



2017/2044(BUD)

31.8.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018
(2017/2044(BUD))

Rapporteur: Adina-Ioana Vălean

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Underlines that 19,5 % of the total commitments in the draft budget for 2018 (2018 DB) are climate-related and that the Union budget trend would deliver only 18,8 % for the MFF period; stresses that every effort should be made to reach the 20 % target;
2. Recalls that according to the European Court of Auditors (ECA) there is a serious risk that the 20 % climate target in the Union Budget will not be achieved, whilst according to Commission figures, the share of funding dedicated to climate action has averaged only 17,6 % over the period 2014 to 2016; shares ECA's view that the rate of climate funding would need to be increased to an average of 22 % across the remaining years of the current programming period, i.e. for 2017 to 2020, in order to reach the overall target of 20 % by the end of 2020; recalls that in March 2017, ECOFIN also called on Member States to spend a higher amount of the Union budget during the remaining current MFF period on climate financing, given the additional commitments entered into at the COP 21 in Paris;
3. Reiterates that the achievement of goals laid out in the Europe 2020 strategy is dependent on climate and resource efficiency mainstreaming throughout all Union policies; the Union budget must also support the objectives of the Paris Agreement;
4. Believes that Union-funded projects, including EFSI, should not have a negative impact on the transition to a circular, low-carbon economy; a comprehensive screening of the Union budget is therefore urgently needed in order to identify environmentally harmful spending and to develop, and commit to, a strategy to phase out such lending;
5. Notes that 8,2 % of total commitments are related to reversing the decline in biodiversity; calls for sufficient resources to be allocated to the protection of biodiversity;
6. Notes the increase of EUR 29,1 million in commitments for LIFE (+5,9 %); regrets that LIFE represents only 0,3 % of the 2018 DB;
7. Is concerned that the Commission intends to reallocate EUR 2 million of the funds available under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and EUR 1,5 million of the funds available under the LIFE programme to the European Solidarity Corps; calls on the Commission to ensure that the reallocation of funds from the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the LIFE programme to the European Solidarity Corps does not in any way diminish the effective functioning of those programmes, nor hamper or delay the various actions and initiatives foreseen in relation to civil protection and the environment, biodiversity protection and climate adaptation;
8. Expresses concerns at the 13,1 % reduction in LIFE payments; warns of the problems that could result from a lack of payments;
9. Takes note of the proposed EUR 66,4 million in commitments (+2,9 %) and EUR 55,9

million in payments (-3,1 %) for health; regrets that this is only 0,04 % of the 2018 DB and 1,5 % of heading 3 (in commitments);

10. Takes note of the proposed EUR 286,7 million in commitments (+11,9 %) and EUR 248,4 million in payments (+5,9 %) for food and feed; regrets that this is only 0,18 % of the 2018 DB and 7% of heading 3 (in commitments);
11. Notes the increase in the commitments for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUR 33,2 million, +7,2 %), which is a cornerstone of Union solidarity;
12. Strongly disapproves of staff reductions in EEA (-3 posts), ECHA (-2), ECDC (-2), EFSA (-4) and EMA (-5), which, given that the tasks and duties of those agencies are growing, will almost inevitably negatively impact their work; demands that they should receive adequate human and financial resources; furthermore, is concerned that in the case of fee-funded agencies, like EMA, the staff cuts imposed in recent years have meant a reduction in staff working on tasks that are actually funded by applicants' fees and not by the Union budget; such cuts have been carried out without taking into consideration either the additional workload created by increasing numbers of applications, or the corresponding increase in income from fees paid by applicants for the services provided which could have allowed staff increases while avoiding any impact on the Union budget;
13. Recalls in particular that EEA helps the Union to make informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and moving towards sustainability, and that in the context of the 2030 Union climate and energy policy, the Commission has proposed new work for EEA on the Governance of the Energy Union, without any corresponding increase in the establishment table;
14. Notes in particular that EMA will be facing an increased workload and further budgetary needs in 2018 as a consequence of the decision of the UK to withdraw from the Union; calls on the Commission to make available additional staff and budget resources in 2018 so as to ensure that this agency can both continue to carry out its tasks effectively and launch all required activities in preparation for its relocation in 2019; proposes therefore that EMA, in the spirit of sound financial management, be authorised to maintain a budgetary reserve to respond to unforeseen costs that may be incurred in 2018 or beyond, such as a result of unfavourable exchange rate fluctuations;
15. Calls on the Commission to swiftly implement pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP-PAs) and calls on the Commission for continued support for ongoing and new pilot projects;
16. Recalls that PP-PAs should receive adequate funding throughout their life cycle, so that they can reach their full potential.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	31.8.2017
Result of final vote	+: 51 -: 11 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Pilar Ayuso, Zoltán Balczó, Catherine Bearder, Ivo Belet, Simona Bonafè, Paul Brannen, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Mireille D’Ornano, Miriam Dalli, Seb Dance, Angélique Delahaye, Mark Demesmaeker, Stefan Eck, Bas Eickhout, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Arne Gericke, Jens Gieseke, Julie Girling, Françoise Grossetête, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jean-François Jalkh, Benedek Jávor, Karin Kadenbach, Kateřina Konečná, Urszula Krupa, Jo Leinen, Peter Liese, Susanne Melior, Massimo Paolucci, Gilles Pargneaux, Piernicola Pedicini, Bolesław G. Piecha, Frédérique Ries, Davor Škrlec, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Ivica Tolić, Estefanía Torres Martínez, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Nicola Caputo, Albert Deß, Jørn Dohrmann, Herbert Dorfmann, Christofer Fjellner, Luke Ming Flanagan, Stefano Maullu, Gesine Meissner, Joëlle Mélin, James Nicholson, Younous Omarjee, Marijana Petir, Stanislav Polčák, Christel Schaldemose, Tibor Szanyi, Keith Taylor, Tiemo Wölken, Carlos Zorrinho
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Jonathan Bullock, Olle Ludvigsson

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

51	+
ALDE	Catherine Bearder, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Gesine Meissner, Frédérique Ries
GUE/NGL	Stefan Eck, Luke Ming Flanagan, Kateřina Konečná, Younous Omarjee, Estefanía Torres Martínez
NI	Zoltán Balczó
PPE	Pilar Ayuso, Ivo Belet, Birgit Collin-Langen, Angélique Delahaye, Albert Deß, Herbert Dorfmann, Christofer Fjellner, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Jens Gieseke, Françoise Grossetête, Peter Liese, Stefano Maullu, Marijana Petir, Stanislav Polčák, Ivica Tolić
S&D	Simona Bonafè, Paul Brannen, Nicola Caputo, Nessa Childers, Miriam Dalli, Seb Dance, Karin Kadenbach, Jo Leinen, Olle Ludvigsson, Susanne Melior, Massimo Paolucci, Gilles Pargneaux, Christel Schaldemose, Tibor Szanyi, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Tiemo Wölken, Damiano Zoffoli, Carlos Zorrinho
VERTS/ALE	Marco Affronte, Bas Eickhout, Benedek Jávor, Davor Škrlec, Keith Taylor

11	-
ECR	Mark Demesmaeker, Jørn Dohrmann, Arne Gericke, Julie Girling, Urszula Krupa, James Nicholson, Bolesław G. Piecha
EFDD	Jonathan Bullock
ENF	Mireille D'Ornano, Jean-François Jalkh, Joëlle Mélin

1	0
EFDD	Piernicola Pedicini

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention