

Newsletter

ISSUE 03 - 2024

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WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2024, 09.00 - 11.00

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SPINELLI 3E2, BRUSSELS

***** Wednesday, 14 February 2024, 09.00 - 11.00 *****

*** VOTING TIME ***

European Semester for economic policy coordination 2024



The committee will consider the draft opinion to the ECON committee on the European Semester for economic policy coordination 2024.

The draft opinion takes note of the forecast economic growth of 1.3 % of GDP for 2024 but also points to the

various risks and uncertainties faced by businesses, public finance and citizens.

As regards the ongoing reform of the EU's economic governance framework, it underlines the need for clear and flexible implementation which leaves adequate fiscal space for strategic investments for Member States, and reiterates that a permanent crisis instrument at EU-level will ensure a sufficiently high level of strategic investments.

The draft opinion stresses the success of the RRF and welcomes the adoption of REPowerEU chapters by most Member States, while demanding that investments in line with European objectives should be treated favourably for the calculation of excessive debt.

In view of the spike in borrowing costs for the EURI, the draft opinion calls for progress on the introduction of new own resources and voices strong support for putting a EURI instrument outside the MFF ceilings to cover the excess costs for interest payments.

Finally, it calls for a stronger role of the EP in the reform of the economic governance framework.

Rapporteur:

Marques Margarida (S&D)

Shadows:

Petri Sarvamaa (EPP)
Olivier Chastel (Renew)
Damian Boeselager (Greens/EFA)
Bogdan Rzońca (ECR)
Kuks Joachim (ID)
Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left)

Deadline for tabling amendments:

16 January 2024 - 12.00

Adoption in BUDG:

14 February 2024

Plenary: 11 March 2024

Laying down Union procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human use and establishing rules governing the European Medicines Agency, amending Regulation (EC) No 1394/2007 and Regulation (EU) No 536/2014 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 726/2004, Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 and Regulation (EC) No 1901/2006

Rapporteur:
Van Overtveldt Johan (ECR)

Adoption in BUDG:
14/02/2024

Plenary: 10/04/2024

Members of the BUDG Committee will vote on the draft opinion in the form of a letter.

The proposal foresees that most of the foreseen additional tasks of EMA will be carried out by 54 additional temporary agents funded by fees while six other additional temporary agents and the costs for the incentives to "not-for-profit" entities will be financed through an increase of the appropriations from the EU budget in the years 2026 and 2027 by EUR 4.400.000 and an internal redeployment within heading 2b, i.e. by a corresponding reduction of the EU4Health programme. The overall proposed increase in temporary agents is significant (around 7% above the level agreed in the 2024 budget) which deserves special attention as no full coverage by fees as planned would significantly further impact the Union budget.

In the event of new evidence or changes to this approach introduced by the co-legislators during the negotiations, the Committee on Budgets stands ready to assess the potential budgetary consequences.

2024 Budget: Section III - Commission

Rapporteur:
Siegfried Mureşan (EPP)

Shadows:
Victor Negrescu (S&D)
Fabienne Keller (Renew)
Andresen Rasmus (Greens/EFA)
Bogdan Rzońca (ECR)
Joachim Kuhs (ID)
Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left)

- No transfer request

2024 Budget: Other Sections

- CoR: INF 1/2024

The purpose of this transfer proposal of a total amount of EUR 1 020 250 is to cover:

- the Service Level Agreement with EPSO for the organisation of an internal CoR competition in 2024 by reinforcing item 1610 "Miscellaneous expenditure on recruitment" by EUR 150 000,
- the CoR's deficit in annual lease payments by reinforcing item 2001 "Annual lease payments" by EUR 551 000,
- the CoR's missing share for the completion of the CoR-EESC's joint JDE's media-space project by reinforcing item 2007 "Fitting-out of premises" by EUR 70 000, and
- the CoR's missing share related to the joint CoR-EESC IT expenditure as well as to ensure that the CoR can continue web-streaming its statutory activities in 2024 by reinforcing item 2102 "Outside assistance for the operation, development and maintenance of software systems" by EUR 249 250.

Rapporteur:
Nils Ušakovs (S&D)

Shadows:
Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou (EPP)
Fabienne Keller (Renew)
Francisco Guerreiro (Greens/EFA)
Bogdan Rzońca (ECR)
Joachim Kuhs (ID)
Younous Omarjee (The Left)

The transfer is made possible as a result of savings of EUR 1 020 250 obtained from budget line 1200 "Remuneration and allowances", due to lower final salary indexation in 2023 compared to the initial EC's estimates in the spring of 2023 (2.7% vs. 4.4%).

