loans and debt relief);
13. Supports EU financing of climate action in developing countries, and insists on respecting developed countries' commitment not to let such assistance erode non-climate ODA; insists on the mobilisation of additional funds for additional needs;
14. Calls for mid-term evaluation of the MFF development programmes on the basis of their performance against stipulated targets and objectives, absorption capacity and EU added value, taking into account the late implementation of the current framework, and commitments made in the meantime such as the Sustainable Development Goals; recommends that insufficiently implemented commitments are, if needed, adequately

resourced with the necessary budget;

15. Recalls the EU commitment to allocate at least 20 % of its ODA to basic social services, with a focus on education and health; believes that enjoying the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental human right and that universal access to health care and coverage, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, is a powerful development enabler and fundamental to promoting gender equality, improved nutrition and education outcomes; consequently stresses the need for health-related expenditure in the context of rapidly emerging epidemics and in light of the need for comprehensive investment to create resilient health systems and provide affordable access to essential medicines in many low and middle-income countries in order to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	24.5.2016
Result of final vote	+ : 19 - : 1 0 : 1
Members present for the final vote	Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Nirj Deva, Doru-Claudian Frunzulică, Maria Heubuch, György Hölvényi, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Maurice Ponga, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Elly Schlein, Davor Ivo Stier, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Rainer Wieland
Substitutes present for the final vote	Marina Albiol Guzmán, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Carolina Punset, Paul Rübig, Adam Szejnfeld, Patrizia Toia, Jan Zahradil
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	John Stuart Agnew