



**2018/2046(BUD)**

17.7.2018

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 16**

**Draft opinion**  
**Derek Vaughan**  
(PE623.795v01-00)

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - all sections  
(2018/2046(BUD))



**Amendment 1**  
**Tamás Deutsch**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Underlines the importance of cohesion policy as the main investment policy of the Union that helps to reduce economic, social and territorial disparities between and within EU regions, enhances smart, sustainable and inclusive ***economic*** growth, fosters innovation in urban and rural areas and encourages local and regional authorities to make the transition towards a carbon free economy; notes every 1 Euro invested in cohesion policy has a proven return on investment by 174%<sup>1</sup> and less investment would mean less growth and jobs for citizens; calls for cohesion funds to maintain their role as the main investment policy of the European Union;

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Staff Working Document of 19 September 2016 entitled 'Ex post evaluation of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund 2007-13' (SWD(2016)0318).

*Amendment*

1. Underlines the importance of cohesion policy as the main investment policy of the Union that helps to reduce economic, social and territorial disparities between and within EU regions, enhances smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, ***creates new jobs and fights unemployment***, fosters innovation in urban and rural areas and encourages local and regional authorities to make the transition towards a carbon free economy; notes ***that*** every 1 Euro invested in cohesion policy has a proven return on investment by 174%<sup>1</sup> and less investment would mean less growth and jobs for citizens; ***underlines that cohesion policy is beneficial for all Member States***; calls for cohesion funds to maintain their role as the main investment policy of the European Union ***with a budget that is commensurate with the ambitious goals of cohesion policy***;

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Staff Working Document of 19 September 2016 entitled 'Ex post evaluation of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund 2007-13' (SWD(2016)0318).

Or. en

**Amendment 2**  
**Elsi Katainen, Ivan Jakovčić, Urmas Paet**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Underlines the importance of

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cohesion policy as the main investment policy of the Union that helps to reduce economic, social and territorial disparities between and within EU regions, enhances smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, fosters innovation in urban and rural areas and encourages local and regional authorities to make the transition towards a carbon **free** economy; notes every 1 Euro invested in cohesion policy has a proven return on investment by 174%<sup>1</sup> and less investment would mean less growth and jobs for citizens; calls for cohesion funds to maintain their role as the main investment policy of the European Union;

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cohesion policy as the main investment policy of the Union that helps to reduce economic, social and territorial disparities between and within EU regions, enhances smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, **improves SMEs competitiveness and access to global markets**, fosters innovation in urban and rural areas and encourages local and regional authorities to make the transition towards a carbon **neutral** economy; notes every 1 Euro invested in cohesion policy has a proven return on investment by 174%<sup>1</sup> and less investment would mean less growth and jobs for citizens; calls for cohesion funds to maintain their role as the main investment policy of the European Union;

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Staff Working Document of 19 September 2016 entitled 'Ex post evaluation of the ERDF and Cohesion Fund 2007-13' (SWD(2016)0318).

Or. en

### Amendment 3 Marc Joulaud

#### Draft opinion Paragraph 1

##### *Draft opinion*

1. Underlines the importance of cohesion policy as the main investment policy of the Union that helps to reduce economic, social and territorial disparities between and within EU regions, enhances smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, fosters innovation in urban and rural areas and encourages local and regional authorities to make the transition towards a **carbon free** economy; notes every 1 Euro invested in cohesion policy has a proven return on investment by 174%<sup>1</sup> and less investment would mean less growth and jobs for citizens; calls for cohesion funds to maintain their role as the

PE625.501v01-00

##### *Amendment*

1. Underlines the importance of cohesion policy as the main investment policy of the Union that helps to reduce economic, social and territorial disparities between and within EU regions **and to prevent areas from being left behind**, enhances smart, sustainable and inclusive economic growth, fosters innovation in urban and rural areas and encourages local and regional authorities to make the transition towards a **carbon-free** economy; notes **that** every 1 euro invested in cohesion policy has a proven return on investment by 174%<sup>1</sup> and less investment would mean less growth and jobs for

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main investment policy of the European Union;

citizens; calls for cohesion funds to maintain their role as the main investment policy of the European Union;

