



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

2012/2092(BUD)

6.9.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013 – all sections
(2012/2092(BUD))

Rapporteur: Enrique Guerrero Salom

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. mindful of the situation of public finances at Member State level, and whereas the Union budget represents, among other things, a prime instrument that can act as a catalyst for investment, which should be stepped up at a time of crisis,
1. Welcomes the increase in appropriations allocated for funding political parties at European level and European political foundations;
 2. Stresses that 2013 is a pre-election year, which calls for the creation of a specific budget heading in order to inform citizens of their electoral rights and the issues at stake in the European elections;
 3. Regrets that it has not been possible for the European Year of Citizens 2013 to receive additional funding from the Union budget; considers that, at a time of crisis, the Union ought to work to strengthen citizens' confidence and make citizens the focal point of concerns to develop new policies;
 4. Regrets that the margin available in the Citizenship sub-heading is once again very limited, by comparison with other sub-headings, and does not make it possible to give the Union sufficient resources to introduce new initiatives or deal with unexpected events;
 5. Considers that pre-election year 2013 is particularly important in terms of communication and that, therefore, the appropriations allocated to the 'Communicating Europe in partnership' programme ought to be at least the same as in 2012;
 6. Believes that the European Parliament's own expenditure on the European elections should be targeted at the role of the social media in engaging citizens in debate about, and participation in, the campaign;
 7. Stresses that, since the introduction of the European citizenship initiative on 1 April 2012, several initiatives have already been registered by the Commission and may potentially result in a hearing in Parliament in 2013; considers that Parliament should make adequate financial provision for possible hearings.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	5.9.2012
Result of final vote	+: 15 -: 2 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Carlo Casini, Andrew Duff, Ashley Fox, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Gerald Häfner, Stanimir Ilchev, Constance Le Grip, David Martin, Morten Messerschmidt, Paulo Rangel, Algirdas Saudargas, Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Zuzana Brzobohatá, Marietta Giannakou, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Evelyn Regner, Helmut Scholz, György Schöpflin