



2017/2053(INI)

8.12.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Budgets

on reform of the European Union's system of own resources
(2017/2053(INI))

Rapporteur: Ivo Belet

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that in order to boost the transition towards a sustainable, circular and low-carbon economy, deliver on the commonly agreed Energy Union targets, and be consistent with the commitments made under the Paris Agreement, significant additional investments are required in the period 2020-2030;
2. Is convinced that in order to make tangible progress on these key EU policies and attain net-zero emissions by mid-century, climate mainstreaming and a thorough reform of the EU budget are essential; notes that Article 2(c) of the Paris Agreement underlines the need to make ‘finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development’;
3. Believes that a reform of the EU budget should be guided by the principles of subsidiarity, solidarity and sustainability, with a view to a more effective EU budget based on a combination of new and existing own resources, which directly and transparently contribute to investments in projects with clear European added value for citizens, companies and the environment;
4. Recalls that the introduction of new own resources or other types of EU revenue should make the EU budget less dependent on Member States’ gross national income (GNI)-based contributions and lead to reductions in these contributions;
5. Believes that own resources based on an electricity tax would overlap with the scope of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and raise concerns as to the stability of investment conditions and the financial burden on households;
6. Notes that DG Environment accounts for the second largest volume of fines imposed for non-compliance with EU legislation, amounting to EUR 284 million for the period 2014-2017; calls for revenue stemming directly from EU environment legislation and its enforcement to be channelled into the EU budget as ‘other revenue’ and earmarked for investments in projects that generate the highest European added value in the field of the environment; recalls, however, that revenue from fines does not constitute a stable means of income to the EU budget;
7. Calls for a proportion of the ETS auctioning revenue, from Phase 4 (2021) onwards, to be directed towards concrete, sustainable and low-carbon EU projects, such as maximising the use of existing and, where necessary, developing new cross-border energy infrastructure (to facilitate the integration of renewables, for example), energy storage and investments in breakthrough innovation in industry, in order to contribute to a just transition towards a low-carbon economy; calls on the Commission to further elaborate on how existing and future EU funds and programmes could be used to support the just transition in coal- and carbon-intensive regions; notes that revenues from the auctioning of emission allowances are projected to increase from Phase 4 onwards;
8. Calls for an analysis of whether revenue from commonly agreed national road charging

schemes, based on distance, journey time and transport emissions can contribute to the funding of EU projects that promote the development of zero- and low-emission mobility, including incentives for zero- and low-emission vehicles, low-emission alternative energy sources for transport, and sustainable multimodal transport, in particular high-speed railways and low-emission inland navigation; calls on the Commission and the Member States to take into account the specific situation of remote and rural areas, which are characterised, for example, by long distances and a lack of public transport, when developing road charging schemes;

9. Believes that additional revenue generated from emission-based contributions by intra-EU aviation should be used, in particular, to step up research and investment in EU low-carbon aircraft and for further improvements to the efficient use of airspace;
10. Believes that, in the absence of harmonised international measures for kerosene taxation, a levy based on the carbon intensity of flights should be considered;
11. Believes that possible future emission-based shipping contributions should be reinvested in the European shipping sector through research and development funding for cleaner technology and sustainable ships;
12. Believes that revenue from the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) for third-country nationals should be used to invest in research and development in the field of clean and low-emission air transport and in further improvements to the efficient use of airspace, and to boost funding for the European Border and Coast Guard;
13. Calls for an exploration of the possible introduction of an own resource reflecting the carbon content of consumer goods sold in the single market, including goods imported into the single market, such as a carbon border adjustment mechanism or a carbon-added tax (CAT) that would gradually replace a proportion of the current VAT-based own resource.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	7.12.2017
Result of final vote	+: 37 -: 7 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Zoltán Balczó, Ivo Belet, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Miriam Dalli, Angélique Delahaye, Stefan Eck, Bas Eickhout, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Arne Gericke, Jens Gieseke, Sylvie Goddyn, Françoise Grossetête, Jytte Guteland, Karin Kadenbach, Urszula Krupa, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Susanne Melior, Rory Palmer, Piernicola Pedicini, Pavel Poc, John Procter, Julia Reid, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Jørn Dohrmann, Herbert Dorfmann, Luke Ming Flanagan, Martin Häusling, Krzysztof Hetman, Merja Kyllönen, Gesine Meissner, Nuno Melo, Ulrike Müller, Gabriele Preuß, Bart Staes, Claude Turmes
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Norbert Erdős, Sven Schulze

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

37	+
ALDE	Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Gesine Meissner, Ulrike Müller
EFDD:	Piernicola Pedicini
GUE/NGL:	Stefan Eck, Merja Kyllönen
NI:	Zoltán Balczó
PPE:	Ivo Belet, Angélique Delahaye, Herbert Dorfmann, Norbert Erdős, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Jens Gieseke, Françoise Grossetête, Krzysztof Hetman, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Nuno Melo, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Sven Schulze
S&D:	Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Miriam Dalli, Jytte Guteland, Karin Kadenbach, Susanne Melior, Rory Palmer, Pavel Poc, Gabriele Preuß, Damiano Zoffoli
VERTS/ALE:	Marco Affronte, Bas Eickhout, Martin Häusling, Bart Staes, Claude Turmes

7	-
ECR:	Jørn Dohrmann, Arne Gericke, Urszula Krupa, John Procter, Jadwiga Wiśniewska
EFDD:	Julia Reid
ENF:	Sylvie Goddyn

1	0
GUE/NGL:	Luke Ming Flanagan

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention