



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Development*

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**2009/2002(BUD)**

14.8.2009

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2010,  
Section III - Commission  
(C6-0000/2009 – 2009/2002(BUD))

Rapporteur: Gay Mitchell

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Is extremely concerned about the global economic downturn and its multiple repercussions for developing countries, including declines in flows of private investment and migrants' remittances; points out that the financial crisis will have its greatest consequences in developing countries, compounding the challenges of food price volatility and environmental threats; calls for a legislative initiative to address the most urgent needs arising from the financial and economic crisis in countries which are beneficiaries of the Financing Instrument for Development Cooperation (DCI) in line with the ad hoc Vulnerability Flex Mechanism for ACP countries financed by the European Development Fund (EDF); insists that this be accompanied by proposals for other, innovative solutions for development finance to mitigate the impact in the medium term;
2. Stresses that the greatest challenges of mitigation and adaptation to climate change will be faced by developing countries, and that a significant contribution by the EU will be essential in order to address these additional needs; calls for the Commission to play a leadership role in responding to the challenge, by coordinating donor responses and by providing adequate additional resources;
3. Underlines the importance of rapid mobilisation of humanitarian aid in the event of natural or man-made disasters; opposes any budgetary measure which may delay the mobilisation of such resources;
4. Points out that the serious overstretching of Heading 4 resources risks compromising the capacity of the EU to respond appropriately to global challenges, as a result of the large number of newly arising needs unforeseen at the time the Financial Perspectives were established; calls for a revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework to remedy this unsustainable situation;
5. Objects strongly to the Commission's practice of only providing partial information on the proposed use of Heading 4 appropriations at the stage of the Preliminary Draft Budget (PDB), providing full details only when the budgetary procedure is underway; points out that this does not allow Parliament to play its full role; insists that in future years full proposals be made in the PDB.