



*Committee on Constitutional Affairs
The Chair*

19.11.2020

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt
Chair
Committee on Budgets
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on the Proposal for a Council regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 (2018/0166(APP))

Dear Mr Van Overtveldt,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs has been asked to submit an opinion to your committee. At its meeting of 24 September 2020, the committee decided to send the opinion in the form of a letter.

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs considered the matter at its meeting of 19 November 2020. At that meeting¹, it decided to call on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution.

Yours sincerely,

Antonio Tajani

¹ The following participated in the final vote: Antonio Tajani (Chair and rapporteur for opinion), Gabriele Bischoff (I Vice-Chair), Giuliano Pisapia (III Vice-Chair), Gerolf Annemans, Damian Boeselager, Geert Bourgeois, Gilles Boyer (replacing Charles Goerens II Vice-Chair), Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Leila Chaibi, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Pascal Durand, Daniel Freund, Esteban González Pons, Sandro Gozi, Brice Hortefeux, Laura Huhtasaari, Maite Pagazaurtundúa (replacing Guy Verhofstadt), Paulo Rangel, Antonio Maria Rinaldi, Domènec Ruiz Devesa, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Helmut Scholz, Pedro Silva Pereira, László Trócsányi, Mihai Tudose, Loránt Vincze, Rainer Wieland.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Underlines the importance of acting in the interest of European citizens and stresses the vital role the European Parliament plays in the preparation of the multiannual financial framework in this respect; welcomes the agreement reached on the proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027;
2. Welcomes in this context also provisions allowing for better parliamentary scrutiny at European level, in particular, the agreed provisions on enhanced budgetary scrutiny of the spending of Next Generation EU funds and the Joint declaration of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary scrutiny of new proposals based on Article 122 TFEU with potential appreciable implications for the Union budget; welcomes the agreed legally binding roadmap to introduce new Own Resources during the next seven years; furthermore, welcomes the political agreement reached on 5 November 2020 on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of the Union budget in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the rule of law in the Member States;
3. Highlights that the agreement on the MFF-package constitutes a historic step for the further integration process of the European Union; insists on the importance of all political agreements, including the commitment on the introduction of a basket of new Own Resources and the rule of law conditionality mechanism, stresses that all elements of the MFF-package must be implemented in accordance with the principle of mutual sincere cooperation as laid down in Article 13 TEU;
4. Recalls its demand for the alignment of the MFF's period with the duration of the Parliament's legislative term and the mandate of the Commission; regrets that this issue has not been addressed at this point in time and considers that it should be revisited at the occasion of the mid-term review of the MFF 2021-2027;
5. Reiterates its call for the activation of the passerelle clause provided for in Article 312(2) TFEU so as to allow the Council to adopt the MFF Regulation by qualified majority and recalls furthermore its proposals to apply the ordinary legislative procedure for the adoption of the MFF Regulation;
6. Proposes to use the momentum of the Conference on the Future of Europe, which needs to be launched during Germany's Presidency in the Council, to discuss with other EU institutions, citizens and the organised civil society reflecting the difference of views across the EU and representing the geographic and demographic diversity of the EU and its Member States, among other things, the democratic and constitutional challenges linked to the institutional set-up of the recovery instrument and the decision-making procedures on the MFF and own resources more in general, aiming at reinforcing the role of the European Parliament in these procedures.