



27.9.2017

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgets

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

Rapporteur: Charles Goerens

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. Underlines that the development assistance from the EU budget needs to be kept at least at the level foreseen in the MFF and maintain its focus on long-term efforts to eradicate poverty; calls for there to be a special focus on least developed countries;
2. Recognises that no country has ever developed without engaging in further trade relations with its neighbours and the rest of the world; further encourages the financing of aid for trade activities, in order to allow developing countries to participate to a much greater degree in global value chains in the future; stresses in this context that such financing should contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth, as well as promoting high labour and environmental standards; further stresses the increasing importance of digital connectivity in order to achieve a more balanced distribution of the globalisation benefits in favour of developing countries;
3. Stresses that the dramatic humanitarian needs triggered by unprecedented conflicts and climate change-related catastrophes, necessitate the full use of the margin in heading IV to address this challenge and help prevent new crises; stresses the need to step up European humanitarian aid, also beyond Europe's neighbourhood;
4. Emphasises the need for the EU budget to adequately contribute to the delivery of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); recalls that its implementation has to cut across the Union's internal and external policies, as well as integrate in a balanced and coherent manner the three dimensions of sustainable development, addressing the interlinkages between the different SDGs;
5. Notes that the requirement that 20 % of the assistance under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) be allocated to basic social services, in particular health and education, is not being fulfilled for the period 2014-2017¹; considers that an increase in the investment in human development, especially in access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is necessary to help counter the negative impact of the reinstatement of the Global Gag Rule;
6. Recalls that in the 2017 budget, the DCI-human development budget line was reduced compared to the initial multi-annual planning; notes that the Commission stated that this was merely a backloading exercise and not a cut to the programme; considers it therefore important to preserve a substantial increase of the human development budget line in comparison to last year's budget;
7. Underlines the high importance of supporting micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and calls in particular for a further strengthening of micro-finance loan and guarantee systems;
8. Encourages the establishment of vocational dual training institutions in developing

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/draft-eval-report-dci_en.pdf

countries in which young people, while undergoing a professional apprenticeship programme with an emphasis on practical aspects of a profession will have theoretical lectures at specialised professional schools;

9. Calls for an enlargement of the "Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs" programme beyond Europe in particular to developing countries while providing the necessary financial means;
10. Considers that the mobilisation of the EU budget to respond to the migration challenge should be accompanied by a common policy in this field; stresses that development aid must not be made conditional on cooperation in migration matters such as border management or readmission agreements; recalls that the migrant and refugee crisis has significantly impacted the EU budget and will continue to require dynamic responses in the coming years;
11. Fully recognises the complex nature of many challenges and the need for multifaceted and complementary response actions, but insists on the need for clarity in funding arrangements and respect for international commitments; reiterates its rejection of the use of development funds for non-development objectives and underlines that funding that does not fulfil official development assistance (ODA) criteria must be sourced from other instruments than the DCI; deplores the lack of parliamentary scrutiny over the new trust funds; stresses that any mechanisms that benefit from the DCI, in particular the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, should serve genuine long-term development objectives and respond to partner countries' development needs and not donors' political objectives; points to its opinion of 5 July 2017 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 230/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace, which excludes any contribution from the DCI to finance the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace;
12. Emphasises that the Union and its Member States must honour their collective commitment, confirmed in 2015, to raise their ODA to 0,7 % of their GNI by 2030; calls on the Commission and the Member States to present binding timelines for progressive increases towards this level;
13. Underlines the importance of increasing the attribution of funds aiming at supporting good governance, democracy and the rule of law in developing countries in order to promote accountable and transparent institutions, support capacity building and foster participatory decision-making and public access to information;
14. Reiterates that the United Kingdom's contribution amounts to 15 % of the EU's development aid budget; calls on the Commission and the Council to engage in a reflection on the ambition and priorities of EU development aid after Brexit;
15. Considers that the proliferation of trust funds, resorted to because of the lack of resources, undermines the unity of the budget and is at odds with the requirements of transparency and democratic accountability; reiterates that the budgetisation of the European Development Fund (EDF) on the one hand and the creation of a specific instrument for financing security expenses linked to development cooperation on the other, would strengthen the effectiveness of EU action.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	25.9.2017
Result of final vote	+: 15 -: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță, Charles Goerens, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Heidi Hautala, Maria Heubuch, György Hölvényi, Stelios Kouloglou, Vincent Peillon, Maurice Ponga, Elly Schlein, Paavo Väyrynen, Bogdan Brunon Wenta
Substitutes present for the final vote	Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Frank Engel, Paul Rübig, Adam Szejnfeld
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	David Coburn

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

15	+
ALDE	Charles Goerens, Paavo Väyrynen
PPE	Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Frank Engel, György Hölvényi, Maurice Ponga, Paul Rübig, Adam Szejnfeld, Bogdan Brunon Wenta
S&D	Doru-Claudian Frunzulică, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Vincent Peillon, Elly Schlein
Verts/ALE	Heidi Hautala, Maria Heubuch

1	-
EFDD	David Coburn

1	0
GUE/NGL	Stelios Kouloglou

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention