



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2009/2002(BUD)

21.8.2009

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Budgets

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

Rapporteur: Lena Ek

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Points to the important challenges the Union is facing in the field of energy, information technology, research and innovation, notably to ensure security of energy supply, to combat climate change, to stimulate the evolution of an eco-efficient economy, to prevent a digital divide and to drive innovation in the aftermath of the financial crisis and economic downturn; believes that significant cuts to budget lines which implement policies to tackle these challenges would be detrimental to EU's sustainable economic recovery, regional development and job creation;
2. Regrets in particular the cuts proposed by the Council to the 7th Framework Programme of about 6% in payments appropriations, and of up to 59% for some specific budget lines (budget line 08 01 05 03), which undermine the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy; calls for appropriate funding of research policies, thereby putting a special emphasis on encouraging women's participation in research and on enhancing understanding of gender issues in order to facilitate gender equality;
3. Welcomes the energy-efficient buildings, factories for the future and European Green Cars initiatives as promising public-private partnerships to be financed by the 7th Framework Programme in order to support industry in the development of more sustainable road transport, new technologies and new eco-efficient materials;
4. Stresses the need to stimulate the production of renewable energy, energy efficiency and low carbon technology, including Carbon Capturing and Storage (CCS), which contribute to job creation, sustainable regional development and progress towards an eco-efficient economy;
5. Considers that more emphasis must be put on investment in energy infrastructure, development and upgrading of transmission networks and building of interconnectors, with a view in particular to overcoming the isolation of areas not sufficiently connected to European energy networks, so-called "energy islands"; calls therefore for the provision of funding adequate for the implementation of the European Energy Recovery Programme (budget line 06 01 04 13);
6. Calls for appropriate funding for improving the security and safety of nuclear installations and their dismantling;
7. Calls for adequate financing in support of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), in particular in the aftermath of the economic downturn, since SMEs are crucial for job creation and for stimulating regional development; underlines in this context the importance of the support schemes of the European Investment Bank for SMEs, since SMEs are hit hardest by the difficulty in obtaining credit following financial crises;
8. Believes that investments in information and communications technologies will foster growth and innovation, thereby contributing to the goals of the Lisbon Strategy; calls, in

this context, for more support for research activities in the field of information technologies such as the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme.