



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

2014/2005(INI)

26.2.2014

OPINION

of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on negotiations on the MFF 2014-2020: lessons to be learned and the way forward
(2014/2005(INI))

Rapporteur: Kinga Göncz

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the agreements on the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) funds; recognises that Parliament's negotiating teams made significant contributions to the final content of the JHA funds, in particular regarding the content of the general and specific objectives, minimum percentages of expenditure relating to the objectives, indicators for measuring the success of the funds, and the consistency of internal and external EU actions;
2. Deeply regrets that the conclusions of the European Council of 7/8 February 2013 on the MFF included a figure for Heading 3 which was 16.6 % lower than the Commission proposal, and consequently the high level of cuts amounting to 23% to the Internal Security Fund and 20% to the Asylum, Integration and Migration Fund; notes that the late communication of the MFF figures and the ceilings available for each policy area did not help individual rapporteurs with the development of a strategic approach to negotiations with the Council; urges the Commission to provide all updated MFF figures simultaneously to the Council and Parliament in the future;
3. Appreciates the constructive roles played by both the rotating presidencies and the Commission during the negotiations in the justice area; notes that this led to an early and satisfactory resolution of the substantive issues;
4. Regrets the fact that, in the area of home affairs, the Council – supported by the Commission – seemed more interested in using the funds to supplement Member States' national budgets than to promote European added value and European solidarity; while acknowledging the particularly difficult economic and financial context, stresses nonetheless that the JHA funds should first and foremost serve European interests and support activities with a clear European added value, such as the Union Resettlement Programme and other Union-oriented activities; regrets not having obtained delegated acts for programming decisions in accordance with Article 290 TFEU as these decisions clearly meet the conditions for delegated acts laid down in the Treaty; regrets that the Commission and the Council suggested the use of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and of the Internal Security Fund to finance action in third countries without specifying the legal basis for such action and leaving Parliament no possibility of challenging it;
5. Further notes, with respect to the home affairs funds, that the ordinary legislative procedure does not provide for the Commission and the Council to negotiate an agreed position between themselves, without involving Parliament, and then to present that position to the Parliament as a *fait accompli*; points out that if the Commission is unwilling to defend its initial proposal, it should present an amended proposal; recommends that new practical arrangements for financial negotiations be put in place, including, *inter alia*, the organisation of an early exchange of views among the three Institutions on the role, function and added value of the EU budget; insists that the Commission assume its role of honest broker in future inter-institutional negotiations;

6. Believes that it is imperative that Parliament continue to insist on a results-oriented approach to EU funding, which should not be restricted to the mere quantity of actions carried out but must also involve assessing the quality of those actions; recommends that qualitative indicators against which the success of EU funding is ultimately to be measured be further promoted and included in future JHA funds;
7. Calls on the Commission to ensure swift implementation of the new funds, the full and efficient use of the available amounts, fair geographic distribution and assistance for underperforming regions;
8. Considers that, given that the cuts were imposed on Parliament without any reasoned justification, Parliament has to place emphasis on the particular areas where the cuts were most significant when it comes to consider the Mid-term review;
9. Is of the opinion that, in the framework of the Mid-term review, Parliament should use all its negotiation capacity through co-decision, without decisions and figures being imposed by the European Council;
10. Considers it essential that Parliament properly supervise implementation of the funds by the Commission and, where appropriate, by the Member States; recommends that the relevant Committees reassess their priorities before the 2016 review in order to provide political guidance; notes that its Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs undertakes, as the committee responsible for the justice and home affairs area, to put in place the relevant scrutiny mechanism.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	24.2.2014
Result of final vote	+: 44 -: 5 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Edit Bauer, Emine Bozkurt, Arkadiusz Tomasz Bratkowski, Salvatore Caronna, Philip Claeys, Carlos Coelho, Ioan Enciu, Frank Engel, Cornelia Ernst, Monika Flašíková Beňová, Kinga Göncz, Sylvie Guillaume, Ágnes Hankiss, Anna Hedh, Salvatore Iacolino, Sophia in 't Veld, Livia Járóka, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Timothy Kirkhope, Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Baroness Sarah Ludford, Monica Luisa Macovei, Svetoslav Hristov Malinov, Clemente Mastella, Véronique Mathieu Houillon, Nuno Melo, Roberta Metsola, Louis Michel, Claude Moraes, Judith Sargentini, Birgit Sippel, Csaba Sógor, Rui Tavares, Wim van de Camp, Axel Voss, Renate Weber, Tatjana Ždanoka, Auke Zijlstra
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Mariya Gabriel, Ana Gomes, Franziska Keller, Ulrike Lunacek, Marian-Jean Marinescu, Jan Mulder, Andrés Perelló Rodríguez
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Richard Ashworth, Zdravka Bušić, Krzysztof Lisek, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Tadeusz Zwiefka