



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Development

2014/2040(BUD)

24.9.2014

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015
(2014/2040(BUD))

Rapporteur: Paul Rübzig

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recalls the EU Member States' collective and individual commitments to raise the level of Official Development Assistance to 0,7% by 2015;
2. Underlines that the primary objective of EU development cooperation shall be the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty and recalls that, according to the Regulation establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation¹, countries most in need shall be given priority in the resource allocation process;
3. Expresses deep concern about the underfinancing of 'completion budget lines' (payments for lines from the previous MFF) in particular, and fears that the increase in deficits carried over from one budget year to the next will result in the loss of credibility and reliability vis-à-vis partner countries and implementing organisations, and will reverse progress made in terms of management and aid effectiveness; calls therefore for the reinforcement of these completion budget lines, in particular for the thematic programmes (food security, human development, non-state actors, and environment and energy);
4. Welcomes the establishment of payment and commitment appropriations at equal levels for humanitarian aid budget lines, thereby helping to avoid the disruption to humanitarian aid that was witnessed during 2013 and 2014; stresses that it is paramount that no payment deficit is carried over from 2014 into 2015 and that all needs must be addressed instead by amending budgets during 2014; stresses also the cost-effectiveness of investment in disaster prevention and preparedness;
5. Calls for an increase in funding to humanitarian agencies, such as UNHCR, UNRWA, Médecins sans frontières, in times of conflict; and in this line, urges greater budgetary support in particular to deal with the crises in Iraq, Syria and Gaza, helping to maintain a strong emphasis on refugee necessities, primarily medical intervention, basic utilities and education, as well as to address West African countries affected with the Ebola virus;
6. Given the dramatic situation in the field of humanitarian aid, insists, as a matter of priority, that the level of payments of the emergency aid reserve must be substantially increased to cope with unforeseen events, recalls that payments from the emergency aid reserve are financed outside the MFF, as a special instrument;
7. Considers that cuts proposed by the Council cannot be accepted, as EU development assistance needs reasonable financing that is reliable for partners.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 (OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 44–76).

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	23.9.2014
Result of final vote	+ : 24 - : 3 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Louis Aliot, Kostas Chrysogonos, Ignazio Corrao, Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Nathan Gill, Charles Goerens, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Heidi Hautala, Maria Heubuch, Hans Jansen, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Arne Lietz, Linda McAvan, Norbert Neuser, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Maurice Ponga, Cristian Dan Preda, Lola Sánchez Caldentey, Elly Schlein, György Schöpflin, Davor Ivo Stier, Paavo Väyrynen, Bogdan Brunon Wenta, Anna Záborská
Substitutes present for the final vote	Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Paul Rübig, Kathleen Van Brempt