

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

2007/2019(BUD)

11.9.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2008
(C6-0000/2007 - 2007/2019(BUD))

Section III - Commission

Draftsman: Rihards Pīks

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the Brussels European Council of 21 and 22 June 2007 decided to convene an Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) whose task is to draft an amending Treaty along the lines specified by the European Council in its detailed mandate,
 - B. whereas, in its resolution of 7 June 2007 on the roadmap for the European Union's Constitutional process, Parliament emphasised that "enhancing the participation of citizens in the political life of the European Union" and "association of civil society" are guiding principles for the further evolution of the European Union¹,
 - C. whereas the programme "Europe for Citizens" has as its goals the promotion of active European citizenship, the supporting of activities and institutions that give citizens the opportunity to interact and participate in the building of an ever closer Europe, and the forging of a European identity²,
- 1. Recalls that communication and educational programmes are of paramount importance in increasing the interest and participation of European citizens in the political system of the European Union and that the amending Treaty likely to be adopted by the upcoming IGC will require many activities focusing on communication with European citizens in order to clarify the institutional and political advances it is hoped that it will bring about;
 - 2. Reiterates that activities of communication and information programmes depend on an institutional structure with sustainable financial support to cover operating costs for certain selected academic institutions, foundations (including those of the political parties), social partners, and other parts of civil society;
 - 3. Notes that, although the overall Draft Budget (DB) 2008 (commitments) is increased by 1,5% compared to the 2007 budget, heading 3b of the DB 2008 (European citizenship) is the only heading with a significantly reduced amount of funding (about 10% less in commitments than the 2007 budget); considers that in times of important transformations of the European Union's institutional set-up these amounts, including the European Union's information outlets, are insufficient and must be substantially increased;
 - 4. Undertakes to develop a transparent and equitable system for the financing of European political foundations, based on the proposal submitted by the Commission on 27 June 2007³ concerning the revision of the regulation on the financing of European political parties, and to provide this activity with the funds necessary to meet the envisaged political objectives;
 - 5. Undertakes to step up its own efforts to create a true European public space, including

¹ *Texts Adopted*, P6_TA(2007)0234 (paragraphs 9 and 13).

² Decision No 1904/2006/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 establishing for the period 2007 to 2013 the programme Europe for Citizens to promote active European citizenship (OJ L 378, 27.12.2006, p. 32).

³ COM(2007)0364.

the creation and adequate funding of its new visitors' centre and its own web-based TV programme, and invites the Council to do so in its own areas of communication policy.

PROCEDURE

Title	Draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2008	
Procedure number	2007/2019(BUD)	
Committee responsible	BUDG	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	AFCO	
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary		
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Rihards Pīks 1.3.2007	
Previous drafts(wo)man		
Discussed in committee	26.6.2007	11.9.2007
Date adopted	11.9.2007	
Result of final vote	+: 9 -: 0 0: 0	
Members present for the final vote	Enrique Barón Crespo, Andrew Duff, Ingo Friedrich, Jo Leinen, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, Adrian Severin, Dushana Zdravkova	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Carlos Carnero González, György Schöpflin	
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote		
Comments (available in one language only)		