



Wednesday 22 January 2014
From 15.00 to 18.30
Brussels - Room ASP 1G-3



In the Chair: A. Lamassoure, Chair

1. Adoption of agenda

2. Chairman's announcements

2.1. Languages available

Available : BG, CS, DA, DE, EN, ES, FR, HR, HU, IT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SK, SV

2.2. Webstreaming

Members are informed that this BUDG meeting will be webstreamed (apart from Coordinators' meeting) on the following link:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/wps-europarl-internet/frd/live/live-program?language=en>

Please be aware that each time a speaker activates the microphone to make an intervention the camera will be automatically directed to the speaker.

2.3. Other announcements

The latest implementation and "RAL" figures of the 2013 Budget are now available at the following Intranet link:

<http://www.ipolnet.ep.parl.union.eu/ipolnet/cms/poldeptd/pid/2303>

3. Approval of minutes of :

- 27 November 2013
- 9 December 2013

4. Presentation of the interim report on the pilot phase of the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative

Rapporteur: G. Färm

- *Presentation by Commission and EIB*

Regulation (EU) No 670/2012 amended CIP Decision and the TEN Regulation in order to accommodate the launching of a pilot phase of the Europe 2020 Project Bond Initiative (PBI).

The PBI is a risk-sharing instrument which belongs to the 2014-2020 Connecting Europe Facility and aims at enabling project companies to issue project bonds that are attractive to debt capital market investors in the sectors of trans-European networks in transport (TEN-T) and energy (TEN-E) as well as telecommunication and broadband networks.

According to the above mentioned Regulation, Commission and the EIB shall submit an interim report to the European Parliament and the Council on *'the functioning of the pilot risk-sharing instrument for project bonds'* in the second half of 2013, *'with a view to optimising the design of that instrument'*. This report *'shall also contain a list of the projects which have benefited from the risk-sharing instrument for project bonds (...) with information on the terms of the bonds issued and the types of current and potential future investors'*.

Commission and EIB representatives will present this interim report, which was circulated to Members on 7 January 2014 and is included in the dossier.

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BUDGET 2015

5. Guidelines for the Budget 2015 - Section III

Rapporteur: E. Gardiazabal

- *Exchange of views*

The Rapporteur will present her draft report on the general guidelines for the preparation of the 2015 budget, Section III - Commission.

The guiding theme is an EU budget that endows citizens with the tools to find a way out of the crisis. The Rapporteur puts particular emphasis on investment in education, mobility, R&D and SMEs to boost employment. She underlines that the already agreed frontloading for a number of programmes needs to be continued in 2015 and she invites the Commission to identify further programmes which could benefit from similar frontloading.

With regard to the situation on payments and RALs, the Rapporteur underlines the EU's obligation to fulfil its legal and political commitments. She therefore expects from the Commission to propose an adequate level of payment appropriations in the 2015 DB, based on real forecasts.

The Rapporteur furthermore insists on the use of all flexibility instruments available under the MFF regulation, including recourse to the contingency margin and/or revision of the payment ceiling.

Also, the use of all special instruments in payments (EUSF, GAF and EAR) has to be entered in the budget over and above the MFF payment ceiling.

Calendar:

Date	Body	Event
22 Jan	BUDG	Exchange of views
6 Feb, 12.00	BUDG	Deadline for AMs
tbc	BUDG	Vote
tbc	Plenary	Vote

6. Budget 2015 : Other Sections

Rapporteur : S. Garriga Polledo

- *Exchange of views*

Due to the specific circumstances for this year budgetary procedure, notably linked to the EP elections, Coordinators agreed to propose that BUDG does not draft a Guidelines report for the Other Sections.

Thus, the procedure on the other section would start with the presentation of the general draft estimates by the Commission.

EP budget

The procedure for drawing up Parliament's budget generally starts in February, on the basis of a proposal from the Secretary-General, who defines the priority objectives and the resources necessary for the coming year.

On that basis, Parliament's Bureau adopts preliminary draft estimates and submits them to the Committee on Budgets. The budget Rapporteur draws up a report which is put to the vote in plenary. This report identifies Parliament's work priorities and presents the budget estimate figures. Intense contacts take place between BUDG and the bureau in view to bring together the most possible positions of the two bodies.