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Or. fr

#### **Amendment 4** **Tamás Deutsch**

##### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 2**

###### *Draft opinion*

2. Recalls that cohesion policy is one of the most important instruments to tackle the main priorities defined in the Commission's draft budget for 2019 - building a stronger and more resilient European economy; bringing solidarity and security within and beyond EU borders; and ensuring a proper implementation of the EU budget;

###### *Amendment*

2. Recalls that cohesion policy is one of the most important instruments to tackle the main priorities defined in the Commission's draft budget for 2019 - building a stronger and more resilient European economy; bringing solidarity and security within and beyond EU borders; and ensuring a proper implementation of the EU budget; ***highlights the importance of improving the visibility of EU funds and better communicating the results of cohesion policy;***

Or. en

#### **Amendment 5** **Maria Gabriela Zoană**

##### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 2**

###### *Draft opinion*

2. Recalls that cohesion policy is one of the most important instruments to tackle the main priorities defined in the Commission's draft budget for 2019 -

###### *Amendment*

2. Recalls that cohesion policy is one of the most important instruments to tackle the main priorities defined in the Commission's draft budget for 2019:

building a stronger and more resilient European economy; bringing solidarity and security within and beyond EU borders; and ensuring a proper implementation of the EU budget;

building a stronger and more resilient European economy; **reducing disparities within the EU; creating jobs**; bringing solidarity and security within and beyond EU borders; and ensuring a proper implementation of the EU budget;

Or. ro

**Amendment 6**  
**Daniel Buda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Notes with satisfaction that, having experienced under-implementation in the first years of the 2014-2020 period, the implementation of current programmes is finally reaching its cruising speed with improved execution of payments and project selection rate; acknowledges the efforts made by the Commission to prevent the emergence of an unnecessary backlog; in this regard, urges that sufficient levels of payment appropriations must be provided in order for implementation to proceed smoothly;

*Amendment*

3. Notes with satisfaction that, having experienced under-implementation in the first years of the 2014-2020 period, the implementation of current programmes is finally reaching its cruising speed with improved execution of payments and project selection rate; ***draws attention to the fact that the delays encountered at the start of the programming period may result in a backlog in payment applications in 2019***; acknowledges the efforts made by the Commission to prevent the emergence of an unnecessary backlog; in this regard, urges that sufficient levels of payment appropriations must be provided in order for implementation to proceed smoothly;

Or. ro

**Amendment 7**  
**Ivan Jakovčić, Jozo Radoš**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3a. Given that, according to the latest report (30 June 2018) on disbursements**

*broken down by Member State, some Member States are lagging quite a long way behind in terms of funds disbursed, calls on the Commission to ascertain the shortcomings and take measures with a view to improving the uptake of ESI Funds;*

Or. hr

**Amendment 8**  
**Tamás Deutsch**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Notes the proposed 1,1 % rise in the level of payment appropriations, with decreases of 8,9 % and 3,6 % respectively for Cohesion fund and European territorial cooperation, as well as the 2,8 % increase in commitment appropriations under Heading 1b in the 2019 draft budget compared to the previous budget; is concerned that those amounts may not be sufficient to match the pace of implementation of the programmes under that heading and to prevent the reconstitution of a backlog of unpaid claims;

*Amendment*

4. Notes the proposed 1,1 % rise in the level of payment appropriations, with decreases of 8,9 % and 3,6 % respectively for Cohesion fund and European territorial cooperation, as well as the 2,8 % increase in commitment appropriations under Heading 1b in the 2019 draft budget compared to the previous budget; is concerned that those amounts may not be sufficient to match the pace of implementation of the programmes under that heading and to prevent the reconstitution of a backlog of unpaid claims, *which would undermine the credibility of cohesion policy; stresses therefore the need of a higher level of payment appropriations to fulfil commitments;*

Or. en

**Amendment 9**  
**Maria Gabriela Zoană**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

4. Notes the proposed 1,1 % rise in the level of payment appropriations, with decreases of 8,9 % and 3,6 % respectively for Cohesion fund and European territorial cooperation, as well as the 2,8 % increase in commitment appropriations under Heading 1b in the 2019 draft budget compared to the previous budget; is concerned that those amounts may not be sufficient to match the pace of implementation of the programmes under that heading and to prevent the reconstitution of a backlog of unpaid claims;

