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*Committee on Foreign Affairs*

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**2011/2020(BUD)**

26.8.2011

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on Parliament's position on the 2012 Draft Budget as modified by the Council  
- all sections  
(2011/2020(BUD))

Rapporteur: María Muñoz De Urquiza

PA\_NonLeg

## 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. Insists that sufficient appropriations must be ensured so that the EU can fulfil its role of global player with responsibility for promoting peace and stability, fighting poverty, supporting economic development and for upholding respect for fundamental values and human rights throughout the world;
2. Reiterates the argument that Heading IV of the EU Budget 2012 is underfinanced and the margin available under the same heading is too low to cope with the increased political challenges in our neighbourhood and worldwide; calls, therefore, for recourse to the flexibility mechanisms foreseen in the IIA currently under review in order to provide the necessary financial resources;
3. Stresses again, in this context, the need to provide adequate support for the neighbouring South Mediterranean countries, to help the transition to democracy and to build democratic institutions;
4. Believes that the proposed cuts for the peace process in Palestine are unacceptable as they would undermine the safety and livelihood of refugees and current efforts to ensure a viable Palestinian state; warns that such cuts could eventually lead to a most dangerous point of no return; calls again 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 in relation to both parties in the conflict;
5. Is in favour of maintaining at least the same level of funding as in 2011 for the EIDHR, including the electoral observation missions, as well as for DCI, ICI + and for the IFS; for the latter, is in favour of supporting the relevant UN bodies in charge of protecting women and children from violence and armed conflicts;
6. Recalls the need to implement the Common Foreign and Security Policy whilst ensuring policy coherence for development, duly respecting previous engagement so that unspent allocations already earmarked to fight poverty in certain regions must be reallocated in those countries of the same regions where major needs in terms of fighting poverty still exist and where absorption capacity is proven;
7. Recalls the resolutions on a EU approach towards Iran of 10 March 2011<sup>1</sup>, on EU relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council of 24 March 2011<sup>2</sup> as well as on a new strategy for Afghanistan of 16 December 2010<sup>3</sup> and the need to provide a concrete follow-up in budgetary terms to the provisions therein adopted;
8. Supports the draft budget proposed by the Commission for assisting candidate

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2011)0096.

<sup>2</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2011)0109.

<sup>3</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2010)0490.

countries with a view to enlargement;

9. Underlines the need to equip the EEAS with the budgetary means needed to allow it to assist the HR/VP in conducting EU foreign policy and in ensuring coherence of EU external action; points, in particular, to the need to strengthen political staff in EU Delegations; is therefore of the view that the Commission Draft Budget for Section X should be restored; insists, however, on full implementation of commitments given to Parliament by the HR/VP during the process of the establishment of the EEAS, so as to enhance the democratic legitimacy of EU foreign policy.