



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Constitutional Affairs

2012/2290(INI)

9.7.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on forward policy planning and long-term trends: budgetary implications for
capacity-building
(2012/2290(INI))

Rapporteur: Elmar Brok

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 such a well established and acknowledged system could provide a basis for reflection in the context of drawing up the EU budget, establishing strategic priorities on an annual and multiannual basis, and linking financial resources more directly to political objectives;
1. Highlights the importance of the EU institutions cooperating in an effective manner to monitor and analyse these long-term trends, as well as cooperating and networking with other actors interested in similar issues within and outside the European Union; underlines, in this context, the importance of continuing the process of developing an effective capacity for the provision of independent, high-quality analysis which will lead to greater interinstitutional synergy and advice on key trends confronting policy-makers within the EU system;
 2. Urges the four institutions and bodies currently involved in the ESPAS process – the Commission, Parliament, the Council and the European External Action Service – to commit themselves to some form of an interinstitutional agreement, ideally to be concluded no later than the spring of 2014, with each partner undertaking to maintain and participate in the agreement on a continuing basis;
 3. Insists that ESPASS be steered and overseen by a board composed in an appropriate manner, that will determine the mandate and priorities of ESPASS and elect its director, a board on which the European Parliament will be represented by Members, it being understood that, within the framework of its mandate, ESPASS will be able to carry out its research tasks in a fully independent manner;
 4. Stresses the need for an increased involvement of the political level in the oversight of ESPAS in order to increase the political ownership of the process;
 5. Stresses the need for the participating institutions and bodies to devote the necessary staff and financial resources to the ESPAS system through each of their respective budgets, in full compliance with the Financial Regulation, and in particular Article 54(e) thereof, and in the context of the annual budgetary procedure, so as to ensure that this capability can be developed in a budgetarily neutral way in future years; underlines the need for the EU institutions to invest in staff with specific expertise to fully contribute to analysing and monitoring global trends as well as the expertise to identify options and make policy recommendations for the specific needs of each EU institution;
 6. Welcomes the intention to use the ESPAS process and building upon its global network to build up an on-line repository of papers and material from multiple sources relating to medium- and long-term trends, for access by policy-makers and citizens worldwide;
 7. Believes that a permanent system – aiming to provide regular analysis of medium- and long-term trends and their implications for EU policy options and choices in order to encourage a more strategic approach to decision-making – should include provisions for

the submission of an annual ‘strategic trends report’ to the EU’s institutions, in advance of the State of the Union debate and the publication of the Commission’s annual work programme, in order to track and assess the changing pattern of long-term trends, and also to provide specific input to the budgetary authority in the run-up to the negotiation of a post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), as well as for any mid-term revision of the 2014-2020 MFF.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	9.7.2013
Result of final vote	+: 19 -: 2 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Alfredo Antoniozzi, Andrew Henry William Brons, Zdravka Bušić, Carlo Casini, Andrew Duff, Roberto Gualtieri, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Zita Gurmai, Gerald Häfner, Daniel Hannan, Stanimir Ilchev, Constance Le Grip, David Martin, Morten Messerschmidt, Sandra Petrović Jakovina, Paulo Rangel, Algirdas Saudargas, Rafał Trzaskowski
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Sandrine Bélier, Elmar Brok, Sylvie Guillaume, Helmut Scholz, György Schöpflin
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Susy De Martini