



**2021/0227(BUD)**

7.9.2021

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2022 -  
General Introduction - Total expenditure - General statement of revenue -  
Statement of revenue and expenditure by section  
(2021/0227(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Antonio Tajani

PA\_NonLeg

## 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. Welcomes the proposed 18 % increase in commitment appropriations and 104 % increase in payment appropriations under the 2022 draft budget as compared to the 2021 budget for the budget line ‘Promoting citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union’; recalls that, as laid down in Article 10(3) of the Treaty on European Union participation in the democratic life of the Union is a fundamental right of Union citizens; therefore believes that a further increase is necessary to secure sufficient financial means for the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme and adequate support for, inter alia, the European Citizens' Initiative and consequently proposes a further 5 % increase for this budget line;
2. Underlines the importance of making sure the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme reaches the entire European Union by taking into consideration a fair, accessible and geographic distribution of the funds; welcomes in this regard the implementation and the commitment appropriations for the Pilot Project BELE - Building Europe with Local Entities, as a way to enhance the participation of towns and villages beyond Member States' capitals in the democratic life of the Union; calls for specific additional allocations designed to increase the visibility and impact of the Conference on the Future of Europe by deploying, together with the European Parliament, more and better structured initiatives across Europe and within Member States in line with Parliament's position;
3. Highlights the importance of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme for the promotion of European citizenship education and calls for a budget line on demonstrative and voluntary primary and secondary curriculum for EU and global citizenship education;
4. Disagrees with the Council's position to reduce funding by 3,6 % in the 2022 draft budget for the line on ‘Commission Representations’; proposes a 5 % increase for this line as compared to the Commission's proposal in the 2022 draft budget and deems this increase to be necessary for the purpose of encouraging proactive dialogues on EU matters with citizens in Member States, including virtual and hybrid formats, organising events in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe as well as developing communication activities to fight foreign interferences and disinformation; considers that Parliament should also guarantee appropriate resources for its Liaison Offices for this purpose;
5. Regards as insufficient the proposed levels of increase by 0,9 % in commitment appropriations and by 3 % in payment appropriations for ‘Communication services for citizens’ compared to the 2021 budget; consequently, opposes the Council's position to reduce funding by 3,1% for this budget line; points out that communication services for citizens ought to be state of the art in order to reach Union citizens and engage with them through different communication channels, substantially rendering the Union's policies more visible; therefore proposes a 5 % increase compared to the 2022 draft budget levels for ‘Communication services for citizens’ inter alia in view of funding awareness-raising

and information activities on the European Citizens' Initiative in cooperation with the Commission Representations and local Europe Direct Centres in the Member States; underlines the importance of involving smaller NGOs, local authorities and stakeholders in communication strategies and actions; calls for making content available in all Union languages and making that content accessible to Union citizens living in Member States other than their country of origin;

6. Calls for the financing of a specific strategy and initiative focused on citizenship and civic education; calls for the creation under the 2022 Union Budget of a new agency focusing on citizenship and civic education;
7. Urges the Committee on Budgets to incorporate the abovementioned budget line increases in its position, as they serve the purpose of delivering concrete results and quality communication to citizens.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	2.9.2021
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 22 -: 4 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Gerolf Annemans, Gabriele Bischoff, Damian Boeselager, Geert Bourgeois, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Leila Chaibi, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Pascal Durand, Daniel Freund, Charles Goerens, Esteban González Pons, Sandro Gozi, Brice Hortefeux, Paulo Rangel, Antonio Maria Rinaldi, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Helmut Scholz, Pedro Silva Pereira, Sven Simon, Antonio Tajani, Mihai Tudose, Loránt Vincze, Rainer Wieland
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Brando Benifei, Alin Mituța

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>22</b>	<b>+</b>
NI	Fabio Massimo Castaldo
PPE	Esteban González Pons, Brice Hortefeux, Paulo Rangel, Sven Simon, Antonio Tajani, Loránt Vincze, Rainer Wieland
Renew	Pascal Durand, Charles Goerens, Sandro Gozi, Alin Mituța
S&D	Brando Benifei, Gabriele Bischoff, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Pedro Silva Pereira, Mihai Tudose
The Left	Leila Chaibi, Helmut Scholz
Verts/ALE	Damian Boeselager, Gwendoline Delbos Corfield, Daniel Freund

<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>
ECR	Geert Bourgeois, Jacek Saryusz Wolski
ID	Gerolf Annemans, Antonio Maria Rinaldi

<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention