



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

2011/2020(BUD)

8.9.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on Parliament's position on the 2012 Draft Budget as modified by the Council
– all sections
(2011/2020(BUD))

Rapporteur: Algirdas Saudargas

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas as a result of the economic crisis both the EU Member States and the European Union have had to take difficult decisions and make cuts in their own budgets,
- B. whereas it is vital to maintain appropriate funding for an efficient communication policy at Union and local levels,
- C. whereas the regulation on the citizens' initiative, which will be implemented as from 1 April 2012, requires an efficient communication policy and appropriate implementing arrangements that must be adequately financed,
 - 1. Welcomes the budgetary appropriations for the European political parties and foundations, which it considers to be at an appropriate level;
 - 2. Approves the increase in the budgetary commitment appropriations for the line 'Information for the media', because the media play a major role in communication and information activities;
 - 3. Notes with regret that the appropriations for the budgetary line 'Communicating Europe in partnership', which funds communication activities in partnership between the Commission, the European Parliament and Member States, have constantly decreased; deems it necessary, on the contrary, to reinforce this line, because communication operations at Union level that work in synergy with national, regional and local authorities significantly increase the impact of the information disseminated, thus enabling it to reach the widest possible audience;
 - 4. Is aware of the importance of involving citizens in the development of civil society and political life with a European perspective, and considers it unfortunate that expenditure related to citizenship should have been scaled down; believes, therefore, that it is necessary to restore the 2011 commitment appropriations for the budgetary line 'Europe for citizens' in the interest of the proper implementation of this programme;
 - 5. Is fully convinced of the necessity to create a new budgetary line to implement the regulation on the citizens' initiative, because to be effective this new instrument of participatory democracy requires appropriate funding and resources;
 - 6. Considers it inappropriate to cut spending on digital publications, particularly at a time when the rules governing the Official Journal of the EU are under discussion; given that there is a possibility that the Official Journal will be published in electronic form only, calls on the Council to keep the appropriations at least at the same level as in 2011.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	7.9.2011						
Result of final vote	<table><tr><td>+: </td><td>16</td></tr><tr><td>–: </td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>0: </td><td>1</td></tr></table>	+:	16	–:	3	0:	1
+:	16						
–:	3						
0:	1						
Members present for the final vote	Carlo Casini, Andrew Duff, Matthias Groote, Roberto Gualtieri, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Zita Gurmai, Gerald Häfner, Daniel Hannan, Stanimir Ilchev, Constance Le Grip, David Martin, Paulo Rangel, Algirdas Saudargas, György Schöpflin, Søren Bo Søndergaard, Rafał Trzaskowski, Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García						
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	John Stuart Agnew, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, Rainer Wieland						
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Sajjad Karim						