



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2012/2016(BUD)

9.5.2012

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on 2013 Budget - Mandate for Trilogue
(2012/2016(BUD))

Rapporteur: Anneli Jäätteenmäki

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. Recalls that at a time when the national budgets of all Member States are subject to severe austerity measures, the 2013 budgetary procedure must be part of the general effort to reduce expenditures; takes the view that, for the sake of exemplarity and solidarity, the EU must show a commensurate commitment to scale down or control increases in program funding; maintains that heading 4 in the EU budget cannot be exempted from this politically difficult exercise;
2. Supports, in this regard, the Commission's proposal to scale down programmes that are not implemented in a satisfactory way, but rejects its proposal to artificially increase, as compared to the financial programming, the margin under heading 4 in order to facilitate the upcoming budgetary conciliation; takes the view that, for the sake of budgetary discipline and sound financial management, all parties involved must face what the real financial needs of the Union's external action are;
3. Notes the proposal to contain increases for appropriations under the European Neighbourhood Instrument, addressing the needs of countries facing major political and economical changes; welcomes the focus on the Eastern Partnership but considers the Commission's reporting on the application of the 'more for more' principle to be insufficient;
4. Stresses that, thanks to Parliament's strong commitment, the EU's annual contribution to the Palestinian Authority, the UNRWA and the Middle East peace process over the last years amounts, at a minimum, to EUR 300 million, and recalls that the budgetary authority has, in the course of the budgetary conciliation, agreed to an allocation of EUR 200 million for the year 2012, conditioned by a sine qua non supplementary increase of EUR 100 million for the 2011 financial year stemming from unused appropriations;
5. Recalls that it is important for the EU that it promotes the Arctic and Northern dimension policies, and reiterates its support to all existing mechanisms that serve to strengthen this cooperation;
6. Stresses that further efforts should be made to provide sensible and user-friendly information on the Union's programmes and actions;
7. Reiterates its concerns regarding the parliamentary scrutiny and transparency of the CFSP budget; firmly believes that a clear breakdown should be made of all items financed within the CFSP budget, including CSDP operations, EU special representatives and other attendant policies, convinced that this will not infringe on the necessary flexibility and reactivity required for the CFSP; calls on the Commission to provide, without delay, the rationale for using allocations from the CFSP budget, rather than from the budget of the External Action Service, to finance the outlays for EU Special Representatives;
8. Welcomes the substantial expenditure savings achieved by the External Action Service in

2012, and the continuation of this trend in 2013 as projected in the Estimates; takes the view, in this context, that while the phasing-in of the Service can justify an expenditure increase proportionally greater than that foreseen by the other Institutions, a variation of +5.7 %, relative to Budget 2012 does not tally with the savings to be implemented at operational and administrative levels throughout the whole EU budget.