



2017/2044(BUD)

5.9.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018
(2017/2044(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Petr Ježek

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Takes note of the draft budget 2018 (DB 2018); regrets the reduction in both commitment appropriations (CA) and payment appropriations (PA) in Heading III compared to 2017; underlines that those decreases cannot be justified by delays in implementation of agreed measures; welcomes the top-up of Heading III by an additional EUR 817,1 million above its ceiling using the flexibility instrument; highlights that the proposed level of expenditure will be insufficient to cover the needs of the Union in the fields of migration and security respectively;
2. Believes that the large budget reduction (49,7 % in PA) for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) undermines the importance and urgency of the AMIF policy objectives; challenges the Commission's assertions in DB 2018 that justify its proposed reduction in AMIF funding; welcomes the Commission proposal to reinforce frontline activities, including budgetary allocations for improved cooperation on return/readmission with third countries; is concerned that the needs for reception, care and integration of asylum seekers may be underestimated by the Commission; stresses that security for those who seek protection in the Union should not be adversely affected by budgetary cuts;
3. Considers that in the absence of an agreement on the revision of the Dublin Regulation¹, relocations should continue to be implemented beyond September 2017 and considers that this is required in the light of the fair sharing of responsibility and solidarity between Member States;
4. Calls on the Commission to present an amending letter as soon as the legal bases related to the European Agenda on Migration, in particular the reform of the Dublin system, the Entry/Exit system, the European Travel Information and Authorisation System and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), have been adopted, taking full account of their financial implications, in order to secure appropriate and swift funding for an effective European asylum and migration policy;
5. Recalls that the fair and transparent distribution of funding between the different objectives of the AMIF was a priority for the European Parliament during negotiations leading to the adoption of that fund; calls on the Commission accordingly to increase the number of budget lines under the AMIF to facilitate a better readability and transparency of how the financial resources allocated to the different objectives and thus to those budgetary lines will be spent; calls, in particular, on the Commission to separate expenditure on enhancing fair return strategies from expenditure on legal

¹ Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 31).

migration and promoting the effective integration of third-country nationals in all future draft budgets as proposed in the opinions of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs on the 2015 and 2016 Budgets;

6. Reiterates the importance to make targeted funding available to tackle the root causes of the migration and refugee crisis; stresses, to this end, that the Union budget should finance measures in countries of origin of migrants as well as in host countries of refugees, including, but not limited to measures addressing poverty, unemployment, education and economic opportunities, as well as instability, conflict and climate change;
7. Stresses the significant role played by civil society organisations in saving the lives of migrants and asylum seekers at the external borders as well as in safeguarding, promoting and implementing their rights; calls for more financial support to be given to strengthen the activities of civil society;
8. Regrets the significant budget reduction for the Internal Security Fund (ISF) (35,6 % in PA); stresses that in light of the continued security threat in the Union, ISF funding should be sufficient to aid Member States in dealing with threats to internal security, especially cross-border organised and serious crime, terrorism and cybercrime; highlights the need to sufficiently fund efforts to improve information sharing and to fight cybercrime;
9. Welcomes the funding of instruments for emergency assistance in AMIF (EMAS) and for emergency humanitarian support inside the Union (ESI) in the amounts of EUR 50 million and EUR 200 million respectively;
10. Notes the proposed increases in the DB 2018 for expenditure and establishment plans for all agencies in the area of Justice and Home Affairs classified as holding “new tasks”; regrets, however, that the increases proposed are lower than those requested by most agencies; stresses the importance of staff increases for eu-LISA, Eurojust, CEPOL and Europol; calls for budgetary increases for Eurojust due to the increased requirements for judicial cooperation in the Union, in particular in light of the establishment of an European Public Prosecutor’s Office; without impacting upon the budgetary allocation of other agencies in the area of Justice and Home Affairs, calls furthermore for additional financial resources for Europol in light of their increased workload; underlines that additional financial resources for Europol and Eurojust should be invested into the funding of Joint Investigation Teams; welcomes the budget increase for the European Data Protection Supervisor in view of the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation¹; calls for additional human resources to be allocated to EASO in order to support an enhanced mandate to transform EASO into a fully-fledged agency which is capable of providing the necessary operational and technical assistance to Member States; calls for additional human resources to be allocated to the Fundamental Rights Agency; regrets that the Fundamental Rights

