



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Industry, Research and Energy*

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**2012/2016(BUD)**

1.6.2012

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Budgets

on the mandate for the trilogue on the 2013 Draft Budget  
(2012/2016(BUD))

Rapporteur: Reinhard Bütikofer

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Believes that the EU budget should be focused on EU policies and programmes that could make a substantial contribution to the revitalisation of sustainable growth in the EU and that address major societal challenges;
2. Highlights the importance of long-term investment in research, development and innovation (RDI) and of securing a suitable level of funding in 2013 for the transition towards a low-carbon, green economy;
3. Believes that steps need to be taken to integrate women into the labour market and to reconcile family and working life;
4. Recalls that the European Union's budget is an important instrument for enhancing solidarity between the Member States and between generations, as well as for enhancing European competitiveness; is convinced that the EU budget represents a synergetic potential for implementing policies that could not be carried out by the Member States alone; calls for optimal use to be made of existing EU funding by focusing on EU added value, increased economic, social and territorial cohesion, effective streamlining and leveraging effects;
5. Understands the Council's concern regarding the economic and budgetary constraints acting on the national level, as a result of the global crisis that has damaged the Member States' economic growth and financial stability as well as worsened their debt position, but believes that measures to strengthen solidarity and boost sustainable growth and employment must be taken in 2013 in order to achieve economic recovery;
6. Emphasises the need for the Commission and the Member States to shape and facilitate the creation of new, high-quality, sustainable jobs through the development in the EU not only of eco-friendly industries and efficient green transport and energy, but also of up-to-date, innovative services;
7. Recalls that the annual European Union budget must, with its leverage effect, support the Member States' recovery policies, and acknowledges the need to strengthen and coordinate funding in order to implement, and to be aligned with, the EU 2020 Strategy for Growth and Jobs; maintains that the ceilings under Heading 1a for the current financial framework are insufficient to meet the EU's priority policies; welcomes the proposed increase in spending on sustainable growth, notably the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP); stresses the need to pay specific attention to the implementation of the Parliament's previous years' budgetary priorities in the fields of industrial policy, research and energy;
8. Believes, in this regard, that there should be a stronger focus on deployment projects within research and innovation funding in order to bridge the gap between research results and commercialisation, thereby ensuring European competitiveness;

9. Calls on the Commission to ensure a sufficient level of funding in 2013 for research and development relating to specific GNSS applications and services;
10. Notes the pivotal role that future EU flagship programmes such as Horizon 2020, COSME and the Connecting Europe Facility can play for EU's economic recovery if they are given sufficient funding; believes that the 2013 budget should provide for a smooth transition towards the establishment of these new programmes; calls for more substantial resources to be mobilised, in synergy with cohesion policy, in order to boost the sustainability of the European economy as a key driver for future competitiveness, industrial development and resilience;
11. Emphasises the importance of EU support policies for media pluralism, especially through research, education and dissemination activities; stresses the valuable role that can be played by the newly established Centre for Media Pluralism and Media Freedom;
12. Draws attention to the fact that 85 % of net new jobs in the EU between 2002 and 2010 were created by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)<sup>1</sup>; calls for enhanced EU support policies, programmes and resources to be provided to support SMEs to fully unlock their growth potential, i.e. by facilitating SMEs' participation in public procurement, securing investments in innovation, supporting start-ups, helping alleviate administrative burdens, enhancing entrepreneurial mindset and facilitating and simplifying access to funding, including access to risk capital; welcomes the increased allocation to the Entrepreneurship and Innovation programme supporting innovation in SMEs; regrets, however, that the Commission proposal does not provide for the full implementation of the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme;
13. Reminds the European Commission of the need to enhance focus and funding of the programmes that aim to achieve the goals of the 'Small Business Act', in which a set of ten principles were laid out to ensure an SME-friendlier business environment;
14. Congratulates the Commission on the success of the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs preparatory action, and welcomes the decision to incorporate the programme into the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme; regrets, however, that action to extend the programme is hampered by the trifling financial allocation and that, for this reason, interested and capable partners are being turned away; calls, therefore, on the Commission to make funding available for the programme to grow adequately in 2012 and 2013;
15. Acknowledges the need to prevent SMEs from cutting back their investments, in particular in research and development; believes that the strengthening of European Investment Bank (EIB) support for SMEs and infrastructure should be a key priority and, therefore, that the SME's uptake of this financial support must be maximised;
16. Fully supports the pilot Project Bond Initiative, aimed at mobilising private savings and improving the range of financial instruments available for infrastructure projects in energy, transport and ICT; stresses the need to make adequate use of the EIB's

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Communication of 25 June 2008 to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions – 'Think Small First' – A 'Small Business Act' for Europe, COM(2008)394).

sustainability criteria, on an equal footing with the financial criteria;

17. Calls for specific financial instruments to be set up in support of European Investment Fund (EIF) initiatives to build up a European funding infrastructure for social entrepreneurship, in order to establish that sector as one on par with other economic sectors in Europe;
18. Recalls that around EUR 1 trillion must be invested in our energy system between today and 2020 in order to achieve the Union's energy and climate policy objectives and that there is a financing gap of around EUR 100 billion for energy transmission networks;
19. Deplores the fact that initiatives aimed at enhancing the EU's energy headline targets are not given sufficient funding and that the SET Plan is yet to receive sufficient funds despite Parliament's continuous demands;
20. Believes that the EU needs to make investments in order to ensure guaranteed European access to space and orbital infrastructure;
21. Recalls that 2013 will be the last year of the current programming period and is concerned by possible cuts in the level of payment appropriations; stresses that it is essential to meet the EU's commitments to ongoing projects and supports the proposed increased in payments put forward by the Commission in its draft budget;
22. Welcomes the agreement reached on financing the additional costs of ITER in December 2011, but takes the view that securing the amount of EUR 360 million in the 2013 budget should not threaten the successful implementation of other EU policies, especially those that contribute to achieving the goals of the EU 2020 strategy during this last year of the programming period, and specifically opposes any redeployments that infringe on this budgetary priority.

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<sup>1</sup> Energy infrastructure priorities for 2020 and beyond – A Blueprint for an integrated European energy network, COM(2010) 677 final.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	31.5.2012
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 50 -: 0 0: 7
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Gabriele Albertini, Amelia Andersdotter, Josefa Andrés Barea, Jean-Pierre Audy, Zigmantas Balčytis, Ivo Belet, Jan Březina, Reinhard Bütikofer, Giles Chichester, Jürgen Creutzmann, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Dimitrios Droutsas, Christian Ehler, Vicky Ford, Gaston Franco, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, András Gyürk, Fiona Hall, Edit Herczog, Kent Johansson, Romana Jordan, Krišjānis Kariņš, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Marisa Matias, Angelika Niebler, Jaroslav Paška, Vittorio Prodi, Miloslav Ransdorf, Herbert Reul, Teresa Riera Madurell, Jens Rohde, Paul Rübig, Salvador Sedó i Alabart, Francisco Sosa Wagner, Patrizia Toia, Ioannis A. Tsoukalas, Claude Turmes, Marita Ulvskog, Vladimir Urutchev, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Kathleen Van Brempt, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Henri Weber
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Maria Badia i Cutchet, Ioan Enciu, Françoise Grossetête, Satu Hassi, Roger Helmer, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Ivailo Kalfin, Seán Kelly, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Holger Krahmer, Zofija Mazej Kukovič, Vladimír Remek
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Franziska Keller