



2019/2028(BUD)

16.7.2019

DRAFT 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 2020
(2019/2028(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield

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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. Notes the overall reduction of AMIF commitment appropriations by 15,4 % (-172 million euros) compared to 2019; regrets the decrease of commitment appropriations aimed at strengthening and developing the CEAS and enhancing responsibility-sharing between Member States (-29,5 %) compared to 2019; recalls the importance of providing adequate financial capacity to improve the integration of migrants as well as re-integration of migrants who forcibly or voluntarily returned to a third country, and to respond to emergency assistance needs of Member States under migratory pressure; expresses its disappointment at the fact that the AMIF budget does not include some financial reserves to finance the reformed Dublin legislation and the new Union Resettlement schemes in case of adoption during 2020; proposes to foresee an amount in the reserve for temporary arrangements for disembarkation in the Union and relocation of people rescued in the Mediterranean; requests, in order to free financial resources, that the EU Trust Fund for Africa and the Regional development protection programmes for North Africa that primarily support external policies of the Union are funded by Heading IV of the Union budget (Global Europe) instead of by AMIF under Heading III (Security and Citizenship);
2. Stresses the low amount foreseen for emergency assistance in the ISF fund (8,5 million euros); requests the Commission to carefully and more realistically re-evaluate this amount taking into account possible emergency assistance needs of Member States in the framework of the ISF, such as the management of security-related incidents;
3. Welcomes the increases of Commitment appropriations of JHA Agencies such as EASO (41,5 %), EBCG (34,6 %), CEPOL (14 %), EMCDDA (7,7 %), FRA (5,4 %), Eurojust (5,2 %), and Europol (2,1 %) compared to the budget 2019;
4. Points out that the budget of the EBCG has increased by 34,8 % (+108 million euros) in 2020 which is by far the largest increase among all JHA agencies; recalls that the Court of Auditors identified as part of the discharge of the 2017 Budget that Member States overestimated the financial need of the EBCG in 2017; underlines that when the objective of providing the EBCG with more human resources (10.000 border guards by 2027), the number of migrants arriving irregularly over sea or land in the Union has substantially decreased compared to previous years; suggests that such boost in resources should also be used for rescuing lives at sea; regrets the remarkable difference between the commitment appropriations assigned to EBCG (420 million euros) in 2020 and the amount accorded to EASO (133 million euros); suggests that the budget and staffing of EASO should be increased for a better performance of the duties entrusted to the Agency;
5. Welcomes the increase of Commitment appropriations of the EPPO (70,5 %); recalls the important role of EPPO in investigating and prosecuting fraud involving Union funds and the need to provide sufficient financial resources so that it becomes fully operational before December 2020;

6. Regrets that the Commission did not follow the budgetary request of Europol and proposed to underfund the Agency by 30 million euros in 2020; notes that the decrease of the eu-LISA commitment appropriations by 18,7 % (-55 million euros) corresponds to the end of the development of the Entry Exit System; reiterates the need to ensure adequate financial support for JHA Agencies to deliver the tasks assigned to them in full transparency and to fight against cross-border serious crime in full compliance with fundamental rights;
7. Welcomes the amount allocated to the EDPS (19 million euros); emphasises the need to ensure appropriate budgetary and staff resources for EDPS to carry out the additional tasks resulting from the implementation of the new Union data protection framework (GDPR) with full independence; stresses therefore that the allocated budget is the bare minimum;