



2017/2044(BUD)

14.7.2017

AMENDMENTS

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Draft opinion
Cristian Dan Preda
(PE606.051v01-00)

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018 - all sections
(2017/2044(BUD))

Amendment 1

Sabine Lösing, Javier Couso Permuy, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Takis Hadjigeorgiou

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes *with concern* the Commission proposal for more than a half a billion euro decrease in both commitment and payment appropriations for Heading 4 expenditure (Global Europe); stresses that *an ad hoc one-year increase, such as that in 2017, can hardly be considered sufficient in view of the pressing needs for stronger EU external action;*

Amendment

1. Notes the Commission proposal for more than a half a billion euro decrease in both commitment and payment appropriations for Heading 4 expenditure (Global Europe); stresses that *such decrease should not be at the expense of poverty eradication and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, civil conflict solution and mediation, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, arms control, disarmament and the non-proliferation regime or fair trade and should favour balanced economic relations, and humanitarian and development aid;*

Or. en

Amendment 2

Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Notes with concern the Commission proposal for more than a half a billion euro decrease in both commitment and payment appropriations for Heading 4 expenditure (Global Europe); stresses that an ad hoc one-year increase, such as that in 2017, *can hardly* be considered sufficient in view of the *pressing needs* for stronger EU external action;

Amendment

1. Notes with concern the Commission proposal for more than a half a billion euro decrease in both commitment and payment appropriations for Heading 4 expenditure (Global Europe); stresses that an ad hoc one-year increase, such as that in 2017, *cannot* be considered sufficient in view of the *multiple complex challenges that the Union is facing and the need* for stronger EU external action;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Željana Zovko

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1 a. Recalls that, in the context of the European Union Global Strategy (EUGS) and of the development of the Union's foreign policy and the image of the Union as a global power in securing borders, fighting against extremism and terrorism, providing humanitarian assistance and post crisis assistance to affected partner countries, it is necessary to increase the allocation for Heading 4 in order to keep pace with the global challenges;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Questions the proposed increase in support for political reforms in Turkey under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA) in view of the lack of serious engagement by Turkish authorities in this area; calls for the increase in funding to be frozen until the Commission has put measures in place to redirect the additional funds towards supporting civil society; in general, underscores the need to step up investment in direct support to civil society and refugees in Turkey as well as to people-to-people exchange programmes, such as Erasmus + for students, academics and journalists;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2 a. Attributes high importance to countering disinformation and to enhancing the Union's strategic communication in Central and Eastern Europe, and calls for an increase of EUR 2 million in appropriations to support such actions;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Željana Zovko

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Draws attention to recent worrying political developments in the Western Balkans that require the Union's urgent attention to avoid progress achieved in the past decades being put into question; rejects, therefore, the proposed cut of almost EUR 90 million *to* support for political reforms in the region under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA);

3. Draws attention to ***the*** recent worrying political developments in the Western Balkans that require the Union's urgent ***and more focused*** attention ***and an active support towards Western Balkans countries in order*** to avoid progress achieved in the past decades ***and their EU perspective*** being put into question; ***reiterates that losing the prospect of the accession to the European Union could open those countries to the influence of non-European third countries, which could subsequently put in question the stability and security of the region, as well as the immediate borders of the Union;*** rejects, therefore, the proposed cut of almost EUR 90 million ***in the*** support for political, ***institutional and economic*** reforms in the region under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA), ***which are a prerequisite for successful EU***

prospects; reminds, in contrary, that the budget for political, institutional and economic reforms should be increased, under IPA2, in order for citizens to sense the benefits of the EU negotiation process;

Or. en

Amendment 7

Jordi Solé

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Draws attention to recent worrying political developments in the Western Balkans that require the Union's urgent attention to avoid progress achieved in the past decades being put into question; rejects, therefore, the proposed cut of almost EUR 90 million to support for political reforms in the region under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA);

Amendment

3. Draws attention to recent worrying political developments in the Western Balkans that require the Union's urgent attention to avoid progress achieved in the past decades being put into question; rejects, therefore, the proposed cut of almost EUR 90 million to support for political reforms in the region under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA); *supports the reduction of funding for Turkey under the "Support for economic, social and territorial development" line; believes however that an increase in EIDHR funding should be earmarked for Turkey in order to support civil society directly.*