- OMB: establishment plan 1/2024

The European Ombudsman seeks to convert 3 temporary posts into 3 permanent posts (different grades affected) and 1 permanent AST/SC4 post into 1 permanent AST3 post in its establishment plan, in accordance with Article 53 of the Financial Regulation.

- No other transfer request

Building Policy

EP: Spaak building renovations

Members will vote on Parliament's building project to conduct a profound environmental renovation of the Paul-Henri Spaak building.

The Spaak building, with a gross floor area of 84 153 m², was designed as an international congress center by a Belgian consortium in the late 1980s and became functional in 1993. In Parliament's first Building Strategy approved in 2010, the Bureau referred to the need for its renovation. A technical audit and a global assessment by independent building experts in the period 2011-2014 allowed to confirm that a complete renovation of the Spaak building is required.

The renovation project will address the following aspects: environmental performance of the building and its sustainability; compliance with the requirements of the future European Energy Efficiency Directive and Building Performance Directive; upgrading of the security and robustness of the building; the severe technical obsolescence of the building; the need for improved flexibility of the building to allow the Institution to develop further. The building would be upgraded and modernised without fundamental changes to its functionalities or its architectural design.

The construction costs are estimated at a rounded amount of EUR 350 000 000 and 30% of overheads (corresponding to the costs of design, experts, consultancy, coordination, risks and general costs) must be foreseen, bringing the total global cost of the renovation at EUR 455 000 000. The indicative timeline of the project spans an 8-year period, from 2024 until 2031.

The Committee on Budgets was informed about the need to renovate the SPAAK building in the 2017 and 2019 Working Documents on the European Parliament's Building Policy. Furthermore, the early warning was presented to the Committee on Budgets at its meeting on 24 January 2024.

- No other information received

***** END OF VOTE *****

Rapporteur:

Olivier Chastel (Renew)

Shadows:

Monika Hohlmeier (EPP)

Nils Ušakovs (S&D)

Rasmus Andresen (Greens/EFA)

Bogdan Rzońca (ECR)

Joachim Kuhs (ID)

Younous Omarjee (The Left)

Building Policy - Exchange of Views

EEAS: Lease of new office premises for the EU Delegations to China, Ethiopia and African Union, Guyana, Iraq and Qatar

The EEAS has informed the Budgetary Authority that they are considering leasing new office premises in five EU Delegations.

The targeted areas for the premises are 1 400 m² in Beijing, China; 950 to 1 200 m² in Georgetown, Guyana; 935 m² in Baghdad, Iraq and 870 to 980 m² in Doha, Qatar. These four EEAS building projects are expected to be submitted for the Budgetary Authority's approval in the second quarter of 2024.

The fifth EEAS building project in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia aims at hosting both EU Delegations to African Union and to Ethiopia in one single building. The surface need is approximately 3 700 m². The EEAS plans to submit the building project to the Budget Authority during the fourth quarter of 2024.

- No other information received

Rapporteur:

Olivier Chastel (Renew)

Shadows:

Monika Hohlmeier (EPP)

Nils Ušakovs (S&D)

Rasmus Andresen (Greens/EFA)

Bogdan Rzońca (ECR)

Joachim Kuhs (ID)

Younous Omarjee (The Left)

Exchange of views with the Budget Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) - Item Postponed

Consent to the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027

- Exchange of views and presentation of a draft motion for resolution accompanying the recommendation on consent

Under Article 312 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Parliament's consent is required for adoption of the Council regulation amending the current MFF. The Council must agree unanimously. Therefore, following agreement in the European Council on the MFF package on 1 February 2024 and negotiations between Parliament and Council on 5 and 6 February, the co-rapporteurs will present both a recommendation regarding consent and a draft accompanying resolution.

Back in December 2022, Parliament called for an overhaul of the current MFF, arguing that, in particular following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the context in which the MFF had been agreed had changed beyond recognition. Parliament called on the Commission to bring forward its planned review and to revise the MFF with a focus on addressing the manifold consequences of the war against Ukraine, endowing the Union with sufficient capacity to respond to unforeseen circumstances and correcting structural shortcomings in the EU budget that posed a risk to long-term investment programmes.

Following the Commission's June 2023 proposal in response to Parliament's demands and Parliament's October 2023 response to that proposal, the agreement reached with the Council paves the way for medium-term structural support to Ukraine and a significant strengthening of the long-term budget for the remainder of the 2021-2027 MFF period.

