

## COORDINATORS' DECISIONS

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Tuesday, 21 April 2020

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14.00 - 15.30

Visio-meeting

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## Present

**Bureau:** Mr Johan VAN OVERTVELDT (Chair)  
Mr Olivier CHASTEL (Vice-Chair)

**Coordinators:** Mr José Manuel FERNANDES (EPP)  
Mr Jan OLBRYCHT (EPP)  
Ms Eider GARDIAZABAL RUBIAL (S&D)  
Ms Valerie HAYER (Renew)  
Ms Hélène LAPORTE (ID)  
Mr Rasmus ANDRESEN (Greens/EFA)  
Mr Bogdan RZONCA (ECR)  
Mr Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS (GUE/NGL)

## 1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 2. POINTS FOR DECISION

### 2.1. Appointments

Opinions			
COM(2020)0034 SWD(2019)0186 SWD(2019)0187 INI	Review of the European Union Solidarity Fund	<u>Decision:</u> <b>EPP</b> <i>0,5 points</i>	Lead: REGI
COM(2020)0002 COM(2020)0003 2020/0002M(NLE)	<u>Non-legislative resolution relating</u> the sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement and its Implementing Protocol (2020-2026) between the European Union and the Republic of Seychelles	<u>Decision:</u> <b>No opinion</b>	Lead: PECH
For information			
COM(2019)0640 2020/2051(INL)	<u>Legislative own-initiative report:</u> A safety net to protect the beneficiaries of EU programmes: setting up an MFF contingency plan	<u>By written procedure:</u> <b>Report</b> <i>The question for oral answer with debate is dropped and replaced by the request of a Plenary debate on the new MFF proposal.</i>	Lead: BUDG

COM(2020)0174 2020/0055(APP)	Laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020	<b>Rule 163 - urgent treatment directly by Plenary</b>	Lead: BUDG
COM(2020)0170 2020/2055(BUD)	Draft amending budget no 2 to the general budget 2020 Providing emergency support to Member States and further reinforcement of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism/rescEU to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak	<b>Rule 163 - urgent treatment directly by Plenary</b>	Lead: BUDG
COM(2020)0172 2020/2057(BUD)	Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2020 to provide emergency assistance to Member States and further reinforce the Union Civil Protection Mechanism/rescEU in response to the COVID-19 outbreak	<b>Rule 163 - urgent treatment directly by Plenary</b>	Lead: BUDG
COM(2020)0171 2020/2056(BUD)	Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision (EU) 2020/265 as regards adjustments to the amounts mobilised from the Flexibility Instrument for 2020 to be used for migration, refugee inflows and security threats, for immediate measures in the framework of the COVID-19 outbreak and for reinforcement of the European Public Prosecutor's Office.	<b>Rule 163 - urgent treatment directly by Plenary</b>	Lead: BUDG

COM(2020)0145 2020/2052(BUD)	Draft amending budget No 1 to the general budget 2020 - Assistance to Greece in response to increased migration pressure - Immediate measures in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak - Support to post-earthquake reconstruction in Albania - Other adjustments	<b>Rule 163 - urgent treatment directly by Plenary</b>	Lead: BUDG
COM(2020)0140 2020/2053(BUD)	Proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision (EU) 2020/265 as regards adjustments to the amounts mobilised from the Flexibility Instrument for 2020 to be used for migration, refugee inflows and security threats, for immediate measures in the framework of the COVID-19 outbreak and for reinforcement of the European Public Prosecutor's Office.	<b>Rule 163 - urgent treatment directly by Plenary</b>	Lead: BUDG
COM(2020)0180 2020/2061(BUD)	Draft amending budget no 3 to the general budget 2020 entering the surplus of the financial year 2019	<b>Report</b> <i>(Rapporteur: Monika Hohlmeier, EPP)</i> <i>Budget 2020</i> <i>rapporteur</i>	Lead: BUDG
COM(2020)0146 2020/2062(BUD)	Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund - EGF/2020/000 TA 2020 - Technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission	<b>Report</b> <i>(Rapporteur: Victor Negrescu, S&amp;D)</i> <i>Rotation system</i>	Lead: BUDG

## **2.2. Appointment of representative in Financial Assistance Working Group**

The coordinators mandated the Chair to coordinate with the other committees involved about the repartition by political group of FAWG representatives.

## **2.3. Conduct of remote committee meetings**

### Remote voting

The coordinators decided that remote voting in BUDG be conducted in line with the guidelines adopted by the Conference of Committee Chairs.

