



28 February 2018

Mid-term review of the external financial instruments

In exercising its legislative, budgetary and oversight roles, the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET) currently evaluates the performance of the EU external financing instruments (EFIs) in its remit and will make proposals for their improvement in the remaining period (2018-2020) of the current multi-annual financial framework (MFF).

The evaluation takes place in the context of the so-called mid-term review (MTR) that is being carried out by the European Commission. Reports on each of the instruments were published in December 2017, as required by the Common Implementing Regulation (CIR). The reports evaluate achievement of the objectives against measurable indicators for each instrument.

On the basis of these reports, AFET is preparing an implementation report on the 'EU external financing instruments: mid-term review 2017 and the future post-2020 architecture' (rapporteur: Marietje Schaake). A hearing, incl. a first exchange of views on the draft report took place on 1 February in AFET. A second debate was held on 21 February. The vote in AFET will take place on 20 March, vote in plenary in the week of 16-19 April.

In addition, a series of strategic dialogues between Members of AFET and the Commissioners in charge, namely Vice-President/High-Representative Federica Mogherini and Commissioner Hahn will take place. The first such dialogue has taken place already in April 2017 on the majority of programming documents for the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). In 2018, strategic dialogues will take place on the remaining documents under the ENI, as well as on the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA II), the Partnership Instrument (PI), the European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR) and the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP).

The AFET report and the strategic dialogues will feed into the multi-annual programming document for the period 2018-20 that the Commission will present for each instrument by June 2018. They lay down the main priorities and strategic orientations for each instrument and are the basis for their implementation, i.e. the allocation of EU funds to concrete projects and measures.

In addition to the mid-term review, AFET will soon be able to have its say on the design of the new generation of EFIs post 2020. The Commission will present the overall package for the post-2020 MFF in May 2018; legislative proposals for the financial instruments will follow in May/June 2018. The EP/AFET will be co-deciding on these legislative proposals, together with the Council, under the ordinary legislative procedure.



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Committee on Foreign Affairs

Background:

The EFIs were established in an ordinary legislative procedure and entered into force in early 2014. Taken together, they are worth EUR 32 billion for the 7-year duration of the current MFF:

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Funds available</i>
European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)	€ 15.4 billion
Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II)	€ 11.7 billion
Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP)	€ 2.4 billion
European Instrument for Democracy & Human Rights (EIDHR)	€ 1.3 billion
Partnership Instrument (PI)	€ 955 million