

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2007/2019(BUD)

3.10.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2008
(C6-0000/2007 - 2007/2019(BUD))

Section III - Commission

Draftsman: Ralf Walter

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

The European Parliament

1. Reiterates that the activity of the EU in development cooperation should be based around combating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and for this reason stresses the 20% target for primary and secondary education and basic health, which are the crucial elements in combating poverty; urges that these goals also be properly taken into account in the framework of the European Development Fund (EDF);
2. Points out that eradicating poverty and achieving the MDGs are the main objectives of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI); points out that a careful review of the strategy papers and annual action programmes submitted by the Commission reveals that the aims of the DCI have not been adhered to in all countries and regions, but that funds have been earmarked for areas which have no legal basis in the DCI; wishes to see these controls repeated on a continuous basis;
3. Maintains the appropriations for personnel and buildings for the delegations at the level proposed by the Commission, whilst expecting the Commission to respect the aims of the DCI and provide a satisfactory explanation of why the increase in resources is necessary, in view of the increased expenditure via budgetary support and other donors;
4. Is not prepared to accept a reduction in funds for the purposes of development cooperation in order to finance measures for higher education and exchange programmes;
5. Calls for political links with middle-income countries and programmes aimed at improving the EU's image in such countries and at developing mutual understanding not to be financed from funds for development cooperation, and creates a new budget line for such provisions;
6. Observes that the DCI programme on migration and asylum does not fulfil Parliament's wish that the causes of migration in particular be combated; transfers funds from the migration programme to the 'