DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Budgets

on the mandate for the trilogue on the 2016 draft budget (2015/2074(BUD))

Rapporteur: Anneleen Van Bossuyt
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Believes that the 2016 budget should focus on initiatives that contribute to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth across the Union and that programmes contributing directly to these objectives should be given priority when budgetary decisions are made;

2. Emphasises that Horizon 2020 and other EU support for research and innovation have clear European added value;

3. Stresses the need for efficient use of the budget; calls for a careful assessment of all budget lines;

4. Notes the considerable impact of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) on the 2016 budget; believes that the objectives of the EFSI can only be achieved if the level of financing for Horizon 2020 and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) is fully maintained;

5. Stresses that the commitments agreed in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 should be met in full; expresses concern at the growing number of unpaid invoices; notes that interest on late payments in 2014 has risen more than sevenfold since 2012; calls for immediate action to reduce the backlog of outstanding payment claims;

6. Stresses that funding for research should be focused on areas in which the greatest added value can be achieved and that improving energy efficiency should therefore be one of the priorities for European research;

7. Emphasises that greater priority must be given to parts of the budget earmarked for increasing Europe’s security of supply by building a network of interconnectors to ensure a free flow of energy between Member States;

8. Encourages the Commission to come forward with an ambitious but realistic proposal on the circular economy; stresses that more research must be done in order to implement the circular economy;

9. Insists that the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) be provided with sufficient resources to execute the tasks conferred on it by the EU legislative authorities.