Parliament meeting in plenary adopts the estimates on the basis of this report, which are incorporated into the draft budget of the European Union.

The Rapporteur will inform the Members on the latest developments relating to the procedure for the establishment of the 2015 EP budget and present the possible options for the calendar.

7. Negotiations on the MFF 2014-2020: lessons to be learned and the way forward

Co-Rapporteurs : J.L. Debaene - I. Kalfin

- *Exchange of views*

Parliament's work on the MFF 2014-2020 started with the setting up of the SURE Committee in June 2010 and was concluded by EP consent on Council's draft MFF Regulation and approval of the IIA on 19 November 2013.

Both the MFF and IIA were formally adopted on 2 December 2013.

On the occasion of Plenary's approval of the MFF package, Parliament called '*for its Committee responsible for budgets, in cooperation with its Committee responsible for constitutional affairs, to draw the necessary conclusions and come forward with new proposals, in due time ahead of the 2016 post-electoral revision, on the modalities of MFF negotiations, so as to ensure the democratic and transparent nature of the whole budget-setting process*'.

On 16 January 2014, the Conference of Presidents accordingly authorised BUDG committee to draft an own-initiative report entitled "Negotiations on the MFF 2014-2020: lessons to be learned and the way forward".

The Rapporteurs will present their draft initiative report, following which an exchange of views may take place.

Draft calendar

Date	Body	Event
22 Jan	BUDG	Presentation of draft report
10 Feb	BUDG	Deadline for AMs
12 Feb	BUDG	Exchange of views
6 March	BUDG	Vote in BUDG
tbc	Plenary	Adoption in Plenary

Voting time

8. The European Semester for economic policy coordination : Annual Growth Survey 2014

Rapporteur: A. Werthmann

- *Consideration and adoption*

The European Commission published the "Annual Growth Survey 2014" on 13 November (COM(2013) 800) which forms the basis for the Own-Initiative Report by the ECON Committee to which BUDG is associated though Art. 50 of the Rules of Procedure.

The Annual Growth Survey launches the European Semester for 2014, proposing reforms that shall lay the foundations for a return to growth and job creation.

The Rapporteur of the opinion, Angelika Werthmann (ALDE), will present her opinion which focusses on the role the EU budget and the new programmes can play to support Member States in reaching their goals set in the European Semester process and the EU 2020 strategy.

21 amendments were tabled by the deadline on 3 January; the Rapporteur proposed 5 oral amendments.

Calendar:

Date	Body	Event
27 Nov	BUDG	Exchange of views
3 Jan	BUDG	Deadline for AMs
22 Jan	BUDG	Vote
30 Jan	ECON	Vote
24 Feb	Plenary	Vote

9. European Union Solidarity Fund

Rapporteur: G. Stavrakakis

- *Consideration and adoption*

The committee will vote on Mr Stavrakakis' draft opinion on the Commission proposal concerning a number of changes to the European Union Solidarity Fund Regulation. REGI is the lead committee.

In this opinion, the rapporteur proposes few amendments mainly aimed at speeding up the assessment process. He also suggests lowering the threshold for what constitutes a 'regional natural disaster' and proposes fixing the amount of the advance payment at 15% of the amount of the contribution anticipated.

8 amendments were received within the deadline.

Calendar:

Date	Body	Event
27 Nov	BUDG	Presentation of draft opinion and exchange of views
17 Dec, noon	BUDG	Deadline for AMs
22 Jan	BUDG	Possible discussion of AMs and vote
22 Jan	REGI	Vote
March (tbc)	Plenary	Vote

10. European Public Prosecutor's Office

Rapporteur: A. Lamassoure

- *Consideration and adoption*

The Committee will vote on Mr Lamassoure's opinion concerning the Commission proposal for a Council Regulation establishing the European Public Prosecutors' Office (EPPO). BUDG has been asked to give an opinion to LIBE which as lead committee is drafting an interim report on the proposal.

14 amendments were received within the deadline.

