



2023/XXXX(BUD)

27.6.2023

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024
(2023/XXXX(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Carina Ohlsson

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas the growing instability and the rise of unprecedented challenges in the international environment increases the demands on the Union to act;
 - B. whereas the Union must continue to support Ukraine and respond to other urgent global needs as they evolve;
1. Welcomes that the Commission presented a budget proposal which corresponds to the MFF ceiling of EUR 15 830 million in Heading 6 which underlines the massive needs in external action spending; recalls that the Parliament from the outset considered the MFF ceiling in Heading 6 as insufficient given the geopolitical necessities;
 2. Strongly believes that a revision of the MFF is needed to make the Union budget fit for purpose in order to address global challenges; welcomes therefore the Commission proposal for a revision presented on 20 June, believes however that an even stronger increase in Heading 6 would be needed to address the various challenges in the neighbourhood and beyond; calls on the Council to agree on a revision of the MFF before the end of the year so that it can have an impact on the 2024 budget; furthermore calls on the Commission to present as soon as possible a detailed breakdown per budget line regarding the suggested increases for 2024 of EUR 2.331 million (in 2018 prices) in order for the budgetary authority to make full use of the additional funds in Heading 6;
 3. Notes that the majority of external action spending is concentrated under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe (NDICI/Global Europe) and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III), calls for targeted increases in particular in regions in crisis where needs are most pressing;
 4. Continues to see the Western Balkans integration as a geopolitical priority; welcomes furthermore the accession perspective for Ukraine and Moldova, insists however that additional funding is needed to support both countries on their path to accession;
 5. Believes that funding of projects focussing on women and girls in conflict areas, including on gender-based violence, conflict prevention, rebuilding and empowering of women, is insufficient and should be strengthened throughout all geographical regions in the budget;
 6. Believes that the support of third countries in the fight against climate change needs to be increased as a matter of urgency;
 7. Strongly believes that a considerable reinforcement of humanitarian aid is needed for the Union to be able to respond to emerging crises and therefore increases this budget line by EUR 1 billion.