



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Constitutional Affairs*

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**2011/2019(BUD)**

24.5.2011

# OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the mandate for the trialogue on the 2012 draft budget  
(2011/2019(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 regulation on the citizens' initiative, which entered into force on 31 March 2011 and is due to be implemented as from 1 April 2012, requires an effective and efficient communication policy and appropriate implementing arrangements,
- B. whereas as a result of the economic crisis the EU Member States have had to take difficult decisions and make cuts in their own budgets,
- C. whereas a proper communication policy should be based on the provision of relevant information to citizens, for example concerning the steps taken to address the euro crisis, the reform of the European electoral system, the prospects for EU enlargement and the benefits of closer integration,
- D. whereas the ongoing discussions on the application of the regulation on European political parties demonstrate the need to give those parties appropriate consideration and provide them with appropriate funding with a view to raising citizens' awareness,
  - 1. Is aware that the new instrument for participatory democracy at Union level, the citizens' initiative, requires appropriate funding in order to be effective;
  - 2. Points out that, if citizens are to understand the benefits stemming from further European integration and identify themselves more closely with Europe, it is crucial to inform them by means of a comprehensive communication policy about the Union's more urgent and relevant policies which affect their daily lives;
  - 3. Considers that European political parties and foundations should continue to enjoy adequate funding, also with a view to future European elections.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	24.5.2011	
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 18	
	–: 4	
	0: 0	
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Andrew Henry William Brons, Carlo Casini, Andrew Duff, Ashley Fox, Matthias Groote, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Zita Gurmai, Gerald Häfner, Constance Le Grip, David Martin, Paulo Rangel, Potito Salatto, Algirdas Saudargas, József Szájer, Søren Bo Søndergaard, Indrek Tarand, Rafał Trzaskowski, Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García	
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	John Stuart Agnew, Sylvie Guillaume, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, Rainer Wieland	