



2023/0201(APP)

15.2.2024

AMENDMENTS

1 - 27

Draft report

Co-Rapporteurs: Jan Olbrycht, Margarida Marques

(PE759.062v01-00)

containing a motion for a non-legislative resolution on the draft Council regulation amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2093 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2021 to 2027 (COM0000/2024 – C9-0000 – 2023/0201(APP))

AM_Com_NonLegReport

Amendment 1
Rasmus Andresen
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1 a. Stresses that the draft Council regulation amending the MFF is part of a package of legislation and that its adoption will enable rapid support to be provided to Ukraine and ensure reinforcements can be introduced already into the 2024 budget through an amending budget and for the remaining years of the MFF period; underlines that the MFF revision represents a clear improvement on the status quo, although some aspects contained in the draft Council regulation are not optimal, leaving the EU budget under pressure, with limited margins and flexibility, with cuts to key programmes and with reduced ambition in important future-oriented policy areas, such as sovereignty;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Rasmus Andresen
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3. Stresses that the draft Council regulation amending the MFF is part of a package of legislation and that its adoption will enable rapid support to be provided to Ukraine and ensure reinforcements can be introduced already into the 2024 budget through an amending budget and for the remaining years of the MFF period; underlines that the MFF revision represents a clear improvement on the status quo, although some aspects contained in the draft Council regulation are not optimal, leaving the EU budget under pressure,

deleted

with limited margins and flexibility, with cuts to key programmes and with reduced ambition in important future-oriented policy areas, such as sovereignty;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Valentino Grant, Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3 a. Highlights the need to streamline administrative procedures, rationalise expenditure and enhancing transparency and accountability in EU spending to grant an efficient and accountable use of taxpayers' money for funding priorities and challenges;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Rasmus Andresen
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

4. Recalls that Parliament has worked rapidly and constructively from the outset to enable swift adoption of the MFF package; ***regrets the fact that the process was beset by political difficulties among Member States, causing unwelcome delays in the Council; is disappointed that the Council and Commission did not apply the provisions of the Treaties and the IIA to enable proper engagement earlier in the process; insists that, in future, cooperation must be put in place at the beginning of any revision***

4. Recalls that Parliament has worked rapidly and constructively to enable swift adoption of the MFF package, ***despite delays in the Council caused by Orbán's blackmail leading to the extremely tight pragmatic deadlines imposed by the late agreement; calls for the changes introduced in this revision to be implemented without further delay, in particular to ensure the timely payment of financial support to Ukraine, given the urgency of the needs;***

procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Warmly welcomes the EUR 50 billion financing package for Ukraine for the period 2024-2027, combining grants (EUR 17 billion) with loans on highly favourable terms (EUR 33 billion) and anchored in the EU budget; emphasises that the amendment of the MFF regulation to which Parliament is invited to give consent is a prerequisite for financial support to be provided to Ukraine;

Amendment

6. **Notes** the EUR 50 billion financing package for Ukraine for the period 2024-2027, combining grants (EUR 17 billion) with loans on highly favourable terms (EUR 33 billion) and anchored in the EU budget; emphasises that the amendment of the MFF regulation to which Parliament is invited to give consent is a prerequisite for financial support to be provided to Ukraine; ***recalls that all loans and MFA+ are guaranteed by the EU budget, and in the case of Ukraine bankruptcy will lie fully on the shoulders of the Member States' taxpayers;***

Or. en

Amendment 6
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. ***Warmly welcomes*** the EUR 50 billion financing package for Ukraine for the period 2024-2027, ***combining grants (EUR 17 billion) with*** loans on highly favourable terms ***(EUR 33 billion) and*** anchored in the EU budget; emphasises that the amendment of the MFF regulation to which Parliament is invited to give consent is a prerequisite for financial

Amendment

6. **Notes** the EUR 50 billion financing package for Ukraine for the period 2024-2027 ***of*** loans on highly favourable terms, anchored in the EU budget; emphasises that the amendment of the MFF regulation to which Parliament is invited to give consent is a prerequisite for financial support to be provided to Ukraine;

support to be provided to Ukraine;

Or. en

Amendment 7

Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Underlines that this medium-term structural solution gives certainty to the people of Ukraine, enabling the government to maintain essential services and helping the country on its path to reconstruction, recovery ***and membership of the EU***; considers, furthermore, that the financing package ***is a vital symbol of the Union's long-term commitment to Ukraine and its people*** and sends an important signal of that commitment both to other key donors and to the Russian Federation; undertakes to monitor Ukraine's future financing needs, taking into account international developments;

Amendment

7. Underlines that this medium-term structural solution gives certainty to the people of Ukraine, enabling the government to maintain essential services and helping the country on its path to reconstruction ***and*** recovery; considers, furthermore, that the financing package sends an important signal of that commitment both to other key donors and to the Russian Federation; undertakes to monitor Ukraine's future financing needs, taking into account international developments;

Or. en

Amendment 8

Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Welcomes the fact that an additional EUR 3.1 billion in fresh money will be provided for Heading 6 (neighbourhood and the world), combined with a further EUR 4.5 billion in decommitted and redeployed funds to be re-purposed within the heading, for a total of EUR 7.6 billion planned to be spent on support for migration ***measures*** and refugees in third

Amendment

9. Welcomes the fact that an additional EUR 3.1 billion in fresh money will be provided for Heading 6 (neighbourhood and the world), combined with a further EUR 4.5 billion in decommitted and redeployed funds to be re-purposed within the heading, for a total of EUR 7.6 billion planned to be spent on support for ***limiting*** migration ***flows*** and ***keeping*** refugees in

countries and on enhanced accession funding for the Western Balkans between 2024 and 2027; underlines, furthermore, that the creation of the Ukraine Facility and enhanced support for the Western Balkans will also create space for increased financial support for Moldova *on its path to accession*;

third countries and on enhanced accession funding for the Western Balkans between 2024 and 2027; underlines, furthermore, that the creation of the Ukraine Facility and enhanced support for the Western Balkans will also create space for increased financial support for Moldova;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

9.a. Instructs the European Court of Auditors to carry out a mid-term review of the Facility before the end of 2026;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

11. ***Is very disappointed*** that neither the cushion in the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)-Global Europe programme nor humanitarian aid have been reinforced as part of the MFF revision and that, despite the improvements, the heading as a whole will remain under significant pressure for the remainder of the MFF period given the challenging geopolitical situation and the combination of global crises; expects humanitarian aid needs to continue to exceed the amounts budgeted for and

11. ***Notes*** that neither the cushion in the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI)-Global Europe programme nor humanitarian aid have been reinforced as part of the MFF revision and that, despite the improvements, the heading as a whole will remain under significant pressure for the remainder of the MFF period given the challenging geopolitical situation and the combination of global crises; expects humanitarian aid needs to continue to exceed the amounts budgeted for and intends, therefore, to carefully monitor, and

intends, therefore, to carefully monitor, and where necessary to address, those needs in the annual budgetary procedure;

where necessary to address, those needs in the annual budgetary procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 11
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

12. Recalls that, under the NDICI Regulation, decommitted funds are to be recommitted to their budget line of origin; emphasises that decisions on the redeployment of decommitted funds must respect the internal balance and distribution between the budget lines provided for in the NDICI Regulation; stresses that the precise breakdown of funds across budget lines is decided exclusively by the budgetary authority in the annual budgetary procedure ***and is determined to ensure that the EU continues to provide essential financial support and development aid to the Global South;***

Amendment

12. Recalls that, under the NDICI Regulation, decommitted funds are to be recommitted to their budget line of origin; emphasises that decisions on the redeployment of decommitted funds must respect the internal balance and distribution between the budget lines provided for in the NDICI Regulation; stresses that the precise breakdown of funds across budget lines is decided exclusively by the budgetary authority in the annual budgetary procedure;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Valentino Grant, Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

13. Underscores that financial support for third countries should be provided through programmes within Heading 6, which ensure robust oversight and guarantee Parliament's prerogatives; stresses that the use of Facilities is a last resort for the provision of financial support; emphasises that the governance model employed in the Ukraine Facility, in particular with respect

Amendment

13. Underscores that financial support for third countries should be provided through programmes within Heading 6, which ensure robust oversight and guarantee Parliament's prerogatives; ***highlights that any development or humanitarian aid to third countries must be provided under the condition of smooth cooperation in the repatriation of their citizens illegally***

to the extensive use of Council implementing decisions, is specific to the context in which it will operate and is therefore exceptional and not to be replicated for any future instrument of this kind;

staying in the European Union; stresses that the use of Facilities is a last resort for the provision of financial support; emphasises that the governance model employed in the Ukraine Facility, in particular with respect to the extensive use of Council implementing decisions, is specific to the context in which it will operate and is therefore exceptional and not to be replicated for any future instrument of this kind;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14

Motion for a resolution

14. ***Welcomes*** the additional EUR 2 billion in Heading 4 (migration and border management), which will be pivotal in implementing the New Pact on Migration and Asylum and help alleviate the strain on programmes and decentralised agencies in the heading;

Amendment

14. ***Is very disappointed of*** the additional EUR 2 billion in Heading 4 (migration and border management), which will be pivotal in implementing the New Pact on Migration and Asylum and help alleviate the strain on programmes and decentralised agencies in the heading;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. ***Welcomes*** the boost in the Union's defence investment capacity through the EUR 1.5 billion reinforcement of the European Defence Fund; regrets, however, the overall limited additional resources to support the STEP objectives and the lack of fresh funding for the other programmes,

Amendment

17. ***Is very disappointed of*** the boost in the Union's defence investment capacity through the EUR 1.5 billion reinforcement of the European Defence Fund, ***the Union's defence being a pipe dream desired by the European Commission but which must remain the exclusive***

with a consequent negative impact on green and digital investments;

prerogative of the Member States; regrets, however, the overall limited additional resources to support the STEP objectives and the lack of fresh funding for the other programmes, with a consequent negative impact on green and digital investments;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 18

Motion for a resolution

18. *Welcomes* the fact that the draft Council regulation establishes an uncapped special instrument over and above the ceilings (the EURI instrument) to cover at least part of the NGEU borrowing cost shortfall, which will provide certainty to the financial markets; recalls that the shortfall is currently estimated at EUR 15 billion between 2025 and 2027; underlines that, without a revision of the MFF, any shortfall can only be met by cutting programmes and exhausting budgetary flexibility;

Amendment

18. *Is very disappointed of* the fact that the draft Council regulation establishes an uncapped special instrument over and above the ceilings (the EURI instrument) to cover at least part of the NGEU borrowing cost shortfall, which will provide certainty to the financial markets; recalls that the shortfall is currently estimated at EUR 15 billion between 2025 and 2027; underlines that, without a revision of the MFF, any shortfall can only be met by cutting programmes and exhausting budgetary flexibility;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 19

Motion for a resolution

19. Stresses that NextGenerationEU (NGEU) repayment costs are subject to market conditions, influenced by external factors and thus inherently volatile and that the repayment of borrowing costs is a non-discretionary legal commitment for the

Amendment

19. Stresses that NextGenerationEU (NGEU) repayment costs are subject to market conditions, influenced by external factors and thus inherently volatile and that the repayment of borrowing costs is a non-discretionary legal commitment for the

Union; reiterates, therefore, *that it was strongly opposed to subjecting the repayment of NGEU borrowing costs to a cap within an MFF heading in the 2020 MFF negotiations; recalls that it has repeatedly argued for all NGEU borrowing costs to be placed over and above the MFF ceilings as a comprehensive structural solution to cover NGEU repayment costs, which have increased as a result of rising interest rates and required substantial use of the budget's flexibility in 2023 and 2024;*

Union; reiterates, therefore, *its call to stop the borrowing to avoid excess costs for interest payments, and that no instrument should be over and above the ceilings of the MFF to respect principles of unity and of budgetary accuracy;*

Or. en

Amendment 17
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 24

Motion for a resolution

24. Points to the increased needs since the beginning of the MFF for humanitarian aid and emergency response *inside and outside* the Union and for support in relation to natural disasters, which are becoming more frequent and more intense in particular owing to climate change; is convinced that such needs are likely to grow; welcomes, therefore, the fact that the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) will be increased by EUR 1.5 billion for the remainder of the MFF period, though remains concerned that, even with this increase, needs are unlikely to be met;

Amendment

24. Points to the increased needs since the beginning of the MFF for humanitarian aid and emergency response *in* the Union and for support in relation to natural disasters, which are becoming more frequent and more intense in particular owing to climate change; is convinced that such needs are likely to grow; welcomes, therefore, the fact that the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve (SEAR) will be increased by EUR 1.5 billion for the remainder of the MFF period, though remains concerned that, even with this increase, needs are unlikely to be met;

Or. en

Amendment 18
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 25

Motion for a resolution

25. Welcomes, furthermore, that, in line with Parliament's long-standing position, the draft Council regulation splits the instrument into two parts - the European Solidarity Reserve for natural disasters and public health emergencies under the European Union Solidarity Fund and the Emergency Aid Reserve for rapid response to emergencies *inside and outside* the Union; considers that this revised architecture will facilitate implementation;

Amendment

25. Welcomes, furthermore, that, in line with Parliament's long-standing position, the draft Council regulation splits the instrument into two parts - the European Solidarity Reserve for natural disasters and public health emergencies under the European Union Solidarity Fund and the Emergency Aid Reserve for rapid response to emergencies *in* the Union; considers that this revised architecture will facilitate implementation;

Or. en

Amendment 19

Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 28

Motion for a resolution

28. **Recognises** that, by increasing the Flexibility Instrument by EUR 2 billion between 2024 and 2027 and by creating the EURI special instrument for NGEU borrowing cost overruns, the draft Council regulation releases some pressure on the budget; considers, nevertheless, that, given the logic of the steps leading to activation of the new special instrument and the shortfall in administrative spending owing to inflation, the increase is largely pre-allocated; remains concerned that, in line with the patterns of use in the early years of the MFF, the increase might not create sufficient budgetary space to enable the Union to respond to unforeseen circumstances and emerging needs;

Amendment

28. **Notes** that, by increasing the Flexibility Instrument by EUR 2 billion between 2024 and 2027 and by creating the EURI special instrument for NGEU borrowing cost overruns, *which is contrary to the principles of unity and of budgetary accuracy*, the draft Council regulation releases some pressure on the budget; *which is not the path to follow, as it is encouraged to find ways of saving funds by tackling any bottlenecks that prevent proper use of the Union's budget*; considers, nevertheless, that, given the logic of the steps leading to activation of the new special instrument and the shortfall in administrative spending owing to inflation, the increase is largely pre-allocated; remains concerned that, in line with the patterns of use in the early years of the MFF, the increase might not create sufficient budgetary space to enable the Union to respond to unforeseen circumstances and emerging needs, *which*

once again alerts us to the need to find new ways of saving money by limiting unnecessary expenditure by the European institutions;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Valentino Grant, Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. Regrets, therefore, that the draft Council regulation does not take up Parliament's proposal of scrapping the annual cap in payments appropriations for recourse to the Single Margin Instrument, which would have eliminated any risk of a payments crisis;

Amendment

33. Regrets, therefore, that the draft Council regulation does not take up Parliament's proposal of scrapping the annual cap in payments appropriations for recourse to the Single Margin Instrument, which would have eliminated any risk of a payments crisis; *recalls that an increase of payment appropriations ceilings does not automatically correlate with better absorption capacity of the EU budget; points out, in this regard, that the amount of outstanding commitments (amounts committed but not yet paid) attained a record 490 billion EUR at the beginning of 2024;*

Or. en

Amendment 21
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 33

Motion for a resolution

33. **Regrets**, therefore, that the draft Council regulation does not take up Parliament's proposal of scrapping the annual cap in payments appropriations for recourse to the Single Margin Instrument, which would have eliminated any risk of a

Amendment

33. **Welcomes**, therefore, that the draft Council regulation does not take up Parliament's proposal of scrapping the annual cap in payments appropriations for recourse to the Single Margin Instrument, which would have eliminated any risk of a

payments crisis;

payments crisis, *but which encourages the European institutions in search of new ways of saving money;*

Or. en

Amendment 22
Rasmus Andresen
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 37

Motion for a resolution

37. Deplores the cuts to flagship programmes in the MFF revision, especially to those specifically reinforced as part of the 2020 MFF agreement;

Amendment

37. Deplores the cuts to flagship programmes in the MFF revision, especially to those specifically reinforced as part of the 2020 MFF agreement; *is particularly concerned about the political messages such cuts send on our vision for the future of the European Union and calls for this to be rectified as soon as possible;*