4. Notes the proposed 1,1 % rise in the level of payment appropriations, with decreases of 8,9 % and 3,6 % respectively for Cohesion fund and European territorial cooperation, as well as the 2,8 % increase in commitment appropriations under Heading 1b in the 2019 draft budget compared to the previous budget; is concerned that those amounts may not be sufficient to match the pace of implementation of the programmes under that heading and to prevent the reconstitution of a backlog of unpaid claims, ***or to show that the EU is able to fulfil its commitments and hence enhance its credibility;***

Or. ro

#### **Amendment 10** **Daniel Buda**

#### **Draft opinion** **Paragraph 5**

##### *Draft opinion*

5. Reminds the Commission of the delays in designating national managing authorities; points to the fact that, as of 31 May 2018, national authorities still need to be assigned for 16 programmes; calls on the Commission and the Member States to cooperate actively to complete the designation process as soon as possible to ensure a smooth implementation of the current programmes;

##### *Amendment*

5. Reminds the Commission of the delays in designating national managing authorities; points to the fact that, as of 31 May 2018, national authorities still need to be assigned for 16 programmes; calls on the Commission and the Member States to cooperate actively to complete the designation process as soon as possible to ensure a smooth implementation of the current programmes; ***calls on the Member States to make every effort to increase their absorption capacity and expedite the implementation of projects so as to limit the delays caused by sluggish cohesion financing during the current financial year;***

Or. ro

#### **Amendment 11** PE625.501v01-00



**Daniel Buda**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a. Stresses once again the need to improve the implementation of financing and reduce administrative burdens, and calls on the Member States to work more closely with the Commission working party to ensure better implementation and hence consolidate cohesion financing management capacities;**

Or. ro

**Amendment 12**  
**Derek Vaughan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

6. **Welcomes** the proposal to increase the budget of the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) by EUR 80 million for 2019-2020, with EUR 40 million for the 2019 draft budget, bringing the overall envelope of the SRSP to EUR 222,8 million;

6. **Notes** the proposal to increase the budget of the Structural Reform Support Programme (SRSP) by EUR 80 million for 2019-2020, with EUR 40 million for the 2019 draft budget, bringing the overall envelope of the SRSP to EUR 222,8 million, **cautions that any increase should be financed through the mobilisation of the special instrument and at no expense to cohesion policy;**

Or. en

**Amendment 13**  
**Marc Joulaud**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

7. Notes the overwhelmingly positive impact cohesion funds have in conflict areas; including in the Northern Ireland Peace Programme; calls on the Commission and the Member States to continue *its* support for the peace process through the continued funding of the PEACE *and associated programmes*.

7. Notes the overwhelmingly positive impact cohesion funds have in conflict areas, including in the Northern Ireland Peace Programme; calls on the Commission and the Member States to continue *their* support for the peace process through the continued funding of *certain specific programmes, such as the PEACE programme, under conditions to be determined and without prejudice to the ongoing negotiations*.

Or. fr

#### **Amendment 14**

**Elsi Katainen, Ivan Jakovčić, Urmas Paet**

#### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**7 a. Highlights the need for improvements in terms of visibility and communication of EU funding both to potential beneficiaries and to EU citizens in general ; urges Commission together with Member States to raise awareness of the varied EU investment possibilities, to showcase innovative projects and to share good practices.**

Or. en

#### **Amendment 15**

**Ivan Jakovčić, Jozo Radoš**

#### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**7a. Points out that funding from the European territorial cooperation programmes, that is to say, for cross-border cooperation on the EU's external borders, helps to bolster enlargement**

*policy.*

Or. hr

**Amendment 16**

**Elsi Katainen, Ivan Jakovčić, Urmas Paet**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 7 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***7 b. Calls on the Commission to look for further synergies and complementarities with ESIF and other research, innovation and competitiveness-related EU programs, such as Horizon, for instance to foster innovation and digitalisation in rural areas and rural economies.***

Or. en