Or. en

Amendment 8

Cristian Dan Preda

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Draws attention to recent worrying political developments in the Western

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Amendment

3. Draws attention to recent worrying political developments in the Western

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Balkans that require the Union's urgent attention to avoid progress achieved in the past decades being put into question; rejects, therefore, the proposed cut of almost EUR 90 million to support for political reforms in the region under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA);

Balkans that require the Union's urgent attention to avoid progress achieved in the past decades being put into question; rejects, therefore, the proposed cut of almost EUR 90 million to support for political reforms in the region under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA); ***recalls that support for candidate countries and potential candidate countries in adopting and implementing political, economic and social reforms in view of their accession is an important tool to foster stability;***

Or. en

Amendment 9
Paulo Rangel

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Draws attention to recent worrying political developments in the Western Balkans that require the Union's urgent attention to avoid progress achieved in the past decades being put into question; rejects, therefore, the proposed cut of almost EUR 90 million to support for political reforms in the region under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA);

Amendment

3. Draws attention to recent worrying political developments in the Western Balkans that require the Union's urgent attention to avoid progress achieved in the past decades being put into question; rejects, therefore, the proposed cut of almost EUR 90 million to support for political reforms in the region under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA); ***stresses the importance of this instrument and the need to make more effective use of funding earmarked for this purpose;***

Or. pt

Amendment 10
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Draws attention to recent worrying political developments in the Western Balkans that require the Union's urgent attention to avoid progress achieved in the past decades being put into question; rejects, therefore, the proposed cut of almost EUR 90 million to support for political reforms in the region under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA);

Amendment

3. Draws attention to recent worrying political developments in the Western Balkans that require the Union's urgent attention to avoid progress achieved in the past decades being put into question ***and to consolidate their path toward accession***; rejects, therefore, the proposed cut of almost EUR 90 million to support for political reforms in the region under the Instrument for Pre-Accession assistance (IPA);

Or. en

Amendment 11
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Underlines the strategic importance of both the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood for the Union and demands that the proposed decrease of resources for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is avoided;

Amendment

4. Underlines the strategic importance of both the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood for the Union and demands that the proposed decrease of resources for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is avoided; ***once again underscores the importance of continuing to support Tunisia as a potential example of democratic transition in the region; considers it essential to maintain the Union's pivotal role in supporting the Middle East Peace Process as well as the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA in the light of recent worrying developments; calls for increased support to accompany Libya's transition towards an inclusive democracy and for all possible measures to be taken to ensure the respect of human rights in the country***;

Or. en

Amendment 12

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Cristian Dan Preda

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Underlines the strategic importance of both the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood for the Union and demands that the proposed decrease of resources for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is avoided;

Amendment

4. Underlines the strategic importance of both the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood for the Union and demands that the proposed decrease of resources for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is avoided; ***supports the pledge of April 2017 Brussels Conference for an increased assistance in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon and stresses that a corresponding reinforcement of ENI should be foreseen; takes positive note of the slight increase of funding for the Eastern Partnership countries under ENI and draws attention to the fact that, given the current challenges, further increases should be envisaged;***

Or. en

Amendment 13
Tokia Saïfi

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Underlines the strategic importance of both the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood for the Union and demands that the proposed decrease of resources for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is avoided;

Amendment

4. Underlines the strategic importance of both the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood for the Union and demands that the proposed decrease of resources for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is avoided; ***points out that the primary objective of European Neighbourhood Policy is growth and employment, particularly for young graduates; calls on the Commission to respect and step up its ENI commitments to provide funding for projects promoting the employability of young people locally;***

Or. fr

Amendment 14
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Underlines the strategic importance of both the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood for the Union and demands that the proposed decrease of resources for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is avoided;

Amendment

4. Underlines the strategic importance of both the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood for the Union and demands that the proposed decrease of resources for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is avoided; ***underlines that, now more than ever, in the light of the migratory crisis affecting southern European countries, it is fundamental to keep a steady commitment to the southern neighbourhood;***

