



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Committee on Regional Development*

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**2014/2040(BUD)**

24.9.2014

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015  
(2014/2040(BUD))

Rapporteur: Derek Vaughan

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Is of the opinion that the amounts entered in the Draft Budget (DB) 2015 for heading 1b to cover the minimum needs and objectives of cohesion policy as set by the Union in the Treaty and in the policy legislative framework for 2014-2020 should be restored;
2. Notes with concern the clear statement of the 6th Cohesion Report that regional disparities widened in particular during the crisis years 2008-2011, meaning that efforts of cohesion policy will have to be significantly increased in order to reach the goals of economic, social and territorial cohesion as stipulated in Article 174 TFEU;
3. Notes that 2015 will be the second year of implementation of the new ESI funds cycle; underscores the need for sufficient commitment and payment appropriations in order to ensure that the programmes reach the intended number of beneficiaries and thus impact;
4. Notes with concern the decrease in payment appropriations under heading 1b by 5,0% to EUR 51 601,9 million over 2014, while the so-called increase in commitment appropriations of +3,6% stems mainly from the proposed mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument in 2015 to address the situation of Cyprus;
5. Notes with concern that, while the proposed level of payment appropriations will be mainly dedicated to covering outstanding commitments and the winding down of programmes, the Commission declares that the payments backlog will continue to grow and is expected to reach around EUR 18 billion at the end of 2015, even if DAB No 3/2014 is approved;
6. Requests timely and precise information on the estimates regarding the evolution of payments claims in 2014 and further clarification on how the Commission intends to address the unsustainable level of outstanding payments already foreseen for the end of 2014 for heading 1b;
7. Notes with concern that the Commission seems to be unable to honour all payment requests, calls on the Commission to provide all necessary details if resulting delays in payments occur;
8. Asks the Commission what measures it intends to introduce in the future to prevent a permanent gap between commitment appropriations and payment appropriations, and thereby prevent regular payment backlogs.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	23.9.2014
<b>Result of final vote</b>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">+:</div> <div>34</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">-:</div> <div>3</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;">0:</div> <div>2</div> </div>
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	<p>José Blanco López, Franc Bogovič, Victor Boștinăru, Mercedes Bresso, Andrea Cozzolino, Rosa D'Amato, Tamás Deutsch, Bill Etheridge, Raffaele Fitto, Michela Giuffrida, Anna Hedh, Krzysztof Hetman, Ivan Jakovčić, Constanze Krehl, Andrew Lewer, Louis-Joseph Manscour, Martina Michels, Iskra Mihaylova, Younous Omarjee, Stanislav Polčák, Julia Reid, Liliana Rodrigues, Monika Smolková, Maria Spyrali, Olaf Stuger, Ramón Luis Valcárcel, Ángela Vallina, Monika Vana, Matthijs van Miltenburg, Derek Vaughan, Kerstin Westphal, Joachim Zeller</p>
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	<p>Salvatore Cicu, Andor Deli, James Nicholson, Jan Marian Olbrycht, Davor Škrlec, Iuliu Winkler, Milan Zver</p>