



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

---

*Committee on Budgets*

---

**2011/0436(APP)**

16.11.2012

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Culture and Education

on the proposal for a Council regulation establishing for the period 2014-2020  
the programme "Europe for Citizens"  
(COM(2011)0884 – C7 – 2011/0436(APP))

Rapporteur: Barbara Matera

PA\_Legam

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

### Background

In its proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the Commission stresses the need to continue the programme “Europe for Citizens” 2007-2013. In its first generation of existence, the programme has demonstrated the need to increase citizens’ understanding of the history and origins of the EU and their awareness about the EU project. The Treaty on European Union takes a big step towards bringing the Union closer to its citizens and fostering greater cross-border debate about EU policy issues (the newly introduced Citizens' Initiative is just a part of this process.) The Commission proposes to build capacity for civic participation. The programme will build on the analysis of the strengths and the weaknesses of the current programme. It aims to address the need for more genuine debates on Union related issues at the local, regional and national levels, and, through a broad set of organisations, to reach out to the large group of citizens who would normally not seek to influence or take part in Union affairs.

### Budget

The Commission's proposal for MFF 2014-2020 provides that **EUR 229 million in current prices** will be allocated for a "Europe for Citizens" programme, compared to **EUR 215 million** in the current MFF. The Rapporteur holds the view that this is a minimal amount necessary (in line with annual inflation) for fostering such important objectives as European citizenship and remembrance, and ideally the budget should be augmented by 5-10%. The Rapporteur believes that the split of the funds between the three strands should be included in the text of the legislative proposal. In order to ensure more flexibility and accessibility of the Programme to smaller citizens' groups, appropriate references and safeguards should be included.

### Objectives

The programme aims to strengthen remembrance and enhance capacity for civic participation at the Union level. More specifically, the programme shall have certain specific objectives, which shall be implemented through actions on a transnational level or with a clear European dimension:

- raise awareness on remembrance, the Union's history, identity and aim by stimulating debate, reflection and networking;
- encourage democratic and civic participation of citizens at Union level, by developing citizens' understanding of the Union policy making-process and promoting opportunities for societal engagement and volunteering at Union level.

## AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Culture and Education, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

### Amendment 1

#### Draft legislative resolution

##### Paragraph 1 a (new)

*Draft legislative resolution*

*Amendment*

***1a. Points out that the financial envelope specified in the legislative proposal is only an indication to the legislative authority and can not be fixed until agreement is reached on the proposal for a regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020;***

*Justification*

*The figures in the thematic legal bases cannot be considered final, while the negotiations on the MFF are still ongoing, following the principle "nothing is decided, until everything is decided".*

### Amendment 2

#### Draft legislative resolution

##### Paragraph 1 b (new)

*Draft legislative resolution*

*Amendment*

***1b. Recalls its resolution of 8 June 2011 on Investing in the future: a new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive Europe<sup>1</sup>; reiterates that sufficient additional resources are needed in the next MFF in order to enable the Union to fulfil its existing policy priorities and the new tasks provided for in the Treaty of Lisbon, as well as to respond to unforeseen events; challenges the Council, if it does not share this approach, to clearly identify which of its political priorities or projects could be***

*dropped altogether, despite their proven European added value; points out that even with an increase in the level of resources for the next MFF of at least 5% compared to the 2013 level only a limited contribution can be made to the achievement of the Union's agreed objectives and commitments and the principle of Union solidarity;*

---

<sup>1</sup> *Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2011)0266.*

#### *Justification*

*If the Council reduces the MFF amounts, the EP urges it to identify "negative priorities" despite their proven added value and new tasks the Union must fulfil after coming into force of the Lisbon Treaty.*

### **Amendment 3**

#### **Proposal for a regulation**

##### **Recital 10**

###### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(10) Special attention should be paid to the balanced integration of citizens and civil society organisations from all Member States into transnational projects and activities, taking into account the multilingual character of the EU.

###### *Amendment*

(10) Special attention should be paid to the balanced integration of citizens and civil society organisations from all Member States into transnational projects and activities, taking into account the multilingual character of the EU. ***Access to the Programme, in particular, should be granted to small and medium size projects, and not limited to large projects only, in order to ensure more flexibility and better accessibility to the Programme for Union citizens. Particular care should be taken to ensure that administrative and financial procedures are simplified.***

#### *Justification*

*The amendment aims to improve the accessibility and flexibility of the Programme for the European citizens and citizens' groups, as well as simplification of administrative burden.*

## Amendment 4

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 12

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(12) This Regulation lays down, for the entire duration of the Programme, **a** financial envelope constituting the **prime** reference, within the meaning of point [17] of the Inter-institutional Agreement of XX/YY/201Y between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on cooperation in budgetary matters and on budgetary discipline and sound financial management, for the budgetary authority during the annual budgetary procedure.

#### *Amendment*

(12) This Regulation lays down, for the entire duration of the Programme, **an indicative** financial envelope constituting the **financial** reference, within the meaning of point [17] of the Inter-institutional Agreement of XX/YY/201Y between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on cooperation in budgetary matters and on budgetary discipline and sound financial management, for the budgetary authority during the annual budgetary procedure.

#### *Justification*

*Bringing the recital in line with Art.12 paragraph 1.*

## Amendment 5

### Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

(16) Preference will be given to grants for projects with a high impact, in particular those which are directly linked to EU policies with a view to participate in the shaping of the EU political agenda. Moreover, following the principle of sound financial management, the implementation of the programme should be further simplified by recourse to lump-sums, flat-rate financing and the application of unit-cost rates.

#### *Amendment*

(16) Preference will be given to grants for projects with a high impact, **without prejudice to the size of the project or the size of the budget**, in particular those which are directly linked to EU policies with a view to participate in the shaping of the EU political agenda. Moreover, following the principle of sound financial management, the implementation of the programme should be further simplified by recourse to lump-sums, flat-rate financing and the application of unit-cost rates.

#### *Justification*

*The size of the project or the beneficiary should not be a deciding factor in awarding grants,*

*with the impact on the promotion of European citizenship being the decisive factor.*

## **Amendment 6**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 3 – paragraph 1**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

1. The programme shall consist of the following two strands: (a) "Remembrance and European citizenship" (b) "Democratic engagement and civic participation". The two strands shall be complemented by horizontal actions for analysis, dissemination and exploitation of project results ("**Valorisation**" actions).

#### *Amendment*

1. The programme shall consist of the following two strands: (a) "Remembrance and European citizenship" (b) "Democratic engagement and civic participation". The two strands shall be complemented by horizontal actions for analysis, dissemination and exploitation of project results.

#### *Justification*

*The term "valorisation" is not understandable in Standard English.*

## **Amendment 7**

### **Proposal for a regulation Article 6**

#### *Text proposed by the Commission*

The programme shall be open to all stakeholders promoting European integration, in particular local authorities and organisations, European public policy research organisations (think-tanks), citizens' groups and other civil society organisations (such as survivors' associations), and educational and research institutions.

#### *Amendment*

The programme shall be open to all stakeholders promoting European integration, ***without prejudice to their size but with particular attention to the younger generation***, in particular local authorities and organisations, European public policy research organisations (think-tanks), citizens' groups and other civil society organisations (such as survivors' associations), and educational and research institutions.

#### *Justification*

*The Programme should not be limited only to large projects or large associations. Particular attention should be paid to young people.*

## Amendment 8

### Proposal for a regulation Article 12 – paragraph 1

*Text proposed by the Commission*

1. **The** financial *envelope* for the implementation of the programme shall be €229 million.

*Amendment*

1. **Within the meaning of point [17] of the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission of XXX/YYY on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, the financial reference amount** for the implementation of the programme shall be **EUR 229 million. The annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority.**

*Justification*

*Emphasising the role of the budgetary authority.*

## Amendment 9

### Proposal for a regulation Article 12 - paragraph 2 a (new)

*Text proposed by the Commission*

*Amendment*

**2a. The budgetary authority shall authorise the available annual appropriations without prejudice to the provisions of the Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 and the Interinstitutional Agreement of xxx/201z between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on cooperation in budgetary matters and sound financial management.**



## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	15.11.2012
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 27 -: 2 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Marta Andreasen, Zuzana Brzobohatá, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazábal Rubial, Salvador Garriga Polledo, Jens Geier, Ivars Godmanis, Lucas Hartong, Jutta Haug, Monika Hohlmeier, Sidonia Elżbieta Jędrzejewska, Anne E. Jensen, Ivailo Kalfin, Jan Kozłowski, Alain Lamassoure, George Lyon, Barbara Matera, Jan Mulder, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Nadezhda Neynsky, Dominique Riquet, Alda Sousa, Derek Vaughan
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	François Alfonsi, Maria Da Graça Carvalho, Jürgen Klute, Peter Šťastný, Georgios Stavrakakis, Nils Torvalds