



2016/2047(BUD)

6.9.2016

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2017
(2016/2047(BUD))

Rapporteur: György Schöpflin

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes the Commission's proposed increase in appropriations for Heading 3 of 5,4 % in commitment appropriations and 25,1 % in payment appropriations as compared to the 2016 budget; welcomes that this increase is EUR 1,8 billion above the initially programmed amount for the year to respond to the migration challenge; notes that the Commission leaves no margin in Heading 3 and proposes the mobilisation of the Flexibility Instrument for EUR 530 million and the Contingency Margin for commitments for an amount of EUR 1 164,4 million in order to respond to the current asylum and migration crisis;
2. Welcomes in particular the proposed increase of 4,3 % in commitment appropriations and 10,7 % in payment appropriations for the 'Europe for Citizens' programme, as compared to the 2016 budget, as this programme helps to foster civic and democratic participation at Union level, to engage young people as well as the elderly in the Union and contribute to citizens' understanding of the Union, its policies, history and diversity;
3. Notes that the Commission proposes an amount of EUR 840 000 in commitment appropriations for the separate budgetary line for the European Citizens Initiative (ECI), created last year, and points to the need of sufficient funding to promote the use of this instrument, as this is a valuable tool of participatory democracy;
4. Underlines the importance of further developing tools to enhance e-government, e-governance, e-voting and e-participation and promote digital citizenship and Union citizenship rights by developing online 'citizenship' activities which enhances transparency, accountability, responsiveness, engagement, deliberation, inclusiveness, accessibility, participation, subsidiarity and social cohesion;
5. Welcomes the increase in funding for communication of the Commission Representations, Citizens' dialogues and 'Partnership' actions with appropriations for 2017 amounting to EUR 17,036 million in commitment appropriations and 14,6 million in payment appropriations, as these concern initiatives to reach out to European citizens, gain their trust and foster their understanding of Union politics and policies;
6. Underlines the need to provide the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat with sufficient and adequate administrative and financial means in order to fulfil its tasks, following the adoption of the new Interinstitutional agreement on the Transparency register.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	5.9.2016
Result of final vote	+ : 20 - : 2 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Mercedes Bresso, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Richard Corbett, Danuta Maria Hübner, Ramón Jáuregui Atondo, Constance Le Grip, Jo Leinen, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Paulo Rangel, György Schöpflin, Pedro Silva Pereira, Barbara Spinelli, Josep-Maria Terricabras, Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski, Rainer Wieland
Substitutes present for the final vote	Max Andersson, Gerolf Annemans, Pervenche Berès, Charles Goerens, Jérôme Lavrilleux, Viviane Reding, Helmut Scholz
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu