

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Foreign Affairs*

**2006/0068(CNS)**

12.9.2006

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on International Trade

on the proposal for a Council decision providing exceptional Community financial assistance to Kosovo  
(COM(2006)0207 – C6-0171/2006 – 2006/0068(CNS))

Draftsman (\*): Joost Lagendijk

(\*) Enhanced cooperation between committees – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

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## AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Text proposed by the Commission<sup>1</sup>

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Amendments by Parliament

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### Amendment 1 Recital 9

(9) Although economic activity resumed after the conflict, Kosovo is at a low level of economic development. Kosovo is not in a position to borrow either domestically or on the international financial market and under its current status it is not eligible for membership in the international financial institutions. It may therefore not benefit from lending assistance associated with their programmes.

(9) Although economic activity resumed after the conflict, Kosovo is at a low level of economic development. Kosovo is not in a position to borrow either domestically or on the international financial market and under its current status it is not eligible for membership in the international financial institutions. It may therefore not benefit from lending assistance associated with their programmes. ***The handicap resulting from the lack of international status calls for continued financial support by the European Union.***

### *Justification*

*It is undeniable that the current lack of status represents a major handicap for the region which is not in a position to borrow money from international financial organisations in order to meet unforeseen budgetary needs. The International Community and the European Union in particular should step in, in order to alleviate this problem.*

### Amendment 2 Recital 11 a (new)

***(11a) Financial assistance to Kosovo should however be conditional on the establishment, with the support of international financial institutions, of a***

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<sup>1</sup> Not yet published in OJ.

***comprehensive and realistic long-term economic development plan, full compliance with international democratic and human rights standards, including respect for minorities, and with the fundamental principles of the rule of law, and a detailed and properly resourced anti-corruption strategy.***

*Justification*

*Your rapporteur is convinced that the EU should exercise greater leverage on Kosovo authorities in order to promote better compliance with international democratic and human rights standards and ensure that international assistance is used to pursue and underpin the long-term economic development of Kosovo. One should counteract a certain complacency which seems to prevail in Kosovo, particularly with regard to the future status of region, which many consider a separate issue from the implementation of UN Standards and, more particularly, independently of real progress in terms of respect for minority rights.*

Amendment 3

Recital 13

(13) This financial support should be provided after verifying whether the ***financial and economic*** conditions to be agreed with the authorities of Kosovo upon approval of this Council Decision can be satisfactorily fulfilled.

(13) This financial support should be provided after verifying whether the conditions to be agreed with the authorities of Kosovo upon approval of this Council Decision can be satisfactorily fulfilled. ***To that end, the Commission should establish clear benchmarks by which compliance with the above requirements would be measured. Real progress in achieving such benchmarks would provide the basis for the disbursement of subsequent instalments.***

*Justification*

*The criteria underlying the Community's financial support to Kosovo should not be purely financial and economic but should cover the areas outlined in the amendment to Recital 11a. They should also be accompanied by clear benchmarks against which the Commission should evaluate the performance of Kosovo's authorities.*

Amendment 4

Article 2, paragraph 1

The Commission is empowered to agree with the authorities of Kosovo, after consultation with the Economic and Financial Committee, the ***economic policy and financial*** conditions attached to this assistance, to be laid down in a Memorandum of Understanding. These conditions shall be consistent with the agreements or understandings referred to in Article 1(2).

The Commission is empowered to agree with the authorities of Kosovo, after consultation with the Economic and Financial Committee, the conditions attached to this assistance, to be laid down in a Memorandum of Understanding. These conditions shall be consistent with the agreements or understandings referred to in Article 1(2). ***They shall include a comprehensive and realistic long-term economic development plan, full compliance with international democratic and human rights standards, including respect for minorities, and with the fundamental principles of the rule of law, and a detailed and properly resourced anti-corruption strategy.***

*Justification*

*See the justification to the amendment on recital 11a (new).*

Amendment 5  
Article 3, paragraph 2

The second and any further instalments shall be released on the basis of *a* satisfactory compliance with the ***economic policy and financial*** conditions referred to in Article 2(1), and not before three months have elapsed since the release of the previous instalment.

The second and any further instalments shall be released on the basis of satisfactory compliance with the conditions referred to in Article 2(1), and not before three months have elapsed since the release of the previous instalment. ***Such compliance will be measured against benchmarks laid down in the Memorandum of Understanding provided for in Article 2(1).***

*Justification*

*See justification to the amendment on recital 13.*

Amendment 6  
Article 5

At least once a year the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and to the Council a report, including an evaluation on the implementation of this Decision in the previous year.

At least once a year the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and to the Council a report, including an evaluation on the implementation of this Decision in the previous year. ***The report shall make specific reference to the benchmarks***

*referred to in Article 3(2).*

*Justification*

*See justification to the amendment on recital 13.*

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	Proposal for a Council decision providing exceptional Community financial assistance to Kosovo
<b>References</b>	COM(2006)0207 – C6–171/2006 – 2006/0068(CNS)
<b>Committee responsible</b>	INTA
<b>Opinion by</b> Date announced in plenary	AFET 15.6.2006
<b>Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary</b>	6.7.2006
<b>Draftsman</b> Date appointed	Joost Lagendijk 30.5.2006
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	11.7.2006      12.9.2006
<b>Date adopted</b>	12.9.2006
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ :    43 – : 0 :    2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Panagiotis Beglitis, Bastiaan Belder, Monika Beňová, Paul Marie Coûteaux, Véronique De Keyser, Giorgos Dimitrakopoulos, Maciej Marian Giertych, Jana Hybášková, Anna Ibrisagic, Ioannis Kasoulides, Bogdan Klich, Helmut Kuhne, Joost Lagendijk, Vytautas Landsbergis, Cecilia Malmström, Pasqualina Napoletano, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Raimon Obiols i Germà, Vural Öger, Alojz Peterle, Tobias Pflüger, João de Deus Pinheiro, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, Bernd Posselt, Michel Rocard, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, György Schöpflin, Gitte Seeberg, István Szent-Iványi, Charles Tannock, Paavo Väyrynen, Inese Vaidere, Geoffrey Van Orden, Josef Zieleniec
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Irena Belohorská, Proinsias De Rossa, Alexandra Dobolyi, Lilli Gruber, Tunne Kelam, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Marcello Vernola
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	Kyriacos Triantaphyllides