



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

2013/2145(BUD)

18.9.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the Council position on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014 - all sections
(13176/2013 - C7-0260/2013 - 2013/2145(BUD))

Rapporteur: Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă

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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, given the ceiling imposed by the 7-8 February 2013 European Council for Heading 2 of the 2014-20 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), all the major categories of Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) spending are likely, in practice, to be cut in 2014, including direct payments, market measures and rural development;
2. Notes that under the Draft Budget (DB) the Heading 2 budget will see cuts of 1.1% in commitments and 2.3% in payments respectively in 2014 relative to 2013;
3. Notes that under DB 2014 funding for rural development under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) will be cut by 5.5% in commitments and 10.8% in payments respectively;
4. Insists, in this context, that the Council respect its promises to provide sufficient payment appropriations in the 2013 budgetary procedure to allow the Union to meet its outstanding commitments, if necessary via a third draft amending budget to be presented by the Commission in mid-October 2013;
5. Reiterates that measures to bring the level of unpaid commitments under control are a precondition for making a successful start to the new programming period for 2014-20, notably due to the reduced level of rural development payment appropriations foreseen in DB 2014;
6. Asks the Commission to closely monitor the situation in order to ensure that the 10.8% cut in payments appropriations in DB 2014 does not negatively affect the ability of Member States to successfully start their rural development programmes, notably for investments;
7. Notes that, while the budget for direct payments and market measures under the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) will be increased in 2014 by 0.3% relative to 2013, for both commitments and payments, the Commission must explain in detail the practical measures required to meet increased needs linked to the phasing-in of direct payments in the EU-12 and the creation of the fund for agricultural crises;
8. Regrets, in particular, the application of the 'financial discipline' mechanism, meaning that a large number of the Union's farmers will suffer a cut of around 5% in direct payments paid out in the 2014 financial year;
9. Calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that funds allocated to the Reserve for crises in the agricultural sector in the 2014 budget which are subsequently left unspent are made available in full as direct payments in the following budgetary year;
10. Calls on the Commission and Member States to monitor the significant price volatility of agricultural products, which has adverse effects on farmers' incomes, and to react

promptly and effectively when needed;

11. Welcomes the steps taken towards the establishment of the European Prices Monitoring Tool for Food Products and calls on the Commission to regularly inform the European Parliament and the Council about the activities and findings of this Tool and ensure that such information is made public to as wide an audience as possible;
12. Welcomes the allocation of funds to support beekeeping and hopes that they will be used effectively in the Member States;
13. Draws attention to the need for the resources provided to be married as closely as possible with the commitments made, in order to achieve the objectives of increasing the competitiveness and sustainability of European agriculture;
14. Calls for the full alignment of direct payments in the EU-28 as soon as possible.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	17.9.2013
Result of final vote	+: 24 -: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Eric Andrieu, Liam Aylward, José Bové, Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Paolo De Castro, Albert Deß, Herbert Dorfmann, Hynek Fajmon, Mariya Gabriel, Iratxe García Pérez, Julie Girling, Martin Häusling, Esther Herranz García, Elisabeth Jeggle, Elisabeth Köstinger, Agnès Le Brun, Mairead McGuinness, James Nicholson, Wojciech Michał Olejniczak, Britta Reimers, Ulrike Rodust, Alfreds Rubiks, Giancarlo Scottà, Sergio Paolo Francesco Silvestris, Alyn Smith
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Pilar Ayuso, Maria do Céu Patrão Neves