



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2010/2001(BUD)

13.9.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on Parliament's position on the 2011 Draft Budget as modified by the Council
– All sections
(2010/2001(BUD))

Rapporteur: José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra

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:

1. Reiterates that, in order to allow the EU to play an active role in the world, sufficient funds need to be provided in the EU budget; underlines that the allocation of additional administrative resources for the establishment of the European External Action Service (EEAS) must be reflected in an appropriate increase of the operational funding for EU external action, following clear political priorities, including conflict prevention; continues to be seriously concerned in this context by the sharp and persisting discrepancy between the very low budgetary margin available under heading 4 and the pressing need for action and engagement by the EU in the world, not least in the face of major natural calamities and political and humanitarian crises;
2. Understands that, at times of economic difficulties and budgetary restraint, efforts need to be made to identify possible savings; insists however that savings must not be made at the cost of key EU foreign policy priorities, nor of the engagements already made, jeopardising stability and prosperity in the EU neighbourhood and beyond and also undermining the EU's credibility as a global actor;
3. In order to preserve the EU's ability to act, urges the Council and the Commission to take all necessary steps to substantially increase, in the context of the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework, the financial resources available under heading 4;
4. Deplores in particular the proposed unrealistic cuts put forward by the Commission in financial assistance to Palestine, and insists that such assistance be increased so as to help cover the most vital needs of the Palestinian people and reinforce the institutional capacity of the Palestinian Authority; calls on the High Representative/Vice President to enhance in parallel the EU's political role in the Middle East peace process, in the context of the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian direct talks, thus contributing to tangible progress towards a two-state solution;
5. Reaffirms its support for the enlargement process and strongly disagrees with the decreases in operational appropriations relating to the Instrument for Pre-Accession introduced by the Council, at a time when the credibility of the EU's commitment towards the European future of the region is essential for the implementation of further reforms in the candidate and potential candidate countries;
6. Points out that the new budgetary procedure introduced by the Lisbon Treaty fully applies to the CFSP budget, and looks forward to cooperating with the High Representative/Vice President on increasing – in line with the commitment given by her vis-à-vis Parliament in the context of negotiations on the establishment of the EEAS – the transparency in this budget, including via the establishment of specific budget lines for major CSDP missions;
7. Disagrees with the Council's proposal to delete all payment appropriations under the Emergency Aid Reserve, as this would be contrary to the spirit of this mechanism, which is to quickly provide funds in emergency situations;

8. Regrets that the draft EEAS budget for 2011 has not yet been presented; calls on the High Representative/Vice President and the Commission to present a fully-fledged and realistic draft budget, aimed at avoiding duplications with the Commission and Council structures, creating synergies and therefore optimising the use of human resources – a crucial factor at a time of budgetary rigour.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	6.9.2010
Result of final vote	+: 40 -: 6 0: 4
Members present for the final vote	Gabriele Albertini, Sir Robert Atkins, Dominique Baudis, Bastiaan Belder, Frieda Brepoels, Arnaud Danjean, Michael Gahler, Marietta Giannakou, Ana Gomes, Andrzej Grzyb, Takis Hadjigeorgiou, Heidi Hautala, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jelko Kacin, Ioannis Kasoulides, Tunne Kelam, Maria Eleni Koppa, Andrey Kovatchev, Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, Sabine Lösing, Barry Madlener, Kyriakos Mavronikolas, Alexander Mirsky, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Raimon Obiols, Kristiina Ojuland, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Alojz Peterle, Bernd Posselt, Hans-Gert Pöttering, Cristian Dan Preda, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Werner Schulz, Adrian Severin, Marek Siwiec, Hannes Swoboda, Charles Tannock, Geoffrey Van Orden, Graham Watson
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Emine Bozkurt, Reinhard Bütikofer, Lorenzo Fontana, Roberto Gualtieri, Baroness Sarah Ludford, Doris Pack, Judith Sargentini, György Schöpflin, Dominique Vlasto
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Filip Kaczmarek