



2019/2028(BUD)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2020
(2019/2028(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Svenja Hahn

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that the responsibility of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) in the budget procedure covers budget lines in titles 2 (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs), 14 (Taxation and customs union) and 33 (Justice and Consumers);
2. Stresses that the internal market remains one of the Union's greatest and most tangible achievements, bringing benefits to businesses, consumers and citizens across Europe; further deepening the Single Market and developing the Digital Single Market should be prioritised in the 2020 Budget;
3. Underlines the importance of a robust consumer policy that gives protection and predictability to consumers both offline and online, and confidence to businesses to provide their goods and services across the internal market;
4. Stresses the importance of appropriately financing the transition to a fully automated customs operation, in the interests of greater efficiency for European companies and streamlined protection for consumers;
5. Recognises that 2020 is the last year in the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), and therefore calls on the Commission to make full use, in the 2020 Budget, of the available MFF margins in the policy areas under IMCO's responsibility;
6. Welcomes the fact that in its Draft Budget the Commission has allocated an appropriate budget to most of IMCO's main priorities and invites the Council to confirm these appropriations;
7. Welcomes the increase in appropriations for "operation and development of the internal market of goods and services" (budget line 02 03 01), as well as for "improving access to finance for SMEs" (budget line 02 02 02), and for "support expenditure for COSME" (budget line 02 01 04 01), as those three actions are crucial for boosting economic growth in the Union;
8. Also welcomes the increase in payment appropriations for "Safeguarding consumers' interest and improving their safety and information" (budget line 33 04 01), as improving consumer rights and promoting awareness of consumer rights is an important way of boosting consumer trust in the internal market and in the Union's capacity to deliver tangible benefits;
9. Reminds that the Commission and the Member States have already accumulated delays in the scheduled implementation of the Union Customs Code, and consequently strongly regrets the reduction in the budget appropriations for "supporting the functioning and modernisation of the customs union" (budget line 14 02 01), which could lead to further delays;

10. Calls on the Commission to finance all pilot projects and preparatory actions endorsed by IMCO.