



**2022/2006(INI)**

1.2.2022

# OPINION

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: annual  
sustainable growth survey 2022  
(2022/2006(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Margarida Marques

(\*) Associated committee – Rule 57 of the Rules of Procedure

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Underlines that the swift and decisive mobilisation of significant EU budgetary resources, together with sizeable fiscal measures by the Member States, has been and will continue to be instrumental in cushioning the health, social and economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis;
2. Highlights that the exceptional nature of NextGenerationEU had a stabilising effect for Member States at a time of great economic uncertainty, allowing governments to maintain investment levels and keep borrowing costs down; stresses the importance of significant public investment in supporting a sustainable, fair and inclusive recovery in the EU;
3. Stresses that the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) requires that the European Semester be reshaped to ensure the delivery of effective, high-quality, future-oriented and ambitious national recovery and resilience plans (NRRPs); recalls that the European Parliament, social partners, civil society, academia and local authorities have to be actively involved in the reshaping process and its implementation;
4. Considers that the NRRPs are an opportunity for the Member States to contribute significantly to the economic and social recovery of the EU, to address identified structural challenges by implementing reforms and investments in key areas such as judicial systems, the economic and business environment, health, education, culture, employment and social care, and to make their economies better prepared for crises, more resistant to shocks, more sustainable, fairer and more inclusive in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the EU's climate and biodiversity objectives and gender equality strategy; deplores the fact, however, that the NRRPs fail to adequately address aggressive tax planning schemes;
5. Recalls that the RRF lays down targets of 37 % for climate spending, following the specific requirements in Annex VI to the RRF Regulation, and 20 % for spending on the digital transformation, including digital infrastructure, education and skills, and that it may only support measures that respect the 'do no significant harm' principle; urges the Commission to take all the necessary steps to monitor, audit and enforce these targets effectively;
6. Welcomes the Recovery and Resilience Scoreboard, which is designed to monitor progress on the implementation of the RRF and make information available to the wider public; calls on the Commission to develop tools to monitor and ensure the robust implementation of the NRRPs and measure the attainment of targets and milestones as a prerequisite for the disbursement of RRF funds; points to the need to streamline reporting requirements, reduce the administrative burden and ensure conditions for proper implementation;
7. Urges the Commission to focus on a performance- or results-based analysis of RRF

spending and the progress made towards achieving the RRF's objectives in its annual reports and the mid-term evaluation report, and to be vigilant and open to a revision of the NRRPs where needed;

8. Reiterates the need for Member States to have the necessary control and audit mechanisms in place to ensure respect for the rule of law and protect the EU's financial interests, notably to prevent fraud, corruption and conflicts of interest and secure transparency; emphasises the importance of implementing the relevant enabling country-specific recommendations in this regard; regrets the fact that the Commission has not yet implemented the Regulation on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget, despite it having applied since 1 January 2021; reiterates its call for the Commission to apply the regulation in full and without ambiguity;
9. Recalls that the investment gap to finance the green transition stands at EUR 520 billion per year for the next decade, according to Commission estimates; underscores that both public and private funding are key to achieving the 2030 climate objectives, promoting the digital transition and addressing other social and economic challenges; considers, therefore, that all options to incentivise Member State investments to tackle those challenges should be considered, including the revision of the Stability and Growth Pact to promote a future-oriented economy and the extension of lending and borrowing capacities at EU level; calls for the spending financed by RRF loans to benefit from the same treatment in the EU fiscal framework as is the case for the European Fund for Strategic Investments in the context of the Commission communication on flexibility<sup>1</sup>, so as to ensure optimal effects for the EU recovery;
10. Believes that RRF governance, notably the assessment and approval of the NRRPs by the Commission and the Council, provides a solid foundation for discussions on how to allow sufficient public investment under the fiscal rules; stresses that the success of the RRF should inspire the building of a modern and effective framework for common EU fiscal policy with renewed democratic legitimacy and greater parliamentary accountability and oversight;
11. Welcomes the promising early signs of bond issuance by the Commission to finance the first disbursements under the RRF; recalls that the design of NextGenerationEU requires debt repayment through the introduction of a basket of new own resources of the EU budget; welcomes the ratification of the Own Resources Decision by all Member States; calls on the Commission and the Council to fully respect the timeline for the introduction of new own resources in accordance with the legally binding roadmap as agreed in the Interinstitutional Agreement so that debt can be serviced in a budget-neutral manner for Member States.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission communication of 13 January 2015 on making the best use of the flexibility within the existing rules of the Stability and Growth Pact (COM(2015)0012).

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	1.2.2022
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 32 -: 4 0: 5
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Rasmus Andresen, Robert Biedroń, Anna Bonfrisco, Olivier Chastel, Lefteris Christoforou, David Cormand, Paolo De Castro, Andor Deli, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Vlad Gheorghe, Valentino Grant, Elisabetta Gualmini, Francisco Guerreiro, Valérie Hayer, Eero Heinäluoma, Niclas Herbst, Monika Hohlmeier, Moritz Körner, Joachim Kuhs, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Hélène Laporte, Pierre Larrousurou, Janusz Lewandowski, Margarida Marques, Silvia Modig, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Karlo Ressler, Bogdan Rzońca, Nicolae Ştefănuţă, Nils Torvalds, Nils Ušakovs, Johan Van Overtveldt, Rainer Wieland, Angelika Winzig
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Henrike Hahn

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

32	+
PPE	Lefteris Christoforou, José Manuel Fernandes, Niclas Herbst, Monika Hohlmeier, Janusz Lewandowski, Siegfried Mureşan, Andrey Novakov, Jan Olbrycht, Karlo Ressler, Rainer Wieland, Angelika Winzig
Renew	Olivier Chastel, Vlad Gheorghe, Valérie Hayer, Moritz Körner, Nicolae Ştefănuţă, Nils Torvalds
S&D	Robert Biedroń, Paolo De Castro, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Elisabetta Gualmini, Eero Heinäluoma, Pierre Larrourou, Margarida Marques, Victor Negrescu, Nils Ušakovs
The Left	Silvia Modig, Dimitrios Papadimoulis
Verts/ALE	Rasmus Andresen, David Cormand, Francisco Guerreiro, Henrike Hahn

4	-
ID	Joachim Kuhs, Hélène Laporte
NI	Andor Deli, Lefteris Nikolaou-Alavanos

5	0
ECR	Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Bogdan Rzońca, Johan Van Overtveldt
ID	Anna Bonfrisco, Valentino Grant

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention