



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2012/2016(BUD)

31.5.2012

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the mandate for the trilogue on the 2013 draft budget
(2012/2016(BUD))

Rapporteur: Esther de Lange

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that, on account of the austerity measures approved in many Member States in order to rebalance national budgets and reduce public debt, a realistic EU budget stipulating both positive and negative priorities is needed; notes that the commitments budgeted for agriculture and rural development have been raised slightly, with increases in commitments of 0.4 % and 1.3 % respectively compared with 2012, and increases in payments of 0.5 % and 5.4 % respectively, resulting in a total increase in payments under Heading 2 of 1.6 %, which is well below the proposed budget increase of 6.8 %; calls on the Commission continually to search for possible budget savings, especially through reducing administrative expenditure and providing financing only for real needs;
2. Notes that the projected margin of EUR 809 million for the market-related expenditure and direct aids sub-ceiling under Heading 2 represents a significant increase compared with 2012, which, according to the Commission, is mostly the result of a one-off effect following the end of the Sugar Restructuring Fund; expresses its satisfaction that this margin means that the financial discipline mechanism will not be applied in 2013;
3. Expects, in view of Croatia's upcoming accession on 1 July 2013, that the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) will be adopted swiftly, in line with Point 29 of the IIA ('Adjustment of the financial framework to cater for enlargement'), and asks the Commission to present its proposal for the corresponding additional appropriations as soon as the Act of Accession has been ratified by all the Member States;
4. Notes that there is a proposed increase of 5.4 % in payment appropriations for rural development; calls on the Commission to verify that this increase is accurate and corresponds to Member States' real needs; urges the Commission to monitor the correct implementation of rural development projects with a view to guaranteeing the legitimacy of EU spending; points out that the second-pillar CAP programmes are a major driver of rural development and must be targeted to generating growth, added value and jobs in rural areas;
5. Notes that the proposed increase in direct aids is mainly due to the ongoing phasing-in of direct payments in the EU-12 Member States, creating an additional budgetary requirement of EUR 860 million in 2013, while expenditure on market interventions is expected to decrease, owing to higher assigned revenue and the favourable market situation for most sectors;
6. Expresses its concern about the volatility of agricultural markets causing uncertainty to farmers and agribusinesses; calls on the Commission to monitor developments in agricultural markets and to react swiftly and effectively when needed; strongly urges the Commission to provide means of action for times of crisis and to increase the level of knowledge among farmers as to how to respond to volatile markets;

7. Voices its concern about the continuing problems in the fruit and vegetable sector owing to adverse weather conditions, and points, therefore, to the need to earmark additional resources for PO-led crisis prevention and management measures; notes that this sector has already been facing severe problems in certain Member States since 2011 as a result of the handling of the EHEC outbreak; points out the important role that promotion measures can play in improving the sector's health;
8. Notes that the amounts assigned to certain budget lines, including the school milk programme, have been significantly decreased and asks the Commission to provide Parliament with a justification for this;
9. Notes that the Commission has not implemented a number of key pilot projects requested by Parliament: 'European Farm Prices and Margins Observatory', 'Measures against speculation with agricultural commodities' and 'Exchanging best practice for cross-compliance simplification'; reiterates that these issues are still priorities for Parliament and expects the Commission to provide a thorough explanation as to why it has failed to implement the pilot projects and how it plans to address these priorities in future;
10. Highlights the continuing imbalances in the food supply chain, in which the position of primary producers is considerably weaker than that of the other actors; urges the Commission to take action to improve the transparency of prices and margins in the food supply chain; highlights the value of a pilot project in this area.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	31.5.2012
Result of final vote	+: 30 -: 1 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	John Stuart Agnew, José Bové, Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos, Michel Dantin, Paolo De Castro, Albert Deß, Herbert Dorfmann, Julie Girling, Béla Glattfelder, Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto, Martin Häusling, Esther Herranz García, Peter Jahr, Elisabeth Jeggle, Jarosław Kalinowski, Elisabeth Köstinger, George Lyon, James Nicholson, Georgios Papastamkos, Marit Paulsen, Britta Reimers, Alfreds Rubiks, Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris, Alyn Smith, Marc Tarabella
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Luís Paulo Alves, Pilar Ayuso, María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Esther de Lange, Christa Kläß, Astrid Lulling, Hans-Peter Mayer
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Bill Newton Dunn