



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2014/2040(BUD)

15.7.2014

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015 - all
sections
(2014/2040(BUD))

Rapporteur: Zigmantas Balčytis

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Welcomes the increase in commitment and payment appropriations in Heading 4 compared to the current year as urgently necessary after severe cuts but notes that the increase is still insufficient to match the EU's needs; stresses that it is of vital importance to ensure appropriate funding for the EU's global activities if it is to live up to the ambitious goals set out in the Lisbon treaty;
2. Notes with special concern the reductions applied to the European Neighbourhood Instrument, which follow on similarly severe reductions applied last year; while acknowledging that this is in line with the multiannual programming of the ENI, stresses that the current situation in the Neighbourhood, both Eastern and Southern, does not allow for a weakening of the EU's engagement and strongly urges to substantially increase the amount of funds allocated to both regions;
3. Notes, in particular, that once again insufficient funding has been budgeted for the Middle East Peace Process, Palestine and UNRWA and asks for sufficient funds to be provided;
4. Stresses the worrisome situation with regard to payment credits in Heading 4, which, despite the substantive increase compared to the current year foreseen by the Commission, may not satisfy requirements on the ground;
5. Notes with particular concern the severe cuts in payment appropriations for the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace which is already suffering from a shortfall in payment appropriations during the current year that can only be exacerbated by the new cuts;
6. Stresses the importance of providing the EEAS with sufficient funds for the opening of an EU delegation in Iran in line with the resolution of the European Parliament of 3 April 2014 on the EU strategy towards Iran.