



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Budgetary Control*

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**2013/2145(BUD)**

3.10.2013

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgetary Control

for the Committee on Budgets

on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for  
the financial year 2014  
(13176/2013 - C7-0260/2013 - 2013/2145(BUD))

Rapporteur: Jens Geier

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas in a situation of limitation of resources, caused by the economic and financial crisis, the institutions of the Union and the Member States should fully cooperate in order to efficiently implement the general budget of the European Union and adequately protect it by preventive and corrective actions;
- B. whereas one of the main objectives of the 2014 draft budget is to accelerate the Europe 2020 Strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion;
- C. whereas the dialogue between Parliament and the Commission provided for in Article 318 TFEU should stimulate the culture of performance inside the Commission;
  1. Notes that the cumulative implementation of financial corrections for previous years imposed by the Commission on Member States that fail to implement sound systems and recoveries across all policy areas amount to about EUR 4,5 billion in 2012 (EUR 1,8 billion in 2011)<sup>1</sup>;
  2. Points out that the significant increase compared to the previous year is mainly explained by the closure exercise of the ERDF programme for the 2000-2006 period and the resulting financial corrections<sup>2</sup>;
  3. Asks the Commission to clearly indicate which amounts recovered in 2012 have been booked as revenue in the accounts of the Union or have been off-set and the extent to which financial corrections and recoveries decided in 2012 may impact on payment needs for the 2013 and the 2014 budgets;
  4. Recalls that the Communication to the European Parliament<sup>3</sup> adopted by the Commission for the first time in September 2013 with a view to making public, in a user friendly way, all the amounts in nominal terms recovered in the course of the preceding year through financial corrections and recoveries is a priority action required by Parliament; is of the opinion that this Communication should also indicate to which extent the financial corrections and recoveries impact on the revenue and expenditure side of the budget;
  5. Emphasizes that recovered amounts are considered revenues that should remain in the Union budget and therefore contribute to a stabilisation of the budget; points out that this delivers a strong message and incentive to Member States to improve their management

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<sup>1</sup> See the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors of 5 June 2013: Synthesis of the Commission's management achievements in 2012 (COM(2013)0334).

<sup>2</sup> idem.

<sup>3</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament: Protection of the European Union budget to end 2012 (COM(2013)0682 final/2).

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and control systems; regrets that while approximately 80 % of the budget is actually spent by Member States there is no clear commitment from most of the Member States for a Member State declaration justifying that the money is well spent;

6. Asks to be informed by the Commission about all amounts received during the year 2013 from agreements with the major tobacco companies including penalty payments as foreseen in the agreements, fines from companies that breach EU rules and regulations, including the total amount which was attributed to the budget of the Union;
7. Welcomes the programme statements of operational expenditure accompanying the 2014 draft budget, which contain besides numerical data related to the programme also information in terms of EU added value, the contribution to Europe 2020 Strategy (Headline targets and Flagship initiatives) as well as general and specific objectives supported by indicators and targets; notes that it is a first step towards acting on the recommendations expressed by the Committee on Budgetary Control when it examined the discharge to the Commission for the year 2011;
8. Recalls in particular that, in its resolution accompanying the decision to grant the 2011 discharge to the Commission, Parliament urged the Commission to develop a new culture of performance, to propose a clear definition of European added value until the mid-term review in the various areas of policies and programmes and to focus, within the section relating to the internal policies of the evaluation report provided for by Article 318 TFEU, also on the Europe 2020 Strategy as being the economic and social policy of the Union, the emphasis being placed on the progress made in the achievement of the flagship initiatives;
9. Welcomes the agreement reached on a new Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management accompanying the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 with regard to the evaluation report foreseen by Article 318 TFEU which specifies that "the Commission shall distinguish the internal policies, focused on the Europe 2020 Strategy, from the external policies and shall use more performance information, including performance audit results, to evaluate the finances of the Union based on the results achieved";
10. Regrets the fact that the 2014 budget will increase the RAL with an expected amount of EUR 6 billion<sup>1</sup>; calls upon the Commission and the Council to take the still increasing amount of outstanding commitments into account and come forward with measures to reduce the amount of outstanding commitments.

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<sup>1</sup> Compare working document BUDG\_DT(2013)510689 on the outstanding commitments for 2013 and calculation methods.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	2.10.2013
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 12 -: 1 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jean-Pierre Audy, Inés Ayala Sender, Martin Ehrenhauser, Jens Geier, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Ingeborg Gräßle, Bogusław Liberadzki, Crescenzo Rivellini
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Philip Bradbourn, Karin Kadenbach, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Markus Pieper, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Barbara Weiler
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Spyros Danellis, Wolf Klinz, Gesine Meissner