

Committee / *Commission*

AFCO

Meeting of / *Réunion du*
05/09/2012

BUDGETARY AMENDMENTS
(2013 Procedure)
AMENDEMENTS BUDGÉTAIRES
(Procédure 2013)

Rapporteur: Enrique GUERRERO SALOM

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Draft amendment 6854

=== AFCO/6854 ===

Tabled by Andrew Duff, Committee on Constitutional Affairs

SECTION I — PARLIAMENT

Item 3 2 4 2 — Expenditure on publication, information and participation in public events

Amend heading and remarks as follows:

	Budget 2012		Draft budget 2013		Council's position 2013		Difference		New amount	
	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments
3 2 4 2	21 626 000	21 626 000	23 755 900	23 755 900	23 755 900	23 755 900			23 755 900	23 755 900
Reserve										
Total	21 626 000	21 626 000	23 755 900	23 755 900	23 755 900	23 755 900			23 755 900	23 755 900

Heading:

Expenditure on publication, ~~information, information and~~ participation in public events *and EP election awareness campaigns by NGOs using social media*

Remarks:

After paragraph:

The amount of assigned revenue in accordance with the Financial Regulation is estimated at EUR 5 000.

Add following text:

This appropriation is intended to enable civil society NGOs, as non-partisan actors, to promote voter turnout at the 2014 European Parliament elections by stimulating informed political debate via online social media. This budget line is targeted especially at young people who failed to vote in large numbers at the last elections but who can readily be reached through new social media campaigns on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, Badoo, Google+ and Myspace.

Justification:

Social media are more important than ever, and for many young people, their main source of political communication. Effective use of social media by all stakeholders in the EP election campaign will be a critical factor in enhancing the legitimacy of the institution. The emergence of Twitter is not to be missed for the next elections. More and more MEPs and European political parties are on Twitter. Efforts are being made by Parliament to establish social media platforms (eg. NewsHub). But we should also encourage journalists and NGOs to increase their engagement with the EP elections.

Draft amendment 6853

=== AFCO/6853 ===

Tabled by Roberto Gualtieri, Enrique Guerrero Salom, rapporteur, Committee on Constitutional Affairs

SECTION I — PARLIAMENT

Article 4 0 3 — Funding of European political foundations

Amend figures as follows:

	Budget 2012		Draft budget 2013		Council's position 2013		Difference		New amount	
	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments
4 0 3	12 150 000	12 150 000	12 400 000	12 400 000	12 400 000	12 400 000	1 610 165	1 610 165	14 010 165	14 010 165
Reserve										
Total	12 150 000	12 150 000	12 400 000	12 400 000	12 400 000	12 400 000	1 610 165	1 610 165	14 010 165	14 010 165

Justification:

The role of European Political Foundations in developing a European political sphere should be emphasized, in particular during the pre-electoral year 2013. For this purpose, the increase in the funding of European

Political Foundations should be kept in the same proportion as the increase foreseen for the funding of European Political Parties.

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Draft amendment 6850

==== AFCO/6850 ====

Tabled by Enrique Guerrero Salom, rapporteur, Committee on Constitutional Affairs

SECTION III — COMMISSION

Article 16 03 04 — Communicating Europe in Partnership

Amend figures and remarks as follows:

	Budget 2012		Draft budget 2013		Council's position 2013		Difference		New amount	
	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments
16 03 04	10 700 000	10 200 000	12 500 000	12 000 000	11 100 000	12 000 000	1 900 000	600 000	13 000 000	12 600 000
Reserve	2 300 000	2 400 000								
Total	13 000 000	12 600 000	12 500 000	12 000 000	11 100 000	12 000 000	1 900 000	600 000	13 000 000	12 600 000

Remarks:

After paragraph:

Implemented in close cooperation between the Union account of specific national and regional features.

Amend text as follows:

The Interinstitutional Group on Information (IGI), co-chaired by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, lays down common guidelines for interinstitutional cooperation in matters of ~~Union~~the Union's information and communication policy. ~~The IGI~~ coordinates the central and decentralised public information activities on European topics. Each year the IGI gives its opinion on the priorities for the following years based on a report drawn up by the Commission. ***It has endorsed the following priority topics for 2013 and 2014: economic recovery, the European Year of Citizens (2013) and the communication campaign for the European elections (European Parliament).***

Justification:

2013 is a pre-election year and is therefore a particularly important year in communication terms, as is borne out by the IGI's inclusion of the European elections among the priorities for 2013 and 2014. The IGI has also stressed the need to step up communication efforts during this time of crisis in order to keep the general public informed as we move towards economic recovery. Accordingly, in view of the scope of the priority communication topics for 2013 and 2014, the appropriations for the programme should be brought back up to at least the same level as in 2012.

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Draft amendment 6856

==== AFCO/6856 ====

Tabled by Gerald Häfner, Committee on Constitutional Affairs

SECTION III — COMMISSION

Article 16 05 06 — European Civil Society House

Amend figures and remarks as follows:

	Budget 2012		Draft budget 2013		Council's position 2013		Difference		New amount	
	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments
16 05 06	p.m.	p.m.	—	—	—	—	250 000		250 000	—
Reserve										
Total	p.m.	p.m.	—	—	—	—	250 000		250 000	—

Remarks:

Amend text as follows:

This appropriation is *designed to enable the establishment of the* intended to fund a scoping study and the first steps in setting up a facility for a European Civil Society *House (ECSH) physically as a resource centre and advice bureau on European rights and civic participation for both citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs) and as a user-friendly space for brainstorming, ideas exchange and networking of like-minded individuals concerned about Europe's future. In order to achieve this goal there is a need to:* House.

– *Broaden the ECSH partnership base with key organizations on EU and national level that No appropriations are interested to share the physical space of the ECSH or become national contact points providing services in different languages. foreseen in 2011 and 2012.*

Add following text:

– *Implement wide spread consultations and outreach activities with citizens, local authorities and other stakeholders to expand ECSH supporters, create an enabling environment for its operation and define its services for the benefit of the communities and of European citizens.*

– *Plan the use of the physical premises of the ECSH in terms of a European citizens' advice bureau, temporary work space for civil society organizations visiting Brussels, more permanent offices and sharing of facilities and know-how and ensuring an EU-wide place for citizens to meet and debate among themselves and with the European institutions.*

Justification:

Progress has been achieved in setting up of the virtual ECSH as a resource center, capacity building and problem solving facility through the virtual one stop shop to enforce European citizens' rights and support European Citizen's Initiatives. The funds from the ECSH budget line are needed to enable and initiate the establishment of the physical premises so that the virtual and physical ECSH come together.

Draft amendment 6852

=== AFCO/6852 ===

Tabled by Enrique Guerrero Salom, rapporteur, Committee on Constitutional Affairs

SECTION III — COMMISSION

Add: 16 05 08

	Budget 2012		Draft budget 2013		Council's position 2013		Difference		New amount	
	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments
16 05 08							5 000 000	5 000 000	5 000 000	5 000 000
Reserve										
Total							5 000 000	5 000 000	5 000 000	5 000 000

Heading:

Communication measures in the run-up to the European elections

Remarks:

Add following text:

This budget heading is intended to cover funding for communication measures including:

- *informing the general public about the Union's new competences following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, with particular reference to the European Parliament's responsibilities;*
- *drawing people's attention to the practical action taken by the Union which has a direct impact on their lives;*
- *providing people with information on their electoral rights and the issues at stake in the European elections.*

Wherever possible, these measures should be carried out in the languages of the target groups.

Justification:

The 2014 elections will be the first European Parliament elections to be held since the entry into force of the

Lisbon Treaty, which has resulted in major changes to the Union's institutional setup and decision-making procedures. A specific budget heading therefore needs to be created with a view to raising public awareness of the new institutional arrangements, in particular Parliament's enhanced role, about which too little is still known by the public. It is vital for voters to be given the details they require in order to be able to make an informed choice.

Draft amendment 6855

==== AFCO/6855 ====

Tabled by Algirdas Saudargas, Gerald Häfner, Committee on Constitutional Affairs

SECTION III — COMMISSION

Add: 16 05 08

	Budget 2012		Draft budget 2013		Council's position 2013		Difference		New amount	
	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments
16 05 08							1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000
Reserve										
Total							1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000

Heading:

Implementation of European Citizens' Initiatives

Remarks:

Add following text:

These appropriations serve to facilitate the implementation of European Citizens' Initiatives.

This may include hosting online collection systems and access to pre-installed software platforms so as to allow organizers to collect online statements of support.

It may also cover costs related to a help desk for technical problems or "starter-kits" for organizers.

Justification:

Since the entry into force and application of the European Citizen's Initiatives some technical problems with the ECI procedures are still not solved. The Commission now decided to host a limited number of online collection systems but funds need to be easily available to find solutions for a successful implementation of all ECI's under equal conditions. A new line must be created for that purpose, also so as not depend on surplus appropriations being available on other lines and time consuming budget transfers.

Draft amendment 6851

==== AFCO/6851 ====

Tabled by Enrique Guerrero Salom, rapporteur, Committee on Constitutional Affairs

SECTION III — COMMISSION

Item 16 05 07 02 — European year of Citizens 2013

Amend figures and remarks as follows:

	Budget 2012		Draft budget 2013		Council's position 2013		Difference		New amount	
	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments	Commitments	Payments
16 05 07 02			1 000 000	500 000	1 000 000	500 000	4 000 000	4 500 000	5 000 000	5 000 000
Reserve										
Total			1 000 000	500 000	1 000 000	500 000	4 000 000	4 500 000	5 000 000	5 000 000

Remarks:

After paragraph:

On this basis, the specific objectives of the European Year shall be:

Amend text as follows:

- to ~~make~~ raise Union citizens' awareness of their right to move and reside freely within the European Union and more generally the rights guaranteed to Union citizens ***aware of their rights and help them to exercise those rights***, in cross-border situations, including ***the right to move and reside freely within the European Union, and, in general, of all the rights they are guaranteed and all the duties that are incumbent on them, in particular the new rights deriving from the Lisbon Treaty, such as their*** right to participate in the democratic life of the Union, ***inter alia through the citizens' initiative***;
- to ~~bolster and encourage~~ raise Union citizens' awareness of how they can tangibly benefit from Union rights and policies while living in another Member State, and to stimulate their active ***and participatory citizenship at all levels and at all stages in the decision-making process***; participation in civic forums on Union policies and issues;
- ***to develop a structured framework for European civil dialogue and to hold civic forums on Union policies and issues***;
- to ~~foster~~ stimulate a debate about the impact and potential of the right to free movement, as an ***ongoing debate about the meaning, impact and potential of all aspects*** inalienable aspect of Union citizenship, in particular in terms of ***enhancing social*** strengthening societal cohesion and mutual understanding between Union citizens and ***strengthening*** the bond between citizens and the Union.

Justification:

At a time of crisis, the Union must do all it can to boost public confidence and must make people the focus in the development of new policies. The European Year of Citizens has been included among the priority communication topics by the Interinstitutional Group on Information and, in June 2012, in 'Communicating on Europe, for Europe and by Europe', the Commission emphasised the inseparable link between raising public awareness, rebuilding trust and coming out of the crisis, which is an overriding priority for the Union.