

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

2008/2026(BUD)

10.9.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2009
(C6-0309/2008 - 2008/2026(BUD))

Section III - Commission

Rapporteur: Gabriela Crețu

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that the responsibility of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection in the budget procedure covers titles 12 (Internal market), 14 (Taxation and customs union) and 17 (Health and consumer protection);
2. Appreciates the moderate increases in chapters 12 01 and 12 02 of the Preliminary Draft Budget (PDB), which it deems necessary due to the benefits of the single market for the EU economy as a whole; urges the Commission to develop an administrative culture aiming at clear regulation for business and consumers with effective problem-solving tools; encourages the Commission to strengthen its cooperation with the Member States in order to ensure a proper application of Community law and to identify weaknesses in its current policy; underlines therefore the importance of an exchange of best practices regarding the transposition and implementation process;
3. Takes the view that the results of SOLVIT could in general be improved through better support of the network in the Member States; believes, however, that it constitutes an effective out-of-court dispute settlement mechanism; asks the Commission to strengthen its efforts to finance training and promotion activities of the network in all Member States and not only in a select few; calls, therefore, for a separate budget line to be financed by an amount of EUR 600 000;
4. Considers the allocated amount in chapter 14, and in particular the moderate increase in chapter 14 04 for the 2013 Customs Programme, to be appropriate to achieve goals in this policy area; points out the importance of that Programme for meeting the challenges of the enlarged European Union, in particular after the accession of Romania and Bulgaria; appreciates the goal of sharing experience and knowledge with and between customs administrations and deems the security and safety of citizens to be strengthened thereby;
5. Regards the amount foreseen in chapter 17 02 to be appropriate to achieve the goals of consumer policy; agrees with the Commission on the priorities for budget line 17 02 02; considers general measures in the area of consumer literacy, including in the digital environment and covering also modules for insertion in school curricula and the idea of a Masters degree, a priority; would like financial education to be strengthened, given the increasing problem of over-indebtedness of consumers; emphasises the importance of actions for joint market surveillance and enforcement such as RAPEX; asks the Commission to promote an EU-wide campaign through a credit card-sized leaflet outlining consumer rights;
6. Supports the Commission in its intention to establish a database containing information on consumer trends and the functioning of markets, including price comparison, in particular with a view to feeding into the consumer market scoreboard and market studies; calls, therefore, for the continuation of the pilot project 'Monitoring measures in the field of consumer policy' to be financed by an amount of EUR 2 million.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	10.9.2008
Result of final vote	+: 37 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Godfrey Bloom, Cristian Silviu Buşoi, Charlotte Cederschiöld, Gabriela Creţu, Mia De Vits, Janelly Fourtou, Evelyne Gebhardt, Martí Grau i Segú, Małgorzata Handzlik, Malcolm Harbour, Christopher Heaton-Harris, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Kurt Lechner, Lasse Lehtinen, Arlene McCarthy, Catiuscia Marini, Nickolay Mladenov, Catherine Neris, Bill Newton Dunn, Zita Pleštinská, Zuzana Roithová, Heide Rühle, Leopold Józef Rutowicz, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Eva-Britt Svensson, Marianne Thyssen, Jacques Toubon, Bernadette Vergnaud, Barbara Weiler, Marian Złotea
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Emmanouil Angelakas, Colm Burke, Giovanna Corda, András Gyürk, Joel Hasse Ferreira, Filip Kaczmarek, Manuel Medina Ortega
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Eugenijus Gentvilas, Bilyana Ilieva Raeva