



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

2010/2001(BUD)

7.9.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on Parliament's position on the 2011 Draft Budget as modified by the Council
– All sections
(2010/2001(BUD))

Rapporteur: Algirdas Saudargas

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 current economic and Euro crisis facing the European Union has not only highlighted the need for a more united Europe and greater cooperation between Member States, which requires deep support and trust in the European institutions from the European citizens, but has also made clear the added value of concerted European action amounting to more than a totalling of national budgets,
- B. whereas the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009 has brought about institutional changes favouring a more democratic Union, such as strengthened powers for the European Parliament and national parliaments and the creation of the citizens' initiative, which will require a comprehensive communication policy towards the citizens, as well as optimal operating conditions, so that they can make proper use of this new power,
- C. whereas Parliament, in its resolution of 15 June 2010 on the Mandate for the trilogue on the 2011 draft budget¹, was "concerned by the low level of appropriations – which have even decreased in some cases compared to 2010 – dedicated to programmes promoting European citizenship, communication and information for the media" and "believe[d] these programmes to constitute an essential element in the shaping of a European identity and in communicating the European project to EU citizens",
- D. whereas the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, in its opinion of 2 September 2009 on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2010, Section III - Commission², expressed its concern about the decrease in appropriations under subheading 3.2 (Citizenship) compared to 2009,
 - 1. Points out that the emergence of European economic governance and all the recent steps taken by the Member states in response to the Euro crisis have to be accompanied by a proper communication policy so as to gain the support of the citizens, who have to be shown the advantages that lie in a more collective Europe;
 - 2. Believes moreover that the new institutional provisions of the Lisbon treaty, notably the setting-up of the European External Action Service which should have a significant impact in the long term on the way the European Union and Member States deal with foreign policy, have to be fully explained to the citizens;
 - 3. Regrets that at the moment when there is a need for a stronger financial support in favour of a communication policy aiming at both promoting the goals and benefits of the Union and at the same time allowing for a better understanding of its structures and of the

¹ Texts Adopted, P7_TA(2010)0205.

² Annexed to the report of the Committee on Budgets of 13 October 2009 (A7-0038/2009).

possibilities for the citizens to influence its policies, with a view to strengthening their sense of European identity, the amounts proposed by the Commission in its draft budget for 2011 are either low, or even lower than in 2010; believes that discussion of this crucial challenge for European democracy must not be shirked in the debate on the multiannual financial framework;

4. Welcomes, on the other hand, the level of increase foreseen in the Estimates of revenue and expenditure for 2011 for the Parliament in the funding of European political parties and foundations; recalls the importance of European political parties and foundations for the awareness of citizens on European policies and European integration.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	6.9.2010
Result of final vote	+: 18 -: 2 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Andrew Henry William Brons, Carlo Casini, Andrew Duff, Matthias Groote, Roberto Gualtieri, Zita Gurmai, Gerald Häfner, Stanimir Ilchev, Ramón Jáuregui Atondo, Constance Le Grip, David Martin, Paulo Rangel, Algirdas Saudargas, György Schöpflin, József Szájer, Søren Bo Søndergaard, Indrek Tarand, Rafał Trzaskowski, Guy Verhofstadt
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Enrique Guerrero Salom, Sylvie Guillaume, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, Vital Moreira, Helmut Scholz