



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Budgetary Control

2010/2094(BUD)

27.9.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on Budgetary Control

for the Committee on Budgets

on Draft amending budget n° 6/2010 of the European Union for the financial year 2010 – statement of revenue and expenditure by section, Section II – European Council and Council, Section III – Commission, Section X – European External Action Service
(COM(2010)0315 - C7-0262/2010 - 2010/2094(BUD))

Rapporteur: Zigmantas Balčytis

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgetary Control calls on the Committee on Budgets to introduce the following suggestions in its report:

- A. Whereas Parliament should have the power of scrutiny over the Union's foreign policy and its implementation,
- B. Whereas Parliament's right to give discharge to the EEAS for its financial management is crucial,
- C. Whereas the establishment of the EEAS should respect the principles of budget neutrality, cost-efficiency and sound financial management,
 - 1. Welcomes the Declaration by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on political accountability, which reinforces Parliament's powers of scrutiny over the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and EU external action;
 - 2. Believes that it is necessary to ensure the budgetary autonomy essential for the smooth operation of the EEAS; considers, therefore, that the creation of the EEAS's separate budget section should be in line with the Commission's proposal for modifying the Financial Regulation;
 - 3. Calls for a clear distinction between the EEAS's administrative budget and operational budget, which will continue to be managed under the financial responsibility of the Commission;
 - 4. Recalls that Parliament should have the same discharge right regarding the budget of the EEAS as it currently has for the budget of the Commission; considers, therefore, that the EEAS should be subject to the procedures regarding the discharge provided for in Article 319 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and in Articles 145 to 147 of the Financial Regulation;
 - 5. Notes the difficulties in achieving budget neutrality in the first phase of setting up the EEAS; however, stresses the importance of avoiding duplication of the EEAS's tasks, functions and resources by other structures, and of using all opportunities to ensure the efficiency of expenditure;
 - 6. Notes that the Draft amending budget No 6/2010 amounts to EUR 9 521 362; notes further that EUR 1 583 972 thereof relates to the budget line "Buildings and related expenditure of 'External relations' delegations of the European Union"; recalls that the budgetary authority, in accordance with Article 179(3) of the Financial Regulation, has to be informed as soon as possible of any building project likely to have significant financial implications for the budget; draws attention to the fact that this is also applicable to the EEAS;

7. Considers it to be both practical and, in the interest of sound financial management, essential for the Commission's internal auditor also to have overall responsibility for the EEAS.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	27.9.2010
Result of final vote	+: 21 -: 1 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Marta Andreasen, Jean-Pierre Audy, Zigmantas Balčytis, Andrea Češková, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Andrea Cozzolino, Ryszard Czarnecki, Luigi de Magistris, Tamás Deutsch, Martin Ehrenhauser, Jens Geier, Ingeborg Gräßle, Ville Itälä, Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Jan Olbrycht, Crescenzo Rivellini, Christel Schaldemose, Theodoros Skylakakis, Bart Staes, Georgios Stavrakakis, Søren Bo Søndergaard
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Christofer Fjellner, Edit Herczog, Véronique Mathieu