Co-Rapporteurs:

Jan Olbrycht (EPP),
Margarida Marques (S&D)

Shadows:

Fabienne Keller (Renew)
Rasmus Andresen (Greens/EFA)
Robert Zile (ECR)
Joachim Kuhs (ID)
Dimitrios Papadimoulis (The Left)

Deadline for tabling

amendments: 15 February, 12.00

Adoption in BUDG: 22 February

Plenary: 27 February 2024

NEXT MEETINGS

22 February 2024 - extra BUDG meeting
 22 February 2024 - Joint AFET/BUDG meeting
 22 February 2024 - Joint BUDG/ITRE meeting
 29 February 2024 - extra BUDG meeting (Strasbourg)
 4 March 2024 - BUDG meeting
 7 March 2024 - BUDG meeting

eCommittee (for internal users)

[Implementation figures](#)

NEWS FROM POLICY DEPARTMENT D

Recent publications

Publications Catalogue 2019 - 2023

BUDG

- In-Depth Analysis [“Recovery and Resilience Dialogue with the European Commission”](#)
- In-Depth Analysis [“Multilateral financial assistance to Ukraine - January 2024”](#)
- Study [“The impacts of recent inflation developments on the EU finances”](#)
- Briefing [“ITER financing by the EU budget - state-of-play”](#)
- Briefing [“An estimate of the European Union’s long-term borrowing cost bill”](#)
- Briefing [“Gender budgeting in the Member States”](#)
- At a Glance [“Options for a stronger and more agile EU budget”](#)
- Study [“Options for a stronger and more agile EU budget”](#)
- Briefing [“Ukraine: Financing of reconstruction and the role of the EU budget”](#)
- Briefing [“Budgetary aspects of EU defence policy”](#)
- In-Depth Analysis [“Recovery and Resilience Dialogue with the European Commission”](#)
- Briefing [“EU Financial assistance to Africa and Latin America 2021-2027”](#)
- Briefing [“Human and Financial Resources in Decentralised EU Agencies”](#)
- In-Depth Analysis [“The rising cost of European Union borrowing and what to do about it”](#)
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- At a Glance [“The tools for protecting the EU budget from breaches of the rule of law: the Conditionality Regulation in context”](#)
- Briefing [“Financial impact of the war in Ukraine: current and future challenges for the EU budget”](#)
- Study [“The tools for protecting the EU budget from breaches of the rule of law the Conditionality Regulation in context”](#)
- Briefing [“EU external action and crisis response: is the EU budget fit for purpose?”](#)

CONT

- Briefing [“Nomination for a Member of the European Court of Auditors: Italy”](#)
- Workshop Proceedings [“Preventing EU funds from reaching sanctioned individuals or entities”](#)
- Briefing [“Cohesion Policy Calendar \(2021-2027 and 2014-2020 Programming Periods\)”](#)
- Study [“Due Diligence in EU Institutions' Own-Account Procurement: Rules and Practices”](#)
- Workshop Proceedings [“Sponsorships of EU Presidencies: Stocktaking and Perspectives”](#)
- Briefing [“Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Sweden and Portugal”](#)
- Briefing [“EU assistance to Ukraine and scrutiny of the EU financing provided”](#)
- Briefing [“Preventing EU funds from ending up with individuals or companies tied to the EU-Russia sanctions list”](#)
- In-Depth Analysis [“The EU Emissions Trading System: Method and Effects of Free Allowance Allocation”](#)
- Briefing [“Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Belgium and Finland”](#)
- At a Glance [“Transparency and accountability of EU funding for NGOs active in EU policy areas within EU territory”](#)
- Briefing [“Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Denmark, Spain and Ireland”](#)

- Study [“Transparency and accountability of EU funding for NGOs active in EU policy areas within EU territory”](#)
- At a Glance [“Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Slovakia”](#)
- At a Glance [“The use of contract agents in decentralised EU agencies”](#)
- Briefing [“Sponsorships of EU Presidencies: stocktaking and perspectives”](#)
- Briefing [“The Role of Investigative Journalism to Uncover Fraud and Corruption in Europe”](#)
- Study [“The use of contract agents in decentralised EU agencies”](#)
- At a Glance [“Nominations for Members of the European Court of Auditors: Hungary”](#)
- Briefing [“Preventing EU funds from ending up with individuals or companies tied to the EU-Russia sanctions list”](#)

Forthcoming publications

BUDG

- Study “Contingent liabilities for the EU budget: an updated appraisal”
- Study “The performance framework for the EU budget: further steps towards the mainstreaming of horizontal priorities and for delivering an outcome/impact-oriented approach”

CONT

- Study “Lessons learned from the implementation of crisis response tools inside the EU, from a budgetary control point of view”
- Study “The future of digitalisation of budgetary control”

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Contacts

Committee on Budgets
Head of Secretariat: Elisa Daffarra

✉ budg-secretariat@europarl.europa.eu

🌐 [BUDG Committee Webpage](#)

Policy Department for Budgetary Affairs

✉ poldep-budg@ep.europa.eu

🌐 [Policy Department Webpage](#)