



2017/2044(BUD)

29.7.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018
(2017/2044(BUD))

Rapporteur: Adina-Ioana Vălean

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Underlines that 19,5 % of the total commitments in the draft budget for 2018 (2018 DB) are climate-related and that the Union budget trend would deliver only 18,8 % for the MFF period; stresses that every effort should be made to reach the 20 % target;
2. Notes that 8,2 % of total commitments are related to reversing the decline in biodiversity; calls for sufficient resources to be allocated to the protection of biodiversity;
3. Notes the increase of EUR 29,1 million in commitments for LIFE (+5,9 %); regrets that LIFE represents only 0,3 % of the 2018 DB;
4. Expresses concerns at the 13,1 % reduction in LIFE payments; warns of the problems that could result from a lack of payments;
5. Takes note of the proposed EUR 66,4 million in commitments (+2,9 %) and EUR 55,9 million in payments (-3,1 %) for health; regrets that this is only 0,04 % of the 2018 DB and 1,5 % of heading 3 (in commitments);
6. Takes note of the proposed EUR 286,7 million in commitments (+11,9 %) and EUR 248,4 million in payments (+5,9 %) for food and feed; regrets that this is only 0,18 % of the 2018 DB and 7% of heading 3 (in commitments);
7. Notes the increase in the commitments for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUR 33,2 million, +7,2 %), which is a cornerstone of Union solidarity;
8. Disapproves of staff reductions in EEA (-3 posts), ECHA (-2), ECDC (-2), EFSA (-4) and EMA (-5), which could negatively impact their work; highlights that the tasks and duties of those agencies are growing and that they should receive adequate human and financial resources;
9. Notes that Brexit has no direct impact on the 2018 DB;
10. Calls on the Commission to swiftly implement pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP-PAs);
11. Recalls that PP-PAs should receive adequate funding throughout their life cycle, so that they can reach their full potential.