Or. en

Amendment 15
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. ***Underlines*** the strategic importance of both the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood for the Union and ***demands*** that the proposed decrease of resources for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is ***avoided***;

Amendment

4. ***Recognises*** the strategic importance of both the Southern and Eastern neighbourhood for the Union and ***suggests*** that the proposed decrease of resources for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) is ***balanced by funding allocated elsewhere, particularly to instruments contributing to Union security and Member State border integrity;***

Or. en

Amendment 16
Jordi Solé
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4 a. *Opposes the drastic reductions of financial contributions from the external financial instruments ENI, IPA, PI and DCI to Erasmus+, despite the fact that youth exchange programs can be considered as one of the most successful long-term investments into cultural diplomacy and mutual understanding, and calls rather for an increase of these contributions;*

Or. en

Amendment 17

Jordi Solé

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. Welcomes the fact that the proposed appropriations for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) return to their pre-2017 levels and are further strengthened in view of new capacity building tasks which ***should result from the ongoing revision of the IcSP*** regulation;

5. Welcomes the fact that the proposed appropriations for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) return to their pre-2017 levels and are further strengthened in view of ***its role as the Union's only instrument for civilian conflict prevention; urges Member State to consider implementing the Union's new capacity building tasks for military actors within the appropriate legal framework, which is the CFSP; calls therefore on the Commission to withdraw its 5 July 2016 legislative amendment to the IcSP regulation;***

Or. en

Amendment 18

Sabine Lösing, Javier Couso Permuy, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Takis Hadjigeorgiou

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. ***Welcomes the fact that the proposed appropriations for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) return to their pre-2017 levels and are further strengthened in view of new capacity building tasks which should result from the ongoing revision of the IcSP regulation;***

Amendment

5. ***Strongly rejects the proposed amendment to the scope of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) in order to finance also training and equipment for military; highlights in this context the importance of providing sufficient funds to civilian conflict resolution and prevention and civil measures that contribute to the building of peace, development and poverty eradication;***

Or. en

Amendment 19
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Welcomes the fact that the proposed appropriations for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) return to their pre-2017 levels and are further strengthened in view of new capacity building tasks which should result from the ongoing revision of the IcSP regulation;

Amendment

5. Welcomes the fact that the proposed appropriations for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) return to their pre-2017 levels and are further strengthened in view of new capacity building tasks which should result from the ongoing revision of the IcSP regulation, ***and furthermore recognises the potential inherent in the IcSP for promoting Union security and border integrity;***

Or. en

Amendment 20
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

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Draft opinion

5. Welcomes the fact that the proposed appropriations for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) return to their pre-2017 levels ***and are further strengthened in view of new capacity building tasks which should result from the ongoing revision of the IcSP regulation;***

Amendment

5. Welcomes the fact that the proposed appropriations for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) return to their pre-2017 levels;

Or. en

Amendment 21

Neena Gill

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Welcomes the steps taken as a result of the last budgetary negotiations to allow for increased parliamentary scrutiny of activities falling under the Union's Trust Funds and the Turkey Refugee Facility; recalls that such ad hoc instruments should only be resorted to if the requirements in terms of Union added value and additionality are met; reiterates its call for Member States to substantially increase contributions to the Trust Funds and the Turkey Refugee Facility;

Or. en

Amendment 22

Neena Gill

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Recalls the importance of investing in the visibility of the Union's

external action in order to strengthen the impact of funding in that field and allow for ambitions on public diplomacy to be delivered under the Global Strategy; calls for further stepping up funding for strategic communication in view of the growing disinformation challenge emanating from third states and non-state actors targeting Union interests;

Or. en

Amendment 23
Cristian Dan Preda, Eduard Kukan

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5 a. Calls for significant new resources to counter disinformation campaigns and cyberattacks, which are increasingly used to undermine democratic order in countries in the Union's neighbourhood, as well as in the Union itself;

Or. en

Amendment 24
Jordi Solé
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. Stresses the importance of stimulating cooperative defence research in Europe for addressing key capability shortfalls at a time when international developments increasingly require Europe to step up its efforts on defence; fully supports the increased *allocation for the Preparatory Action on defence research*;

