



**2017/2052(INI)**

11.10.2017

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the next MFF: preparing the Parliament's position on the MFF post-2020  
(2017/2052(INI))

Rapporteur: Gerolf Annemans

PA\_NonLeg

## 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. Recalls that EU spending should be provided with appropriate flexibility and be subject to proper democratic scrutiny and accountability, which necessitates the full involvement of Parliament in decision making on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) Regulation; calls, therefore, for closer dialogue between the Council and Parliament when negotiating the next MFF and warns against the European Council's usual top-down approach of setting the overall ceilings per heading instead of first assessing the actual needs of the programmes;
2. Notes that the current MFF severely limits the financial autonomy of the Union, as most of the revenue consists of national contributions by the Member States and a large part of the expenditure is already destined for the same Member States in the form of returns;
3. Emphasises that the EU budget is an instrument that contributes to achieving the common objectives of the Union laid down in Article 3 TEU and believes that it has served its purpose well in the past;
4. Points out that the post-2020 MFF needs to enable the Union to respond both to existing and emerging challenges which call for a pan-European approach;
5. Points to the possibility of switching from unanimity to qualified majority voting for the adoption of the forthcoming MFF Regulation, by using the provisions of Article 312(2) of the TFEU, which bring the MFF negotiations closer into line with the procedure for the adoption of the annual budget of the Union;
6. Calls for the alignment of the future MFFs with the duration of Parliament's legislative term and the Commission's mandate, thereby reducing the length of the MFF from seven to five years for some programmes while for others, in particular those related to programmes requiring longer-term programming and/or policies providing for complex procedures for establishing implementation systems, such as cohesion policy or rural development, should be agreed for a period of 5+5 years with compulsory mid-term revision;
7. Recalls that the European Council's practice of attempting to expand its role into the legislative process by taking decisions on legislative provisions in the MFF negotiations, does not comply with the Treaties, which explicitly rule out any such role for the European Council;
8. Points to the importance of the MFF as a multiannual budget focused primarily on investment;
9. Stresses that Brexit will severely affect the next MFF, especially on the revenue side; insists therefore that due consideration needs to be given to the introduction of genuine own resources; supports the recommendations of the High-Level Group on Own

Resources as regards diversifying the revenue of the EU budget, including new own resources, in order to reduce the share of GNI contributions to the EU budget with a view to abandoning the ‘juste retour’ approach of Member States;

10. Considers that the European Union cannot wait for the outcome of Brexit to start preparing the negotiations on the post-2020 MFF and that a proposal on this matter should be put forward by the Commission as soon as possible, ideally by the first quarter of 2018;
11. Recalls that the new priorities and initiatives of the EU should be financed with fresh money without jeopardising the existing programmes and policies; calls, in this context, for an in-depth reform of the financing system of the Union – a genuine system of own resources – to make the EU Budget more stable, more sustainable, and more predictable, while improving transparency for the citizens; considers that the unity of the budget and more budgetary flexibility have to be addressed;
12. Takes the view that there is a growing demand on the part of European citizens for the Union to respond to significant cross-border challenges that cannot be tackled effectively by Member States; warns Member States that the Union cannot properly tackle these challenges unless its budgetary resources are increased accordingly;
13. Calls for increased complementarity between national budgets and the EU budget;
14. Takes the view that the introduction of a new heading for the implementation of a European Defence Union, preferably financed with new own-resources, would be in compliance with the EU Treaties;
15. Stresses that the next MFF should take full account of the commitments made by the EU in the context of COP 21.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	11.10.2017
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ :                13 - :                5 0 :                1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Gerolf Annemans, Mercedes Bresso, Richard Corbett, Pascal Durand, Danuta Maria Hübner, Diane James, Alain Lamassoure, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Markus Pieper, Paulo Rangel, György Schöpflin, Pedro Silva Pereira, Claudia Țapardel, Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Ashley Fox, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Jérôme Lavrilleux, Jasenko Selimovic
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Tadeusz Zwiefka

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>13</b>	<b>+</b>
ALDE	Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, Jasenko Selimovic
PPE	Danuta Maria Hübner, Alain Lamassoure, , Paulo Rangel, György Schöpflin, Tadeusz Zwiefka
S&D	Mercedes Bresso, Richard Corbett, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Pedro Silva Pereira, Claudia Țapardel
VERTS/ALE	Pascal Durand

<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>
ECR	Ashley Fox, Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski
ENF	Gerolf Annemans
NI	Diane James
PPE	Jérôme Lavrilleux

<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
PPE	Markus Pieper

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention