



2022/0212(BUD)

7.9.2022

OPINION

of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2023 - all sections
(2022/0212(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. Deplores the decrease by 21 % in commitment appropriations and 17 % in payment appropriations of the 2023 Draft Budget as compared to the 2022 budget for the ‘Citizens engagement and participation in the democratic life of the Union’; disagrees with further cuts by 3 % in commitment appropriations proposed by the Council; believes that adequate resources need to be provided for the CERV Programme, the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) as well as other participatory instruments such as citizens' fora, and insists on the importance of an adequate funding to be introduced in order to guarantee a proper follow up to the Conference on the Future of Europe (CoFE) conclusions; proposes an increase by 26 % in commitment and 20 % in payment appropriations for this budgetary line;
2. Regards as insufficient the 1 % increase in the commitment appropriations for ‘Commission Representations’ compared to the 2022 budget; is dismayed with the Council's position to reduce by 14 % and by 8 % respectively the commitment and payment appropriations for this line; proposes a 5 % increase of the commitment appropriations as compared to the 2023 Draft Budget and to restore the level of payment appropriations of the 2023 Draft Budget; proposes an increase of funds for the European Parliament Liaison Offices as such representations play an important role in informing citizens about the Union's activities after the conclusion of the CoFE; deems this increase necessary for the purpose of encouraging proactive dialogues on EU matters with citizens in the Member States, implementing the proposals included in the conclusions of the CoFE, as well as developing communication activities to fight disinformation and foreign interferences;
3. Regards as insufficient the 1,5 % increase in commitment appropriations for ‘Communication services for citizens’ compared to the 2022 budget; opposes the Council's position to reduce the funding of commitment and payment appropriations by 12 % and by 6 % respectively; therefore proposes a 5 % increase of the commitment appropriations as compared to the 2023 Draft Budget and to restore the level of payment appropriations of the 2023 Draft Budget in view of funding awareness raising and information activities on the ECI as well as implementation of the proposals included in the conclusions of the CoFE; underlines the importance of involving smaller NGOs, local authorities and stakeholders in communication strategies and actions; calls for making content available in all EU languages and provide native language content to Europeans living in other EU countries;
4. Highlights the need to increase the resources and the level of staffing of the Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations in view of the significant enlargement of its tasks as provided for in the Commission proposal for a recast of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1141/2014;
5. Underlines the need for more flexibility in EU budgeting, in coordination with the European Parliament, in order to ensure the adaptation of the MFF to any new

challenges important for EU citizens;

6. Calls upon the Commission and the Council, in the context of an increasing number of transfers and adjustments to the EU budget, to respect the rights of the European Parliament when it comes to its budgetary role and asks for a transparent, open and predictable process with regards to those measures;
7. Urges the Commission to show more flexibility to the adaptation and changes brought by member states to the recovery and resilience plans and requests a special emergency and rapid procedure for any changes generated by the current context and challenges; calls upon the Commission to initiate such a policy change in 30 days after the EU budget approval allowing countries to improve their plans by the end of the contracting period; invites the Commission and the Council to evaluate the possibility to extend by one year the implementation of the RRF;
8. Proposes to increase funds to make possible a deeper involvement of the youth concerning the Union's democratic values and policies in a context still marked by the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine; suggests, to this end, the implementation of pilots projects by the Commission on European Citizen Education actions, European Festivals of Culture and ideas around the 9th of May as well as Youth Contests; urges the Commission and the Council to integrate in the EU budget 2023 additional financial resources allowing the implementation of the results and recommendations resulting from the European Year for Youth;
9. Urges the Committee on Budgets to incorporate the above-mentioned suggestions for budget increases into its motion for a resolution, as they serve the purpose of delivering concrete results and quality communication to citizens.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	5.9.2022
Result of final vote	+ : 17 - : 3 0 : 0
Members present for the final vote	Gerolf Annemans, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Daniel Freund, Charles Goerens, Sandro Gozi, Laura Huhtasaari, Giuliano Pisapia, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Helmut Scholz, Antonio Tajani, Guy Verhofstadt, Loránt Vincze
Substitutes present for the final vote	Vladimír Bilčík, Gilles Boyer, Christian Doleschal, Niklas Nienaß
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Anna-Michelle Asimakopoulou, Maria Grapini, Lídia Pereira

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

17	+
PPE	Anna Michelle Asimakopoulou, Vladimír Bilčík, Christian Doleschal, Lídia Pereira, Antonio Tajani, Loránt Vincze
Renew	Gilles Boyer, Charles Goerens, Sandro Gozi
S&D	Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Maria Grapini, Giuliano Pisapia, Domènec Ruiz Devesa
The Left	Helmut Scholz
Verts/ALE	Gwendoline Delbos Corfield, Daniel Freund, Niklas Nienäß

3	-
ECR	Jacek Saryusz Wolski
ID	Gerolf Annemans, Laura Huhtasaari

0	0

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention

NOTE: Guy Verhofstadt (Renew) did not have his voting card but declared that he wanted to vote in favour in the final vote (this vote does not count in the final result)