



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 – 2014

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2011/2019(BUD)

20.4.2011

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on a mandate for the trilogue on the 2012 draft budget
(2011/2019(BUD))

Rapporteur: María Muñoz De Urquiza

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Underlines that the European Union as a global player has the responsibility to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability, economic development and respect for fundamental values and human rights throughout the world;
2. Recalls the EU's role in fostering multilateral cooperation with a view to promoting collective action in order to meet international challenges;
3. Warns that the EU risks international marginalisation if its foreign policy remains underfunded;
4. Emphasises the need to provide adequate support for the neighbouring South Mediterranean countries, to help them make the transition to democracy and build democratic institutions, including support for civil society;
5. Reiterates that EU relations with Latin America are underfunded, taking into account the strategic partnership between both regions, as well as the potential of Latin America as an emergent region and economic growth hub. This underfunding is specially aggravated by the deadlock of the allocation of funds from the ICI + programme, since the legal basis for the participation of several Latin American countries entitled to benefit from ICI+ has not yet been adopted;
6. Calls for a clear strategy for Palestine, linking the European Union's financial assistance to an increased political role for the EU in the peace process; to this end, points out that the financial assistance to Palestine should reflect the Middle East's strategic importance for the European Union; is of the view that, when programming the assistance needed, the Commission should build on past experience and estimated needs, and should therefore be able to allocate the funding required to contribute to the viability of the Palestinian authorities and to the Middle East peace process; therefore insists that the amount envisaged for 2012 should, as a minimum, be the same as that spent in 2011;
7. Is convinced that increased budgetary resources are necessary but not sufficient to guarantee the effectiveness of EU external action – greater flexibility and rapidity in disbursing financial assistance are also required; calls therefore for greater flexibility between headings and above such headings in the financial perspective; is in favour of a revision of the financial perspective that would enable the EU to react rapidly to crises, taking full account of political priorities;
8. Emphasises the need to provide more flexibility and ensure better-targeted assistance, particularly aimed at civil society, including local level, so as to promote a bottom-up approach; calls also for a comprehensive efficiency analysis of ENPI in coordination with other instruments, with the aim of making better use of financial instruments available in the EU's relations with southern and eastern neighbours and of ensuring that development assistance is used adequately in beneficiary countries;

9. Believes that appropriate resources should also be provided for in order to develop strategic relations with the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) for financing non-ODA activities, notably to cover financial and technical funding for cooperation in areas of mutual interest between the EU and these countries;
10. Recalls that the Instrument for Stability provides funds in situations of crisis or emerging crises, when timely financial help cannot be provided from other EU sources; considers that the proposed reduction of the IfS's budget for 2012 is disproportionate, inconsistent with political priorities and ignores the fragile political climate in many regions in our neighbourhood and beyond it;
11. Regrets that there is currently little transparency about the cost of the CDSP missions and reaffirms its support for establishment of specific budget lines for major CSDP missions;
12. Believes that savings can be made by identifying overlaps and inefficiencies across all headings and flagging up areas where results are not in line with the expectations and requests of the European Parliament.