In particular, the following arrangements shall apply to the establishment of voting lists in BUDG:

- oral amendments shall not be admitted (→ *interpretation under Rule 180*) (two or more political groups may instead table a compromise amendment by the relevant deadline covering one or more amendments to modify the text, where appropriate);
- the adoption of an amendment to a text implies that all other amendments to the same text fall (→ *Rule 183(2)*);
- when a text is covered by a compromise amendment, Members of political groups supporting that compromise are strongly encouraged to withdraw their amendments to the same text (→ *interpretation of Rule 181*) (political groups are required to indicate which compromise amendments they support, and that information is included in the final voting list);
- compromise amendments supported by the same political groups will be voted en bloc (unless a political group requests to take a compromise amendment out of the bloc vote);
- duly justified requests to derogate from the above principles in specific cases shall be submitted to the Chair before the same deadline as the one for finalising compromise amendments; the Chair will take a final decision.

As regards the voting procedure, the following arrangements shall apply:

- electronic versions of ballot papers-voting lists shall be submitted by Members together with the signed copies to facilitate vote counting;
- the committee shall not reconvene with the sole purpose of announcing the results of the final votes; results of final votes shall be made available online;
- votes shall not be counted for amendments that have fallen as a consequence of previous votes;
- while all votes are technically taken by roll-call, only the number of votes in favour/against/abstentions shall be published, except for the final vote where the publication of the full roll-call is mandated by the Rules.

### Exchanges of views in committee

The coordinators decided that the following be applied to the BUDG meetings of 4 May and 11 May:

- exchanges of views shall be limited to issues of high importance and scheduled in parallel to voting sessions as appropriate;
- considerations of draft reports and draft opinions shall be put on the agenda only if time allows and the rapporteur so requests; in that case, the rapporteur shall present his/her draft for 5 minutes, without a subsequent debate.

The coordinators will re-evaluate the situation ahead of the following BUDG meeting, with a view to allocating more space to debates.

### **2.4. Spring budgetary trilogue**

The coordinators decided to cancel the Spring budgetary trilogue this year and to adopt the pragmatic calendar for the 2021 budgetary procedure through an exchange of letters after consultation of coordinators and budget rapporteurs.

They also decided to postpone the first inter-institutional meeting on payments to July. Written questions for the Commission on the "Active Monitoring and Forecast of Budget Implementation" (AMFBI) information note are to be collected by 30 April.

### **2.5. Joint BUDG-ECON public hearing on the EIB's response to COVID-19**

The coordinators decided to organise - possibly in May - a hearing on the EIB jointly with the ECON Committee on the EIB response to the Corona crisis.

Political group are to submit names for speakers to the secretariat by 23 April at noon.

### **2.6. Commission Work Programme 2021 - Structured Dialogue**

Coordinators are to submit their proposals to the secretariat by 5 May, closure of business. On the basis of the inputs received, a one-page contribution to the Summary Report 2020 (maximum 10 points in resolution form) will agreed upon by written procedure.

### **2.7. Requests for expertise**

The coordinators decided to request expertise on:

- the European Development Fund, in view of its possible future inclusion in the Union budget;
- the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 crisis, the role of the EU budget in the fight against it and its impact, and the evaluation of the effects of the (budgetary) measures taken.

## **2.8. Motion for resolution on budgetary measures on Covid-19**

The Coordinators decided not to follow up on the motion for resolution.

## **3. POINTS FOR INFORMATION**

### **3.1. Designation of Special Advisers**

### **3.2. Own-initiative report on Sustainable Europe Investment Plan - How to finance the Green deal**

### **3.3. Withdrawal of Commission proposals**

### **3.4. EFSI Confidential documents from the EIB and secure reading room**

### **3.5. Implementation report on EU Trust Funds/Facility for Refugees in Turkey**

### **3.6. Outcome of written procedures and remote meetings**

#### **1. AGRI early non-objection to the national support programmes in the wine sector**

The coordinators did not raise any objection to the AGRI recommendation.

#### **2. Proposal to draw-up an emergency legislative initiative report to formalise Parliament's request for the Commission to set up an MFF contingency plan, to be ultimately submitted at the 22/23 April Plenary**

The coordinators approved the request for a legislative initiative report titled "A safety net to protect the beneficiaries of EU programmes: setting up an MFF contingency plan" to be drafted by the two MFF co-rapporteurs, Mr Jan Olbrycht and Ms Margarida Marques.