Or. en

Amendment 23
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 38

Motion for a resolution

38. **Deeply regrets** the reduction of the financial envelope for Horizon Europe by EUR 2.1 billion, which runs counter to Council's own stated objective of investing 3% of Gross Domestic Product in research and development; point outs, however, that Parliament helped mitigate the impact of the cut to Horizon Europe by making available EUR 100 million of research decommitments under Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation to the benefit of the programme, on top of the EUR 500 million already agreed in 2020; recalls that the re-

Amendment

38. **Notes** the reduction of the financial envelope for Horizon Europe by EUR 2.1 billion, which runs counter to Council's own stated objective of investing 3% of Gross Domestic Product in research and development; point outs, however, that Parliament helped mitigate the impact of the cut to Horizon Europe by making available EUR 100 million of research decommitments under Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation to the benefit of the programme, on top of the EUR 500 million already agreed in 2020; recalls that the re-

use of research decommitments is a long-standing Parliament demand;

use of research decommitments is a long-standing Parliament demand;

Or. en

Amendment 24
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 39

Motion for a resolution

38. Recalls ***the importance of*** health policies ***and the clear political commitment in the 2020 MFF agreement to prioritise health funding; is,*** therefore, ***very disappointed by*** the cut of EUR 1 billion to EU4Health; considers that such a decision is likely to ***undermine preparedness for any further pandemic and curtail the Union's ability to support*** public health systems; points out, however, that, at Parliament's request, the spending profile of the programme has been adapted in order to mitigate the impact of the cut on practical implementation by spreading the effect of the reduction more evenly across the remaining years;

Amendment

38. Recalls ***that*** health policies ***are exclusively a prerogative of the Member States; welcomes*** therefore, the cut of EUR 1 billion to EU4Health; considers that such a decision is likely to ***encourage national health services into stepping up and Member States to assume their responsibilities in supporting*** public health systems; points out, however, that, at Parliament's request, the spending profile of the programme has been adapted in order to mitigate the impact of the cut on practical implementation by spreading the effect of the reduction more evenly across the remaining years;

Or. en

Amendment 25
Moritz Körner
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 40

Motion for a resolution

40. ***Recalls its position that pre-allocated national envelopes should not be adjusted in the MFF revision; welcomes, therefore, the decision to leave pre-allocated national envelopes untouched and not to take them into account in the mechanism for covering the NGEU borrowing costs***

Amendment

40. ***Draws attention to the difficulties Member States face in absorbing all EU funding in due time, especially under cohesion policy; welcomes, therefore,*** the cuts to direct management actions under cohesion policy (-EUR 0.4 billion) and the Common Agricultural Policy (-EUR 0.7

shortfall; deplores, however, the cuts to direct management actions under cohesion policy (-EUR 0.4 billion) and the Common Agricultural Policy (-EUR 0.7 billion), thus reducing the full potential and impact of those actions;

billion) as a pragmatic decision to decrease the burden of taxpayers in times of high inflation;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Jens Geier
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 41

Motion for a resolution

41. Acknowledges that both the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) have not been required to the extent anticipated and that there is scope to adjust their envelopes; considers that amounts from these special instruments should have been re-used for other purposes in the budget, for example to reinforce the Flexibility Instrument;

Amendment

41. Acknowledges that both the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) have not been required to the extent anticipated and that there is scope to adjust their envelopes; considers that amounts from these special instruments should have been re-used for other purposes in the budget, for example to reinforce the Flexibility Instrument; ***insists that the situation must be avoided in which a request for funding via the EGF for measures for workers who have lost their job is rejected or not fully granted due to insufficient budgetary resources in the EGF envelope in a given year; calls on the Commission to prepare and publish a contingency plan for such situations;***

Or. en

Amendment 27
Joachim Kuhs, Eric Minardi
Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 41

Motion for a resolution

41. Acknowledges that both the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) have not been required to the extent anticipated

Amendment

41. Acknowledges that both the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) and the Brexit Adjustment Reserve (BAR) have not been required to the extent anticipated

and that there is scope to adjust their envelopes; considers that amounts from these special instruments should have been re-used for other purposes in the budget, for example to reinforce the Flexibility Instrument;

and that there is scope to adjust their envelopes; considers that amounts from these special instruments should have been re-used for other purposes in the budget, for example to reinforce the Flexibility Instrument; ***highlights that such events prove once again the ideological creation of the funds by the European Commission, which is not always driven by clear, undisputable demand;***

Or. en