

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2008/2054(INI)

24.2.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the financial aspects of the Reform Treaty
(2008/2054(INI))

Draftsman: István Szent-Iványi

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. Notes that the Lisbon Treaty will have substantive implications on the Common Foreign and Security Policy by reorganising the administrative responsibilities and introducing new policy fields,
- B. Points out that, since the institutional set-up is not yet determined, the necessary budgetary appropriations should be made available gradually as the scope and role of the new organisational structures become clearer; calls on the Commission and the Council to ensure that the economies of scale in terms of support structures lead to a reduction of administrative costs,
- C. Underlines that neither the institutional changes nor the new CFSP/CSDP provisions should further strain the current level of commitment appropriations under the already chronically underfinanced heading 4 and expects, consequently, the upcoming mid-term review of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) to ensure additional resources,
- D. Notes that the Lisbon Treaty provides for the establishment of new procedures to grant rapid access to the Union budget and to create a start-up fund of Member State contributions; stresses, however, that all external actions of the Union should as a rule be financed from Community appropriations, and only exceptionally – in the event of an emergency – from contributions outside the Union budget,
- E. Welcomes the fact that the new budgetary procedure abolishes all distinctions between the different chapters of the budget and types of expenditure; believes therefore that CFSP-related expenditure should be subject to the same rules and procedures as those applicable to other chapters of the budget,
- F. Emphasises that the legally binding nature of the MFF envisaged by the Lisbon Treaty calls for increased spending flexibility; believes accordingly that provisions relating to the flexibility instrument in the current Interinstitutional Agreement should be revised in order to increase the annual additional margin available for the budgetary authority and allow for limited adjustments and, where appropriate, temporary transfers between the different headings of the MFF.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	24.2.2009						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>32</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	+:	32	–:	6	0:	0
+:	32						
–:	6						
0:	0						
Members present for the final vote	Vittorio Agnoletto, Angelika Beer, Bastiaan Belder, Marco Cappato, Philip Claeys, Maciej Marian Giertych, Ana Maria Gomes, Klaus Hänsch, Maria Eleni Koppa, Vytautas Landsbergis, Francisco José Millán Mon, Pasqualina Napoletano, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Ioan Mircea Paşcu, João de Deus Pinheiro, Hubert Pirker, Pierre Pribetich, Flaviu Călin Rus, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, György Schöpflin, Charles Tannock, Geoffrey Van Orden, Andrzej Wielowieyski, Zbigniew Zaleski						
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Maria Badia i Cutchet, Andrew Duff, Pierre Jonckheer, Evgeni Kirilov, Alexandru Nazare, Antolín Sánchez Presedo, Jean Spautz						
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Carlos Coelho, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Manolis Mavrommatis, José Javier Pomés Ruiz, José Ribeiro e Castro, Ewa Tomaszewska						