



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

2013/2017(BUD)

28.5.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on 2014 Budget – Mandate for the Trilogue
(2013/2017(BUD))

Rapporteur: Morten Messerschmidt

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 many Member States face severe budgetary difficulties and whereas the Union budget provides funds for investment and to stimulate growth;
 - B. whereas the changes introduced into the budgetary procedure by the Lisbon Treaty must be respected;
1. Stresses the need for a coherent budgetary approach to the provision of information about the European elections; calls for a campaign to inform citizens about their electoral rights, the impact of the Union on their daily life and the role of the European Parliament as the institution that represents them directly at European level; stresses the need for this information to be provided in all languages of the Union;
 2. Considers that election year 2014 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 2013;
 3. Notes that 2013 was ‘the European Year of Citizens’ and calls for a rigorous assessment focusing on the qualified success of this initiative;
 4. Calls for an evaluation of the communication strategy for the 2009 elections and stresses the need for a similar evaluation for the 2014 elections;
 5. Believes that the Transparency Register is an important tool for safeguarding the interests of citizens; calls, therefore, for an evaluation of the allocation of resources to the Joint Transparency Register Secretariat;
 6. Regrets the continued problems with the European Citizens’ Initiative and emphasises the need for the budget to prioritise not only the initiatives themselves but also the related communication, administration and support by the Commission; notes that the logistical problems have been immense and that these need to be resolved in order to improve the popularity and trustworthiness of the European Citizens’ Initiative;
 7. Stresses the importance of European political parties for European democracy; calls for them to play an enhanced role in European political life, supported by adequate and fair funding;
 8. Takes the view that openness must be a horizontal keyword in the budgetary process of all EU institutions, because citizens have the right to know how public funds are used; regrets that it has still not been possible to reach an agreement on full transparency;
 9. Stresses that in times of austerity the EU’s administrative costs should be rationalised and thoroughly examined with a view to finding savings, but that such savings should not hamper the effectiveness of the Union’s institutions in implementing the tasks assigned to and expected of them;

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	28.5.2013						
Result of final vote	<table><tr><td>+: </td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>–: </td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>0: </td><td>2</td></tr></table>	+:	21	–:	0	0:	2
+:	21						
–:	0						
0:	2						
Members present for the final vote	Andrew Henry William Brons, Carlo Casini, Andrew Duff, Ashley Fox, Roberto Gualtieri, Zita Gurmai, Gerald Häfner, Stanimir Ilchev, Constance Le Grip, Morten Messerschmidt, Paulo Rangel, Algirdas Saudargas, József Szájer, Rafał Trzaskowski, Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García						
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Sandrine Bélier, Zuzana Brzobohatá, Dimitrios Droutsas, Marietta Giannakou, Helmut Scholz, György Schöpflin, Alexandra Thein, Rainer Wieland						
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Susy De Martini						