



2018/0166R(APP)

11.10.2018

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the Interim report on MFF 2021-2027 – Parliament's position in view of an agreement
(COM(2018)0322 – 2018/0166R(APP))

Rapporteur for opinion: Marietje Schaake

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its report:

1. Stresses, in light of the growing challenges affecting global and regional stability, the need to significantly increase appropriations for EU external action under the new multiannual financial framework (MFF) while preserving the EU's foreign policy based on democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental rights; notes the modest real-term funding increase proposed by the Commission and calls for a further relative increase in external action commitments, which needs to be preserved in the interinstitutional negotiations;
2. Recalls its position that the European Neighbourhood Instrument, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, including their goals and objectives, should be preserved as independent instruments due to their specific nature, and stresses the need to avoid competition between the different policies; urges that the connection among thematic and geographical programmes be strengthened, given the cross-cutting nature of many issues such as human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and climate change; recalls also its request to maintain the existing financial balance in the distribution of funds between the EU's southern and eastern neighbourhood;
3. Recalls that the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) is the only EU instrument for civilian conflict prevention including mediation, dialogue and reconciliation; regrets that important aspects of the IcSP such as support to reconciliation commissions, actions on child soldiers, combating the illicit use of firearms or on the rehabilitation of victims of armed violence, are not included in the current Commission proposal establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI);
4. Welcomes the proposal for the incorporation of the European Development Fund (EDF) into the EU budget, and calls for a reinforcement of Parliament's powers of scrutiny;
5. Urges that specific objectives on the gender dimension be included by increasing the available budget for this area;
6. Reiterates that reform of the current architecture of external financing instruments should enhance accountability, transparency, democratic and parliamentary oversight, efficiency and coherence while taking the Union's strategic priorities into account; stresses that these objectives cannot be achieved without a solid governance structure that allows for political control, is strategy-driven, inclusive and accountable, and includes clear objectives, benchmarks and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, including an enhanced performance-based budgeting approach; emphasises, furthermore, the need to ensure the involvement of civil society in shaping and implementing the EU's external action; regrets that the Commission's proposals for the NDICI and IPA III contain virtually no such provisions on governance aspects, and that no specific mechanism is envisaged for the European Parliament's involvement in strategic choices on priorities and funding; notes, therefore, that the proposals are not

acceptable in their current form;

7. Recognises the need for enhanced flexibility; insists, however, that funds used under the proposed 'emerging challenges and priorities' cushion cannot be used to serve other objectives such as migration management and security, and that enhanced flexibility cannot come at the expense of long-term policy objectives and reduced possibilities for the European Parliament to exercise its political steering and scrutiny rights; believes that it is necessary to include clear criteria on how to allocate reserve funds and to include an appropriate monitoring mechanism;
8. Strongly criticises the fact that the performance-based allocations of Article 17 include 'cooperation on migration' among the criteria to determine supplementary financial allocations; stresses that the original purpose of the 'more for more' principle was to build stronger partnerships with the neighbours making more progress towards democratic reform, and that 'cooperation on migration' seriously jeopardises this approach and the EU's respect for the principles included in Article 21 of the TEU;
9. Stresses the need for a more democratic debate on EU external assistance also through a stronger involvement of the European Parliament in the strategic political steering of the EU's external action instruments;
10. Considers that expenditure from the defence cluster should only be spent on defence purposes such as the defence-related part of actions under the Connecting Europe Facility, the European Defence Fund and the Horizon Europe programme, including dual use infrastructures and assets as key enablers for a more efficient defence and for a closer civilian-military synergy;
11. Calls on the Commission to implement gender budgeting in accordance with Article 8 TFEU.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Title	Interim report on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 – Parliament's position with a view to an agreement
References	2018/0166R(APP)
Committee responsible	BUDG
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	AFET 13.9.2018
Rapporteur Date appointed	Marietje Schaake 10.7.2018
Date adopted	9.10.2018
Result of final vote	+: 35 –: 4 0: 11
Members present for the final vote	Michèle Alliot-Marie, Francisco Assis, Petras Auštrevičius, Goffredo Maria Bettini, Victor Boștinăru, Klaus Buchner, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Lorenzo Cesa, Javier Couso Permuy, Andi Cristea, Georgios Eptideios, Knut Fleckenstein, Eugen Freund, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Tunne Kelam, Wajid Khan, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, Arne Lietz, Barbara Lochbihler, Sabine Lösing, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, David McAllister, Clare Moody, Javier Nart, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Tonino Picula, Cristian Dan Preda, Jozo Radoš, Michel Reimon, Sofia Sakorafa, Jean-Luc Schaffhauser, Jordi Solé, Dobromir Sośnierz, Dubravka Šuica, Charles Tannock, László Tőkés, Ivo Vajgl, Anders Primdahl Vistisen
Substitutes present for the final vote	Ana Gomes, Andrzej Grzyb, Norica Nicolai, Gilles Pargneaux, Helmut Scholz, Igor Šoltes, Bodil Valero, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Željana Zovko
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Ivan Štefanec

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

35	+
ALDE	Petras Auštrevičius, Javier Nart, Norica Nicolai, Jozo Radoš, Ivo Vajgl
ECR	Charles Tannock
EFDD	Fabio Massimo Castaldo
PPE	Michèle Alliot-Marie, Lorenzo Cesa, Andrzej Grzyb, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Tunne Kelam, Andrey Kovatchev, Eduard Kukan, David McAllister, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, Cristian Dan Preda, Ivan Štefanec, Dubravka Šuica, László Tőkés, Željana Zovko
S&D	Francisco Assis, Goffredo Maria Bettini, Victor Boștinăru, Andi Cristea, Knut Fleckenstein, Eugen Freund, Ana Gomes, Wajid Khan, Arne Lietz, Clare Moody, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Gilles Pargneaux, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Tonino Picula

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ECR	Anders Primdahl Vistisen
ENF	Jean-Luc Schaffhauser
NI	Georgios Epitideios, Dobromir Sośnierz

11	0
GUE/NGL	Javier Couso Permuy, Sabine Lösing, Sofia Sakorafa, Helmut Scholz, Marie-Christine Vergiat
VERTS/ALE	Klaus Buchner, Barbara Lochbihler, Michel Reimon, Jordi Solé, Igor Šoltés, Bodil Valero

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention