



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2018/2046(BUD)

30.8.2018

OPINION

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

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019
(2018/2046(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Adina-Ioana Vălean

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. Underlines that 20,1 % of the total commitments in the draft budget for 2019 (2019 DB) are climate-related; regrets that in spite of the aim to have 20 % of the Union budget expenditure linked to addressing climate change, the Union budget trend would deliver only 19,3 % for the current multi-annual financial framework (MFF) period; stresses that every effort should be made to reach the 20 % target; highlights that an appropriate level of financial support is crucial for climate change mitigation and adaptation;
2. Notes that 8,2 % of the total commitments are related to reversing the decline in biodiversity; calls for sufficient resources to be allocated to the protection of biodiversity; recalls that, according to the Commission Communication 'A budget for Europe 2020', financing the Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 and its objective of halting and reversing the decline in biodiversity in the Union requires the mainstreaming of biodiversity throughout the Union budget;
3. Notes the increase of EUR 31,3 million in commitments for LIFE (+6 %); regrets that LIFE represents only 0,3 % of the 2019 DB;
4. Takes note of the proposed EUR 68,3 million in commitments (+2,9 %) and EUR 61,3 million in payments (+9,6 %) for health; regrets that this amount is only 0,04 % of the 2019 DB and 1,8 % of heading 3 (in commitments);
5. Considers that resources for health should be increased, especially those earmarked for research into mental illness; calls on the Commission to examine what programmes it could implement to increase the amounts earmarked for research and development in this field in view of the next MFF period, and to report back to Parliament;
6. Takes note of the proposed EUR 297,7 million in commitments (+6,3 %) and EUR 245,8 million in payments (-1 %) for food and feed; regrets that this amount is only 0,18 % of the 2019 DB and 8 % of heading 3 (in commitments);
7. Notes the increase in the commitments for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) (EUR 149,6 million, +350 %), which is a cornerstone of Union solidarity; stresses that this increase is necessary as the 2019 DB includes the impact of the Commission proposal to revise the UCPM;
8. Notes that permanent and temporary posts authorised under the 2019 DB remain unchanged compared to the 2018 budget for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), while those posts increase for the European Food

Safety Authority (EFSA) (+1)¹ and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) (+3); highlights that, where appropriate, more financial and human resources must be allocated to those agencies in order to fulfil their mandate and execute their tasks, and in order to promote a science-based approach in the Union;

9. Acknowledges that the temporary posts authorised under the 2019 DB for ECHA are to increase by three; points out that such increase is intended to bring ECHA's biocide resources closer to the level originally foreseen and to make up for resources lacking in 2018; notes however that ECHA has been assigned additional tasks under the revised Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council² (Waste Framework Directive) for which no posts or funding are currently scheduled in the 2019 DB; notes furthermore that new tasks for ECHA are also foreseen in the pending recast of Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council³ on persistent organic pollutants, and in the EU Poison Centre regime, and calls for sufficient resources to be made available to ECHA in order for it to undertake those new activities;
10. Highlights that, in addition to a significant increase in its existing tasks, the EEA has been assigned with new responsibilities which result in an increase in EEA's financial and staff needs, while respecting the objectives of staff reduction and budget stabilisation; stresses that without an increase in its establishment table, there is a risk of substantial disruption in the EEA's ability to support environmental policy development and implementation at Union and national level;
11. Notes that EMA is facing an increased workload and further budgetary needs in 2019 as a consequence of the decision of the United Kingdom to withdraw from the Union; believes that additional financial resources and staff should be authorised for a limited period, so that EMA can transfer and retain the critical knowledge and skills necessary to continue to carry out its tasks effectively and to resume currently postponed activities;
12. Calls on the Commission to swiftly implement pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP-PAs) in the field of the environment, public health and food safety;
13. Recalls that PP-PAs in the field of the environment, public health and food safety should receive adequate funding throughout their life cycle, so that they can achieve their full potential;
14. Recalls the principle of accountability to taxpayers and consumers and therefore urges

¹ EFSA has requested an additional post to cover the position of Head of EU Agencies Support Service Office in Brussels. The financing of this post will be shared among the EU Agencies, without requiring additional budget in this respect.

² Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (OJ L 312, 22.11.2008, p. 3), as recently amended by Directive (EU) 2018/851 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 (OJ L 150, 14.6.2018, p. 109).

³ Regulation (EC) No 850/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on persistent organic pollutants and amending Directive 79/117/EEC (OJ L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 7).

strong annual budget discipline in order to take into account the financial burden of citizens; stresses that the cost effectiveness of current policies, programmes and measures should be reviewed annually and, where necessary, appropriate measures should be taken.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	30.8.2018
Result of final vote	+: 40 -: 6 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Miriam Dalli, Angélique Delahaye, Mark Demesmaeker, Stefan Eck, José Inácio Faria, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Francesc Gambús, Arne Gericke, Jens Gieseke, Françoise Grossetête, Benedek Jávor, Karin Kadenbach, Urszula Krupa, Giovanni La Via, Susanne Melior, Miroslav Mikolášik, Rory Palmer, Massimo Paolucci, Piernicola Pedicini, Bolesław G. Piecha, Pavel Poc, John Procter, Michèle Rivasi, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Renate Sommer, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Guillaume Balas, Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Elena Gentile, Anja Hazekamp, Norbert Lins, Younous Omarjee, Christel Schaldemose, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor, Carlos Zorrinho
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Olle Ludvigsson

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

40	+
EFDD	Piernicola Pedicini
GUE/NGL	Stefan Eck, Anja Hazekamp
PPE	Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Cristian-Silviu Buşoi, Birgit Collin-Langen, Angélique Delahaye, José Inácio Faria, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Francesc Gambús, Jens Gieseke, Françoise Grossetête, Giovanni La Via, Norbert Lins, Miroslav Mikolášik, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Renate Sommer, Adina-Ioana Vălean
S&D	Guillaume Balas, Paul Brannen, Soledad Cabezón Ruiz, Nessa Childers, Miriam Dalli, Elena Gentile, Karin Kadenbach, Olle Ludvigsson, Susanne Melior, Rory Palmer, Massimo Paolucci, Pavel Poc, Christel Schaldemose, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Damiano Zoffoli, Carlos Zorrinho
VERTS/ALE	Margrete Auken, Benedek Jávor, Michèle Rivasi, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor

6	-
ECR	Mark Demesmaeker, Arne Gericke, Urszula Krupa, Bolesław G. Piecha, John Procter, Jadwiga Wiśniewska

1	0
GUE/NGL	Younous Omarjee

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention