



*Committee on Constitutional Affairs
The Chair*

18.10.2022

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt
Chair
Committee on Budgets
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on the Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/2053 on the system of own resources of the European Union (COM(2021)0570 – C9-0034/2022 – 2021/0430(CNS))

Dear Chair,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) decided at its meeting of 17 May 2022 to submit an opinion to your committee. Due to the upcoming INI on the future financing of the Union, the AFCO coordinators proposed to the Committee on 1 September 2022 to send the opinion in the form of a letter.

At its meeting of 17 October 2022, the AFCO Committee considered the matter and adopted its opinion by 22 votes in favour, 6 against and 0 abstentions¹, inviting the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate its suggestions into its motion for a resolution.

Yours sincerely,

Salvatore De Meo

¹ The following were present for the final vote: Salvatore De Meo (Chair and rapporteur for the opinion), Gabriele Bischoff (1st Vice-Chair), Giuliano Pisapia (3rd Vice-Chair), Loránt Vincze (4th Vice-Chair), Gerolf Annemans, Vladimír Bilčík (for Brice Hortefeux), Damian Boeselager, Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz, Nathalie Colin-Oesterlé (for Rainer Wieland), Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield, Pascal Durand, Daniel Freund, Isabel García Muñoz (for Domènec Ruiz Devesa), Sandro Gozi, Laura Huhtasaari, Manolis Kefalogiannis (for Esteban González Pons), Petros Kokkalis (for Leila Chaibi), Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Alin Mituța (for Charles Goerens), Victor Negrescu, Nicola Procaccini (for Jacek Saryusz Wolski), Paulo Rangel, Antonio Maria Rinaldi, Helmut Scholz, Sven Simon, Nacho Sánchez Amor (for Pedro Silva Pereira), László Trócsányi, Guy Verhofstadt

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee for Constitutional Affairs (AFCO Committee) welcomes the Commission's proposal to amend Decision (EU, Euratom) 2020/2053 on the system of own resources of the European Union and stresses the need to move swiftly; that proposal, albeit delayed, is in line with the Commission's commitment to implement the binding roadmap for the introduction of new resources enshrined in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020²;

The AFCO Committee underlines that more genuine own resources are needed to increase Union's revenue sources, support Union policies and strengthen the fiscal capacity of the Union; underlines that more genuine own resources should not prompt Member States to reduce national contributions to the Union's budget;

The AFCO Committee recalls that the Commission's proposal at stake is only a first step; in line with the conclusions of the Conference on the future of Europe³, the AFCO Committee calls on the Commission to propose swiftly new genuine and sustainable own resources; the AFCO Committee underlines that such proposals should aim at covering at least the amounts needed to repay principal and interests under Next Generation EU;

In line with the Parliament's resolution on the call for a Convention for the revision of the treaties⁴, the AFCO Committee calls for a discussion directed at how Treaties should be amended so as to give Parliament full budgetary powers;

The AFCO Committee takes note of the fact that the Committee on Budgets will draw in the near future an own INI report to expand the Parliament's input to the broader debate on the future financing of the EU budget; the AFCO Committee will provide its detailed opinion in the framework of that upcoming INI.

² Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources (OJ 22.12.2020, L 433 I, p. 28)

³ Conference on the future of Europe, proposal 16

⁴ 2022/2705(RSP)