OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets


Rapporteur: Pedro Silva Pereira
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Insists on full and meaningful involvement of the European Parliament in the interinstitutional debate on the role, structure, goals, priorities and results of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) in accordance with its mandate as adopted by the plenary;

2. Calls for a comprehensive, wide-ranging and genuine review of the functioning of the MFF that subsequently leads to a compulsory legislative revision of the MFF Regulation in accordance with Article 2 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 and of the accompanying Interinstitutional Agreement, encompassing the financial means made available under the current framework;

3. Notes the deployment of the special and flexibility tools in order to respond to the exceptional and unforeseen circumstances the Union is facing; draws attention in particular to the migration emergency and the difficulties facing European citizens as a result of the economic crisis; highlights, therefore, the need to allocate, during the revision of the MFF, more resources to the relevant headings in order to enable the EU to provide a more structured response to the current humanitarian and economic crises; calls for even greater flexibility in order to deal adequately with such circumstances; stresses, however, that in tackling new challenges the EU must not prejudice the allocation of resources for cohesion purposes; underlines that any increase in flexibility should go hand in hand with stronger parliamentary control;

4. Recalls that under Article 311, first paragraph, TFEU, ‘The Union shall provide itself with the means necessary to attain its objectives and carry through its policies’; in this context, considers that the accumulation of unpaid bills from previous European budgets, and the lack of means to face crisis and challenges, current or to come, including the displacement of refugees, the migration flows, coordination of the fight against terrorism, reinforcement of the security of EU citizens, support for and coordination of the energy and transport sector, and support for measures to combat climate change, demonstrate the urgent need for more European action and funds;

5. Considers it necessary to reform the system of financing of the MFF, particularly through the creation of new and genuine own resources for the EU budget, such as the tax on financial transactions and other European tax revenue, in order to move towards a budget ‘wholly financed by own resources’ as provided for by Article 311 TFEU, and accordingly urges the Council to commit to reflecting on this issue, without prejudice to the final report from the High-Level Group on Own Resources; also urges the Council to reflect on the establishment of a fiscal and budgetary capacity within the eurozone; underlines that any new instrument should be placed within the EU budget, while remaining outside MFF ceiling limits, and should be financed from real own resources;

6. Stresses the need for unity of the EU budget on the grounds of democratic accountability and transparency;
7. Demands that a transparent, well-informed, conclusive debate be held jointly with the Council and the Commission on the most suitable duration of the post-2020 financial frameworks, aligning the duration of the MFF with the political cycle of the European Parliament and the Commission, under the provisions of Article 312, first paragraph, TFEU, above all taking into account, on the one hand, the consequences of the frameworks for programming cycles and individual policy implementation and, on the other, the need for a degree of flexibility and for review mechanisms, so as to achieve the best possible balance between stability, predictability and flexibility;

8. Calls for the activation of the available ‘passerelle’ clauses regarding both the MFF regulation, as established in Article 312(2) TFEU, and the decision-making procedure on own resources, as provided for by Article 48(7) TEU, including the possibility of switching from unanimity to qualified majority voting;

9. Believes that the regulations implementing the MFF and respective funds could be further streamlined and simplified, in line with the objectives set out in the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making.
RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<table>
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<th>Date adopted</th>
<th>30.5.2016</th>
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| Result of final vote| +: 14  
|                    | -:  4  
|                    | 0:   2  |
| Members present for the final vote | Mercedes Bresso, Richard Corbett, Pascal Durand, Danuta Maria Hübner, Ramón Jáuregui Atondo, Constance Le Grip, Maite Pagazaurtundúa Ruiz, György Schöpflin, Pedro Silva Pereira, Barbara Spinelli, Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski, Rainer Wieland |
| Substitutes present for the final vote | Max Andersson, Gerolf Annemans, Helmut Scholz |
| Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote | Rosa D’Amato, Rosa Estarás Ferragut, Arne Lietz, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Jaroslaw Wałęsa |