#### **3. Collected decisions following the cancellation of the coordinators' meeting of 18 March**

##### **3.1. Calendar of committee meetings**

The coordinators decided to request the addition of the following meeting dates to the calendar of BUDG committee meetings 2020 during week 14 to deal with urgent items:

- Monday 30 March, pm
- Thursday 2 April, pm

##### **3.2. MFF: legislative initiative report and question for oral answer**

*Note: on 12 March, the Conference of Presidents authorised the drawing-up of the legislative own-initiative report and, in view of the particular time constraints, decided that any opinion on the report from a committee should be submitted by way of a letter from the committee chair.*

The coordinators adopted the following timetable for the legislative initiative report:

- Draft report available: 16-17 March 2020
- Deadline for amendments (English only): 23 March 2020
- Consideration of draft report and of amendments in BUDG: 30 March 2020 (tbc)
- Vote in BUDG: 2 April 2020 (tbc)
- Vote in Plenary: 22-23 April 2020

They also decided that the BUDG committee adopt a question for oral answer with debate to the Commission (Rule 136 of the Rules of Procedure) on the impact of cuts proposed in the European Council on the MFF programmes, to be voted in BUDG at the same time as the legislative initiative report on 2 April (tbc), with a view to it being put on the agenda of the Plenary part-session of 22-23 April.

### 3.3. Missions

The coordinators decided to cancel all BUDG missions in 2020.

### 3.4. Hearings

The coordinators decided to re-evaluate the situation of hearings later in the year (→ *see also point 2.5*).

## 4. Remote Coordinators' meeting of 1 April 2020

Following the Chair's debriefing on his phone call with Commissioner Hahn and the preliminary information received by Commission's DG BUDG, the coordinators decided that:

1) The Chair will come back to Commissioner Hahn in order to identify an appropriate slot for the meeting with the coordinators and MFF/OR negotiating team the following week. In the meantime, the proposed slot is Tuesday 7 April at 10.00.

2) The coordinators discussed key messages to be conveyed to Commissioner Hahn, inter alia:

- Commission's initiatives and announcements are a positive follow-up to Parliament's requests from the past weeks, but more ambition is needed.

- For the budget 2020, all flexibilities should be used and fast reaction is essential. Hence, the Corona Solidarity package could in principle be adopted via an urgent procedure (Rule 163) at the April part-session. However, more information is required on the distribution of funds under the Solidarity package.

- For the MFF, the Commission's announced update of its May 2018 MFF proposal is a positive step answering a long-standing EP request. However, the present context makes it more complex to have a proper debate and timely decision about the next seven years. Therefore, the Commission needs to urgently work on the MFF contingency plan

This contingency plan has to be more than an extension of the 2020 ceilings and programmes into the year 2021: not only the envelopes but also the scope and intervention modalities of existing programmes should be as much as possible refocused



towards tackling the immediate health, economic and social crisis resulting from the Covid-19 outbreak, building on the additional flexibility and reinforcements currently being agreed in the 2020 budget.

3) The coordinators decided the following actions:

- Publication of a press release by the end of the week
- Work schedule to be proposed by the secretariat
- Legislative initiative report on the contingency plan:
  - o deadline for amendments to be postponed
  - o amendments reflecting the new approach to be tabled;
- 2021 budget guidelines: the ongoing work on the guidelines must be adjusted to the work on the contingency plan report to make sure that it reflects as much as possible the latest state-of-play and Parliament's orientations on the MFF negotiations. The timetable could be reassessed after the exchange of views with Commissioner Hahn.

#### 5. Urgent procedure on ESI package

Coordinators decided to send a letter to President Sassoli asking for the application of the urgent procedure (Rule 163) for the ESI package, to be dealt directly by Plenary.

#### 6. Remote Coordinators' meeting of 7 April 2020

Coordinators held an exchange of views with Commissioner Hahn on the EU response to the Corona emergency.

The main take-away messages from this meeting were the following:

- Commission's priority remains a **quick agreement** on the next MFF and they do not intend to prepare a contingency plan at this stage.
- The Commission will come up with a **revised MFF proposal** possibly on 29 April, aiming for an agreement at the European Council in June.
- Their departure point seems to be their initial proposal of May 2018, with adjustments of some programmes, for instance InvestEU and research & innovation. The MFF will be split within two: **money would be front-loaded in the first years** of the MFF, while amounts would be consequently lower in the second part (after revision).
- The Commission would also propose to **increase the own resources ceiling**, to factor in the decrease of GNI and to allow borrowing more money on the financial markets. But they do not foresee additional new own resources.

#### 7. Vote on guidelines for the 2021 budget

The date of the adoption of the Guidelines for the 2021 budget - Section III in the BUDG committee has been postponed to 27 May.

**3.7. Documents for information**

**3.8. Delegated and implementing acts**

**3.9. State of play of appointments on BUDG files**

**4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**5. NEXT MEETING**

Tbc