Provisional calendar:

Date	Body	Event
9 Dec	BUDG	Exchange of views
6 Jan - noon	BUDG	Deadline for AMs
22 Jan	BUDG	Possible discussion of AMs and Vote
20 Feb	LIBE	Vote
March (tbc)	Plenary	Vote

11. Budget 2013 - Section III – Commission

Rapporteur: G. La Via

- *DEC 45*

In line with Article 179(2) and 179(3) of the Financial Regulation, this "End of Year Transfer" (DEC 45/2013) is intended to make full use of any available payment appropriations, right up to mid-December to meet outstanding requests for additional payments related to funds in shared management.

For budget year 2013, it amounts to EUR 139.8 million in total (to be compared to EUR 290.9 million in 2012).

Source lines are spread over all Headings but headings 1b and 5, and, in amount, come mostly from Headings 1a and 4.

The reinforcement addresses part of the outstanding needs on three budget lines:

- + EUR 28.9 million for 04 02 19 European Social Fund (ESF) – Regional Competitiveness and employment;
- + EUR 106.0 million for 13 04 02 Cohesion Fund;
- + EUR 4.9 million for 18 02 06 External Borders Fund

More detailed information can be found in the dossier.

12. Budget 2014 – Section III

Rapporteur: A. Jensen

- *Any transfer request*
No request

13. Budget 2014 - Other Sections

Rapporteur: M. Hohlmeier

- *Any possible request*
No request

14. Buildings policy

Rapporteur: M. Hohlmeier

- *Any possible request*
No request

End of voting time

15. Reporting of the work of the Joint Working Group Bureau/Budg

Chair of BUDG delegation : G. Lyon

Members of the delegation to this Joint working group may report to BUDG committee Members on the points discussed at the meeting of 4 December 2013.

16. Reporting on the trilogue on EIB external mandate under Rule 70 (COM(2013)0293 - 2013/0152(COD))

Rapporteur: I. Kalfin

Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on granting an EU guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under financing operations supporting investment projects outside the Union - 2013/0152 (COD)

This proposal covers EIB operations outside the EU from 2014 to 2020.

Work by parliamentary committees on this legislative file began in June 2013, with BUDG in the lead and four committees delivering an opinion (AFET, DEVE, INTA, ECON).

From the outset it was clear that this procedure would have to unfold rapidly if continuity of EIB operations outside the Union was to be ensured: the legislative act has to be signed mid-April the latest after exhaustion of the prorogation possibilities offered by the current Decision.

The target set for BUDG committee was reached: the EP delegation led by Ivailo Kalfin and presided by Jutta Haug found an agreement with Council and Commission at the trilogue of 16 December 2013.

Should BUDG endorse it, the agreement is now to be tabled to the plenary session of March in the form of a consolidated amendment, signed by the Chair.

Initially the proposal foresaw a maximum ceiling of the EIB financing operations under EU guarantee throughout the period 2014-2020 of EUR 28 bn broken down into: (i) a fixed ceiling of a maximum amount of EUR 25 billion; and (ii) an optional additional amount of EUR 3 billion.

The activation in whole or in part of this optional amount and its regional distribution will be decided under ordinary legislative procedure following a mid-term review*.

It represented a decrease as compared to the current Decision, with multiplied effects due to leverage.

Under the agreement just reached, the fixed ceiling is raised to a maximum amount of EUR 27 bln (plus the optional additional amount of EUR 3 bln). On a proposal by EP, part of the “reflows” deriving from Mediterranean risk capital and loan investments under operations concluded before 2007 using Union budget funds that have been accumulated in a fiduciary account established for the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) are to be used, as an exceptional measure to ensure that the ceilings of EIB operations under this Decision are sustained at an appropriate level for the 2014-2020 period. The remaining funds should be returned to the budget.

Other amendments agreed include amongst others the introduction of the eligibility of Bhutan and the requirement that regional technical operational guidelines be consistent also with the priorities contained in the national or regional programmes drawn up by the beneficiary countries.

The Rapporteur will report to the BUDG committee as foreseen by Rule 70.

** In its note delivered in November 2013 the DG for Parliamentary Research Services Ex-Ante Impact Assessment Unit commented the proposal as follows: “The mid-term review will be of strategic importance to activate the extra 3 billion euros. The annual reports on the implementation of the decision will be important milestones for checking the progress made.”*

17. Any other business

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