



2019/2028(BUD)

8.8.2019

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

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: Younous Omarjee

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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 into its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that cohesion is one EU objective as set up in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union, is defined in Article 174 TFEU and is a shared competence between the EU and Member States. Underlines that cohesion policy is one of the most important EU policies and also its main public investment policy, with EUR 351.8 billion budget for 2014-2020: a third of the MFF;
2. Underlines that cohesion policy is based on a policy of solidarity, pursuing its Treaty-posed objective of promoting and supporting the overall harmonious development of Member States and regions, and aims to reduce economic, social and territorial disparities between and within EU regions and to insure that no region is left behind; considers that it creates growth and jobs across the Union as well as delivering key Union objectives and priorities, including its climate and energy targets, smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth;
3. Recalls that cohesion policy is one of the most important instruments addressing priorities outlined in the Commission's draft budget for 2020;
4. Welcomes that there are no more payment needs for the 2007-2013 and that the improved execution of payments and the increased project selection rate proceeds at cruising speed and has finally caught up with the levels of the previous programming period, standing at 75 % as of January 2019;
5. Notes the increase in commitment appropriations by 2,5% for Subheading 1b in the draft budget 2020 compared to the 2019 budget, while payment appropriations as a whole increased by 6,4%;
6. Calls on the Commission and the Council to consider the lessons of this programming period and avoid any further payment crises;
7. Notes that, for transfers to the Connecting Europe Facility, 2020 will be the second year in which further pre-financing can be requested for actions begun in 2014, 2015 or 2016, and the last year for reallocation of unused resources;
8. Notes that the Structural Reform Support Programme funding will be financed using the Global Margin for Commitments; warns that increases should come at no expense to cohesion policy;
9. Calls for a reprogramming exercise for the Youth Employment Initiative, following the agreement in the 2019 budgetary procedure to increase the level of commitment appropriations;
10. Calls on the Commission to ensure the transparent, fair and responsible use of Union resources.