6. Stresses the importance of stimulating cooperative defence research, *development, acquisition, and maintenance* in Europe for addressing key capability shortfalls at a time when international developments increasingly require Europe to step up its efforts on defence; fully supports the *idea of increased pooling and sharing*

arrangements between Member States; calls on the Commission to start enforcing the 2009 defence procurement directive; urges Member States and the Commission to focus on methods which increase efficiency of national defence spending instead of diverting Union budget funds from existing programs such as Erasmus+, the European Regional Development Funds or the Connecting Europe Facility;

Or. en

Amendment 25
Michael Gahler

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Stresses the importance of stimulating cooperative defence research in Europe for addressing key capability shortfalls at a time when international developments increasingly require Europe to step up its efforts on defence; fully supports the increased allocation for the Preparatory Action on defence research;

Amendment

6. Stresses the importance of stimulating cooperative defence research in Europe for addressing key capability shortfalls at a time when international developments increasingly require Europe to step up its efforts on defence; fully supports the increased allocation for the Preparatory Action on defence research; *welcomes the European defence industrial policy proposed by the Commission and urges that it be geared to meet the needs of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as a matter of priority;*

Or. de

Amendment 26
Sabine Lösing, Javier Couso Permuy, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Takis Hadjigeorgiou

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. *Stresses the importance of stimulating cooperative defence research in Europe for addressing key capability shortfalls at a time when international developments increasingly require Europe to step up its efforts on defence; fully supports the increased allocation for the Preparatory Action on defence research;*

6. *Is highly concerned about the current proposals subsumed under the European Defence Union, such as cooperative defence research in Europe; rejects the increased allocation to the Preparatory Action on defence research and the use of the EU budget for military implications; recalls the obligation pursuant to Article 41(2) TEU, whereby "expenditure arising from operations having military or defence implications are not to be charged to the Union budget";*

Or. en

Amendment 27
Fabio Massimo Castaldo

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Stresses the importance of *stimulating* cooperative defence research in Europe *for addressing key capability shortfalls at a time when international developments increasingly require Europe to step up its efforts on defence; fully supports* the increased allocation for the Preparatory Action on defence research;

Amendment

6. Stresses the importance *that* cooperative defence research in Europe *could have in avoiding duplications in spending, exploiting economies of scale and getting better value for money; notes* the increased allocation for the Preparatory Action on defence research;

Or. en

Amendment 28
Anders Primdahl Vistisen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

6 a. Recommends that the final Budget for 2018 reflect the serious concerns expressed by Member States regarding EU-Turkey relations, specifically by

Amendment

withdrawing the allocation of funds that may support undemocratic rule, oppression of citizens or the general abuse of power in any form by the Turkish government;

Or. en

Amendment 29
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 a. Welcomes the new External Investment Plan to increase investment in Africa and in the EU neighbourhood;underscores the need to ensure that the focus on encouraging private sector investment does not divert funding from long-term priorities in those regions, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

Or. en

Amendment 30
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. Calls for an increased funding for Asian and Latin America countries that are key partners in order to jointly address global challenges;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 c. Underlines once again the importance of the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, including its support for election observation, stressing that respect of human rights, democracy and the rule of law are key for stability and prosperity in the world;welcomes the increase in funding of that Instrument, which should be further reinforced;

Or. en

Amendment 32
Neena Gill

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

Amendment

7. Reiterates its request for the budget line for the EU Special Representatives to be transferred from the CFSP budget to the EEAS in order to strengthen the coherence of the Union's external action.

7. Reiterates its request for the budget line for the EU Special Representatives to be transferred **in a budget neutral manner** from the CFSP budget to the EEAS in order to strengthen the coherence of the Union's external action.

Or. en

Amendment 33
Željana Zovko

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

7 a. Calls for a lessons learned exercise to be carried out in order to identify shortcomings and improve the

coordination between the Union's external financing instruments and financing instruments of other international institutions, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other development/financing institution, in order to create synergies and maximise the impact of the financing instruments in developing countries;

Or. en