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

Agency's mandate still limits its role in support of fundamental rights; underlines that the Fundamental Rights Agency should be able to offer opinions on legislative proposals on its own initiative and that its remit should extend to all areas of rights protected under the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, including, for instance, issues of police and judicial cooperation;

11. Points out that the Commission's proposal, for the third year in a row, does not leave any margin under the ceiling for Heading III, evidencing the outdated size of the smallest MFF heading, as argued by the European Parliament as part of the mid-term revision process;
12. Notes that Eurojust is currently facing a significant increase in the workload as well as complexity and number of cases which has increased by 100 % in the last five years; regrets therefore the decrease in the operational funding and staffing level for Eurojust; underlines that appropriate funding of Eurojust is necessary for it to fulfil effectively its key role in the promotion of judicial cooperation in criminal matters; urges to raise the funds allocated for the Joint Investigation Teams due to the significant increase of transnational criminal cases and to simplify as well as to render the use of those funds more flexible;
13. Asks for increased funding to fight against the phenomenon of radicalisation leading to violent extremism within the Union; considers that this can be achieved by promoting integration and fighting against discrimination, racism and xenophobia.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	31.8.2017
Result of final vote	+: 40 -: 9 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Jan Philipp Albrecht, Malin Björk, Caterina Chinnici, Daniel Dalton, Frank Engel, Raymond Finch, Ana Gomes, Nathalie Griesbeck, Sylvie Guillaume, Monika Hohlmeier, Brice Hortefeux, Sophia in 't Veld, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Roberta Metsola, Claude Moraes, Soraya Post, Judith Sargentini, Birgit Sippel, Branislav Škripek, Csaba Sógor, Helga Stevens, Traian Ungureanu, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Udo Voigt, Josef Weidenholzer, Cecilia Wikström, Kristina Winberg, Tomáš Zdechovský, Auke Zijlstra
Substitutes present for the final vote	Marina Albiol Guzmán, Maria Grapini, Anna Hedh, Petr Ježek, Jeroen Lenaers, Andrejs Mamikins, Angelika Mlinar, Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Barbara Spinelli, Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	André Elissen, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Arndt Kohn, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Philippe Lamberts, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Adam Szejnfeld, Julie Ward, Bogdan Brunon Wenta

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

40	+
ALDE	Nathalie Griesbeck, Petr Ježek, Angelika Mlinar, Cecilia Wikström, Sophia in 't Veld
ECR	Daniel Dalton, Helga Stevens, Branislav Škripek
PPE	Frank Engel, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Monika Hohlmeier, Brice Hortefeux, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Jeroen Lenaers, Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska, Roberta Metsola, Adam Szejnfeld, Csaba Sógor, Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein, Traian Ungureanu, Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Tomáš Zdechovský
S&D	Caterina Chinnici, Ana Gomes, Maria Grapini, Sylvie Guillaume, Anna Hedh, Arndt Kohn, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Andrejs Mamikins, Claude Moraes, Soraya Post, Christine Revault D'Allonnes Bonnefoy, Birgit Sippel, Julie Ward, Josef Weidenholzer
VERTS/ALE	Jan Philipp Albrecht, Philippe Lamberts, Judith Sargentini

9	-
EFDD	Raymond Finch, Kristina Winberg
ENF	André Elissen, Auke Zijlstra
GUE/NGL	Marina Albiol Guzmán, Malin Björk, Barbara Spinelli, Marie-Christine Vergiat
NI	Udo Voigt

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention