



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgets

2012/0245(COD)

5.3.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps
(COM(2012)0514 – C7-0303/2012 – 2012/0245(COD))

Rapporteur: María Muñoz De Urquiza

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

On 19 September 2012 the Commission presented its proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps (EVHAC). This is the first initiative to organise a pan-European volunteers mechanism and comes as a response to the gaps identified in volunteering activity in the EU, such as the lack of structured approach on Union level, poor visibility of EU humanitarian actions, the lack of unified mechanism of selection of volunteers and the lack of sufficiently trained volunteers for humanitarian aid.

The aim of the Commission proposal is to strengthen the Union's capacity to respond to humanitarian crises and to develop a comprehensive framework of standards and procedures to ensure a network of humanitarian aid volunteers, who would be sufficiently trained, qualified and whose security will be placed at the highest level.

The suggested financial reference amount is EUR 210 million in constant prices for the 2014 - 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework.

Although the Commission proposal presents a good starting basis for the establishment of the EVHAC, your Rapporteur would like to improve it further by aligning it more closely to the new financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (Regulation No. 966/2012), especially relatively to the powers of the Commission to set up and manage an EU Trust Fund in the framework of humanitarian aid. Although not integrated in the budget, those trust funds should be managed in accordance with the financial regulation to the extent necessary for the security and transparency of the use of Union funds. For that purpose, the Commission should chair the governing board established for each trust fund to ensure the representation of donors and to decide upon the use of the funds. The relevant provisions for trust funds are covered by Article 187 of the new Financial Regulation and Article 259 of the delegated regulation on the rules of its application.

Your rapporteur also insists on coordination and complementarity of activities on Union and national levels, and cooperation with other international and local donors.

AMENDMENTS

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

Amendment 1

Draft legislative resolution **Paragraph 1a (new)**

Draft legislative resolution

Amendment

1a. Points out that the financial envelope specified in the legislative proposal

constitutes only an indication to the legislative authority and that it cannot be fixed until agreement is reached on the proposal for a regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020;

Amendment 2

Draft legislative resolution Paragraph 1b (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"¹; 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 by the Treaty of Lisbon, as well as to respond to unforeseen events; points out that even with an increase in the level of resources for the next MFF by 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; 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;

¹ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2011)0266.

Amendment 3

Draft legislative resolution Paragraph 1c (new)

Draft legislative resolution

Amendment

1c. Considers that separate funding and budgetary allocations should be guaranteed for this initiative whilst remaining mutually complementary with the other instruments for the Union's external policies.

Amendment 4

**Draft legislative resolution
Paragraph 1 d (new)**

Draft legislative resolution

Amendment

1d. Highlights that the EU Aid Volunteers' Initiative contributes to the development of the competences and employability of young people, hence indirectly supports the EU efforts to reduce youth unemployment ; therefore underlines the importance of ensuring adequate funding for this initiative.

Amendment 5

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(4) The Union's humanitarian aid is delivered in situations where other instruments related to development cooperation, crisis management and civil protection operate. The EU Aid Volunteers should work in a coherent and complementarity manner with relevant policies and instruments in order to make the most effective use of these instruments while systematically promoting humanitarian principles and long-term development goals. Synergies of the

(4) The Union's humanitarian aid is delivered in situations where other instruments related to development cooperation, crisis management and civil protection operate. The EU Aid Volunteers should work in a coherent and complementarity manner with relevant policies and instruments in order to make the most effective use of these instruments ***and avoid overlaps***, while systematically promoting humanitarian principles and long-term development goals. Synergies of

actions of the EU Aid Volunteers should be sought with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the Emergency Response Centre established by Decision XX/XXXX and with the EEAS and the EU Delegations in order to coordinate the Union's response to humanitarian crises in third countries.

the actions of the EU Aid Volunteers should be sought ***in particular*** with the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, the Emergency Response Centre established by Decision XX/XXXX, with the EEAS, the EU Delegations, ***regional and local actors and international organisations*** in order to coordinate the Union's response to humanitarian crises in third countries.

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 13 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(13a) Improving implementation and quality of spending should constitute guiding principles for achieving the objectives of the instrument while ensuring optimal and transparent use of the financial resources.

Amendment 7 Proposal for a regulation

Recital 22 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(22a) Separate funding and budgetary allocations should be guaranteed for this initiative whilst causing no reduction in the budget for humanitarian operations and remaining mutually complementary with the other instruments for the Union's external policies.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation Article 6 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. In implementing the Regulation, coherence shall be ensured with other areas of Union's external action and with other relevant Union policies. Particular attention shall be given to ensure smooth transition between relief, rehabilitation and development.

Amendment

1. In implementing the Regulation, coherence **and complementarity** shall be ensured with other areas of Union's external action and with other relevant Union policies. Particular attention shall be given to ensure smooth transition between relief, rehabilitation and development.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Article 6– paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The Commission and the Member States shall cooperate to improve the consistency and coherence between relevant national volunteering schemes and the actions of the EU Aid Volunteers.

Amendment

2. The Commission and the Member States shall cooperate to improve the **efficiency, effectiveness**, consistency and coherence between relevant national volunteering schemes and the actions of the EU Aid Volunteers.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point a – indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission

– the number of EU Aid Volunteers deployed or ready for deployment;

Amendment

– the number of EU Aid Volunteers deployed or ready for deployment **with the required qualifications**;

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point a – indent 2

Text proposed by the Commission

– the number of people reached by humanitarian aid provided by the Union

Amendment

– the number of people reached by humanitarian aid ***and efficiency assessment of the humanitarian aid*** provided by the Union ***through EU Aid volunteers.***

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point b – indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission

– the number of volunteers ***trained and*** the quality of the training on the basis of the reviews ***and*** level of satisfaction;

Amendment

– the number of volunteers ***that successfully completed the training and the assessment of*** the quality of the training on the basis of the reviews, level of satisfaction.

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point c – indent 2

Text proposed by the Commission

– the number of third country staff and volunteers participating in the capacity building actions.

Amendment

– the number of third country staff and volunteers participating in the capacity building actions, ***and when possible the continuity in the organisation after the end of training.***

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 1 – point e – indent 1

Text proposed by the Commission

– *the number* of certified sending organisations;

Amendment

– ***qualitative and quantitative assessment*** of certified sending organisations (***such as their number, structure, cooperation mechanisms, etc***);

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Article 10 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall establish a certification mechanism ensuring that sending organisations comply with the standards referred to in Article 9 and a differentiated certification mechanism for hosting organisations.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall establish a certification mechanism ensuring that sending organisations comply with the standards referred to in Article 9 and a differentiated certification mechanism for hosting organisations. ***This mechanism shall be inclusive and non-discriminatory to any kind of eligible organisation.***

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Article 12 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall establish a training programme in order to prepare the candidate volunteers for undertaking humanitarian activities and for deployment in humanitarian aid operations.

Amendment

1. The Commission shall establish a training programme in order to prepare the candidate volunteers for undertaking humanitarian activities and for deployment in humanitarian aid operations. ***Proper funding for NGOs and other entities entitled to perform training of volunteers shall be ensured.***

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation Article 19

Text proposed by the Commission

Financial assistance under this Regulation may be awarded to natural persons and legal persons, whether governed by private or public law, which shall then be deemed financial beneficiaries in the sense of *the Financial Regulation XX/2012*.

Amendment

Financial assistance under this Regulation may be awarded to natural persons and legal persons, whether governed by private or public law, which shall then be deemed financial beneficiaries in the sense of *Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union*¹.

¹ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation Article 20

Text proposed by the Commission

The financial reference amount for the implementation of this Regulation for the period 2014 to 2020 shall be EUR 239.100.000 at current prices. If necessary, appropriations could be entered in the budget beyond 2020 to cover similar expenses, in order to enable the management of actions not yet completed by 31 December 2020.

Amendment

The indicative financial reference amount as defined in point [17] of the Interinstitutional Agreement of xx/201z between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on cooperation in budgetary matters and sound financial management shall be EUR 239 100 000 at current prices.

Annual appropriations shall be authorised by the budgetary authority without prejudice to the provisions of the regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 and the Interinstitutional Agreement xxx/201z between the European Parliament, Council and the Commission on cooperation in budgetary matters and

sound financial management.

If necessary, *payment* appropriations could be entered in the budget beyond 2020 to cover similar expenses, in order to enable the *payment* management of actions not yet completed by 31 December 2020,

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall implement the Union's financial assistance in accordance with *the Financial Regulation XX/2012 applicable to the budget of the Union.*

Amendment

1. The Commission shall implement the Union's financial assistance in accordance with *Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.*

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Article 21–paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. In order to implement this Regulation, the Commission shall adopt an annual work programme of the EU Aid Volunteers' initiative in accordance with the procedure referred to in *Article 24(2)*. It shall set out the objectives pursued, the expected results, the method of implementation and their total amount. It shall also contain the description of actions to be financed, an indication of the amount allocated to each action *and an indicative implementation timetable*. For grants, they shall include the priorities, the essential evaluation criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing.

Amendment

3. In order to implement this Regulation, the Commission shall adopt an annual work programme of the EU Aid Volunteers' initiative in accordance with the procedure referred to in *Article 25*. It shall set out the objectives pursued, the expected results, the method of implementation and their total amount. It shall also contain the description of actions to be financed *and* an indication of the amount allocated to each action. For grants, they shall include the priorities, the essential evaluation criteria and the maximum rate of co-financing. *The indicative implementation timetable of the annual work programme shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 24 (2).*

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Article 21 – paragraph 4

Text proposed by the Commission

4. The Commission may consider the added-value and management advantages of creating an EU Trust Fund.

Amendment

4. The Commission may consider the added-value and management advantages of creating an EU Trust Fund, *in respect of the relevant provisions, and in particular Article 187 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.*

In case a trust fund is created by the Commission, the adoption of the multiannual or annual working programme of this fund shall be subject to the procedure referred to in Article 25.

A trust fund for EU Aid Volunteers can only be created if a thorough analysis on the use of EU trust funds for the intended actions proves the added value of such a trust fund.

PROCEDURE

Title	Establishing the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps EU Aid Volunteers						
References	COM(2012)0514 – C7-0303/2012 – 2012/0245(COD)						
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	DEVE 22.10.2012						
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	BUDG 13.12.2012						
Rapporteur Date appointed	María Muñoz De Urquiza 18.12.2012						
Date adopted	4.3.2013						
Result of final vote	<table> <tr> <td>+: </td><td>29</td></tr> <tr> <td>–: </td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>0: </td><td>2</td></tr> </table>	+:	29	–:	1	0:	2
+:	29						
–:	1						
0:	2						
Members present for the final vote	Marta Andreasen, Richard Ashworth, Reimer Böge, Zuzana Brzobohatá, Jean-Luc Dehaene, Göran Färm, 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, Claudio Morganti, Vojtěch Mynář, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Dominique Riquet, László Surján, Helga Trüpel, Derek Vaughan, Angelika Werthmann						
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	François Alfonsi, Edit Herczog, Jürgen Klute, María Muñoz De Urquiza, Georgios Stavrakakis, Nils Torvalds						