



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 – 2014

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2011/2019(BUD)

25.5.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on a mandate for the trilogue on the 2012 draft budget
(2011/2019(BUD))

Rapporteur: María Muñoz De Urquiza

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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. Underlines that the European Union as a global player has the responsibility to promote peace and stability, economic development and respect for fundamental values and human rights throughout the world;
2. Recalls the EU's role in fostering multilateral cooperation with a view to promoting collective action in order to meet international challenges;
3. Warns that the EU risks international marginalisation if its foreign policy remains underfunded; underlines, however, that there is room for making more efficient use of the existing resources by better targeting assistance funds to areas where the EU can bring added value such as democracy, good governance, rule of law and education;
4. Is convinced that, with the creation of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy post and the EEAS, the system of permanent analysis and monitoring mechanisms of democratic parliamentary control at national and European levels of foreign policy should be put in place under the auspices of the European Parliament; such a mechanism would be instrumental in enabling the challenges of the democratic legitimacy of the European Union in the area of EU Foreign Policy to be met;
5. Believes that the EU budget must reflect the Union's fundamental values, therefore calls for better and more targeted use of EIDHR funds, which must be at least maintained at current levels; underlines the need to further consider ways to make EIDHR more proactive and emphasises that proposals for the establishment of a European endowment for democracy must be realised within the ordinary budgetary framework ensuring full parliamentary involvement and oversight;
6. Emphasises the need to provide adequate yet conditional support for the neighbouring South Mediterranean countries, to help them make the transition to democracy and build democratic institutions, including support for civil society; stresses that this support to the Southern dimension of the ENP should not be at the expense of the Union's commitment to giving similar, adequate and yet conditional support to the eastern dimension of the ENP/ENPI;
7. Reiterates that the EU's relations with Latin America are underfunded, taking into account the strategic partnership between both regions and the conclusions of the Madrid Summit from May 2010, as well as the potential of Latin America as an emergent region and economic growth hub. This underfunding is specially aggravated by the deadlock of the allocation of funds from the ICI+ programme, since the legal basis for the participation of several Latin American countries entitled to benefit from ICI+ has not yet been adopted; calls therefore for a swift adoption of the ICI+ legislation in 2011;
8. Calls for a clear strategy for Palestine, linking the European Union's financial assistance to an increased political role for the EU in the peace process; to this end, points out that

the financial assistance to Palestine should reflect the Middle East's strategic importance to the European Union; is of the view that, when programming the assistance needed, the Commission should build on past experience and estimated needs, and should therefore be able to allocate the funding required to contribute to the viability of the Palestinian authorities and to the Middle East peace process; therefore insists that the amount envisaged for 2012 should, as a minimum, be the same as that spent in 2011;

9. Is convinced that increased budgetary resources are necessary but not sufficient to guarantee the effectiveness of EU external action, and that greater flexibility and rapidity in disbursing financial assistance are also required; calls therefore for greater flexibility between headings and above such headings in the financial perspective; is in favour of a revision of the financial perspective that would enable the EU to react rapidly to crises, taking full account of political priorities;
10. Emphasises the need to provide sufficient clarity and more flexibility and ensure better-targeted assistance, particularly aimed at civil society, respect of human rights and aspirations towards democracy including at local and regional level, so as to promote a bottom-up approach; underlines the importance of guaranteeing the rapid identification and elimination of shortcomings in the future and thus increasing the quality and effectiveness of EU assistance; calls also, in the context of the ENP review, for a comprehensive efficiency analysis of ENPI in coordination with other instruments such as EIDHR, with the aim of making better use of the financial instruments available in the EU's relations with southern and eastern neighbours and in cross-border cooperation, and of ensuring that EU assistance is used adequately in beneficiary countries based on conditionality of the 'more for more' concept and differentiated according to the specific situation of each beneficiary country; calls likewise for a critical analysis of the lending activities and policies of the European Investment Bank before it is given a more prominent role in EU support for neighbouring countries, in particular in the Southern Mediterranean;
11. Believes that appropriate resources should also be provided in order to develop strategic relations with the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) for financing non-ODA activities, notably to cover financial and technical funding for cooperation in areas of mutual interest between the EU and these countries;
12. Encourages the EU to cooperate at budgetary level with bodies that fight for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the international sphere, especially with UN-Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;
13. Recalls that the Instrument for Stability provides funds in situations of crisis or emerging crises, when timely financial help cannot be provided from other EU sources; considers that the proposed reduction of the IfS's budget for 2012 is disproportionate and inconsistent with political priorities and ignores the fragile political climate in many regions in our neighbourhood and beyond;
14. Regrets that conflict prevention has not received enough political weight and attention within the EU and is of the opinion that innovative ways to make use of the existing legislative and financial instruments, including IfS, EIDHR and development assistance, should be elaborated to advance conflict prevention in third countries;

15. Regrets that there is currently little transparency about the cost of the CSDP missions and reaffirms its support for the establishment of specific budget lines for major CSDP missions;
16. Regards the enlargement of the EU as a key area in the EU's foreign policy spectrum and is of the opinion that in order to prevent the candidate countries and the potential candidate countries falling behind, a sufficient level of IPA funding needs to be maintained; considers nevertheless that the IPA funding needs to be critically reviewed in areas where the implementation level of IPA funds is low;
17. Believes that savings need to be made, given the economic difficulties and resulting budgetary restraints in many EU Member States; is convinced that targeted savings can be made by identifying overlaps and inefficiencies across all headings and flagging up areas where results are not in line with the expectations and requests of the European Parliament, in order to create the necessary budgetary leverage for key political priorities, including the foreign affairs priorities.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	24.5.2011
Result of final vote	+: 56 -: 1 0: 6
Members present for the final vote	Sir Robert Atkins, Dominique Baudis, Frieda Brepoels, Elmar Brok, Arnaud Danjean, Michael Gahler, Marietta Giannakou, Ana Gomes, Andrzej Grzyb, Heidi Hautala, Anna Ibrisagic, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jelko Kacin, Ioannis Kasoulides, Tunne Kelam, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Evgeni Kirilov, Andrey Kovatchev, Pawel Robert Kowal, Eduard Kukan, Alexander Graf Lambsdorff, Krzysztof Lisek, Sabine Lösing, Ulrike Lunacek, Barry Madlener, Mario Mauro, Kyriakos Mavronikolas, Willy Meyer, Francisco José Millán Mon, María Muñoz De Urquiza, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Norica Nicolai, Raimon Obiols, Kristiina Ojuland, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Cristian Dan Preda, Fiorello Provera, Libor Rouček, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Nikolaos Salavrakos, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Werner Schulz, Marek Siwiec, Hannes Swoboda, Charles Tannock, Inese Vaidere, Geoffrey Van Orden, Kristian Vigenin, Graham Watson, Boris Zala
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Reinhard Bütikofer, Nikolaos Chountis, Véronique De Keyser, Tanja Fajon, Kinga Gál, Elisabeth Jeggle, Georgios Koumoutsakos, Norbert Neuser, Doris Pack, Vittorio Prodi, Dominique Vlasto, Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Joachim Zeller