



**2018/2046(BUD)**

15.6.2018

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019  
(2018/2046(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the EUR 60 billion in commitments and EUR 57,8 billion in payments that the Commission proposes in the Draft Budget (DB) 2019 for Heading 2, which, in relation to the 2018 budget, respectively represent an increase of 1,2% for commitment appropriations and 3,0% for payment appropriations; notes, however, that as far as the EAGF is concerned, this increase is attributable to the lower amount of assigned revenue estimated to be available to the EAGF in the DB 2019 compared to the 2018 budget;
2. Welcomes the increase in appropriations proposed by the European Commission for producer organisations in the fruit and vegetable sector, and stresses their growing contribution to rebalance the bargaining power in the food supply chain;
3. Regrets that the support measures for the Russian embargo have not been prolonged given that numerous EU producers are still being negatively affected;
4. Welcomes the increased funding proposed by the European Commission for promotion measures, which are crucial to expand the share of European exports on markets across the world;
5. Believes that the EU can make a vital contribution to the promotion of healthy eating habits, especially among children, and therefore considers it essential to make full use of the ceilings foreseen for the EU school schemes in the current regulation; therefore calls on the Member States to strengthen their national programs to ensure full utilisation of the maximum available allocations (250 million euros for the EU);
6. Deplores the insufficient execution of payments to young farmers in recent years and encourages Member States to promote the use of those appropriations the following year in order to boost generation renewal;
7. Asks for the maintenance of the appropriations for POSEI programmes at the maximum levels foreseen in the EU regulation, underlining the relevance of those programmes for the resilience of the agricultural producers and highlights the fragile economic situation of the outermost regions, which are still strongly hit by the crisis.