



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2011/2020(BUD)

13.9.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on Parliament's position on the 2012 Draft Budget as modified by the Council
– all sections
(2011/2020(BUD))

Rapporteur: María Muñoz De Urquiza

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. Insists that sufficient appropriations must be provided for to ensure that the EU can fulfil its role as a global player with responsibility for promoting peace and stability, fighting poverty, supporting economic development and upholding respect for fundamental values and human rights throughout the world; underlines, however, the importance of effective use of existing resources;
2. Reiterates the argument that Heading IV of the EU Budget 2012 is underfinanced and the margin available under the same heading is too low to cope with the increased political challenges in our neighbourhood and worldwide; calls, therefore, for recourse to the flexibility mechanisms foreseen in the IIA currently under review in order to provide the necessary financial resources;
3. Stresses that in light of the latest developments, in particular in Libya, adequate support for the neighbouring southern Mediterranean countries is crucial in order to help the transition to democracy and build democratic institutions, and that these developments should be reflected in the final budgetary vote; stresses that this support for the southern dimension of the ENP should not be at the expense of the Union's commitment to adequate support for the eastern dimension of the ENP/ENPI; calls on the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) to implement the EU Concept on Strengthening EU Mediation and Dialogue Capacities adopted in 2009 without any further delay, to allocate sufficient resources to it and to review the Concept in the light, inter alia, of recent developments in the Arab world;
4. Believes that the proposed cuts for the peace process in Palestine are unacceptable as they would undermine the safety and livelihood of refugees and current efforts to ensure a viable Palestinian state; warns that such cuts could eventually lead to a most dangerous point of no return; calls again 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 in relation to both parties in the conflict;
5. Is in favour of maintaining at least the same level of funding as in 2011 for the EIDHR, including the electoral observation missions, as well as for the Development Cooperation Instruments (DCI), the Industrialised Countries Instrument Plus (ICI+) and the Instrument for Stability (IfS); is in favour of supporting the relevant UN bodies in charge of protecting women and children from violence and armed conflicts;
6. Recalls that the IfS is the Union's only tool for providing 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 appropriations for 2012 and 2013 is disproportionate and inconsistent with the Union's political priorities, and that it ignores the fragile political climate in many regions in our neighbourhood and beyond;
7. Recalls the need to implement the Common Foreign and Security Policy whilst ensuring

policy coherence for development, duly respecting previous engagements so that unspent allocations already earmarked to fight poverty in certain regions are reallocated in the countries of those same regions where major needs in terms of fighting poverty still exist and where absorption capacity is proven;

8. Recalls the resolutions on a EU approach towards Iran of 10 March 2011¹, on EU relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council of 24 March 2011² as well as on a new strategy for Afghanistan of 16 December 2010³ and the need to provide a concrete follow-up in budgetary terms to the provisions therein adopted;
9. Supports the draft budget proposed by the Commission for assisting candidate countries with a view to enlargement;
10. Underlines the need to equip the European External Action Service (EEAS) with the budgetary means needed to allow it to assist the HR/VP in conducting EU foreign policy and in ensuring coherence of EU external action; points, in particular, to the need to strengthen political staff in EU Delegations; is therefore of the view that the Commission Draft Budget for Section X should be restored; insists, however, on full implementation of commitments given to Parliament by the HR/VP during the process of the establishment of the EEAS, so as to enhance the democratic legitimacy of EU foreign policy;
11. Is concerned that the proposed change to the EEAS establishment plan might disproportionately inflate the service's management, in particular at AD 13 and AD 14 levels; calls therefore on the HR/VP to set forth the EEAS's staffing policy in a transparent manner to the Budgetary Authority; stresses that without such information it is not prepared to approve the modified establishment plan; believes that Member States could contribute to a more balanced staffing structure and lower staff-related expenditure by sending to the EEAS a more balanced set of diplomats, including diplomats at lower grades;
12. Reiterates that, for the sake of budgetary transparency and parliamentary scrutiny, each Common Security and Defence Policy mission should in future be based on an individual budget line;

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2011)0096.

² Texts adopted, P7_TA(2011)0109.

³ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2010)0490.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	12.9.2011
Result of final vote	+: 48 -: 5 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Bastiaan Belder, Franziska Katharina Brantner, Arnaud Danjean, Michael Gahler, Ana Gomes, Andrzej Grzyb, Anna Ibrisagic, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jelko Kacin, Othmar Karas, Ioannis Kasoulides, Tunne Kelam, Nicole Kiil-Nielsen, Andrey Kovatchev, Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler, Eduard Kukan, Vytautas Landsbergis, Krzysztof Lisek, Sabine Lösing, Ulrike Lunacek, Barry Madlener, Mario Mauro, Kyriakos Mavronikolas, Francisco José Millán Mon, Alexander Mirsky, María Muñoz De Urquiza, Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck, Raimon Obiols, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Hans-Gert Pöttering, Cristian Dan Preda, José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Werner Schulz, Hannes Swoboda, Inese Vaidere, Kristian Vigenin, Sir Graham Watson
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Laima Liucija Andrikiienė, Charalampos Angourakis, Véronique De Keyser, Tanja Fajon, Roberto Gualtieri, Jaromír Kohlíček, Agnès Le Brun, Barbara Lochbihler, Monica Luisa Macovei, Carmen Romero López, Marietje Schaake, Helmut Scholz, György Schöpflin, Indrek Tarand, Paweł Zalewski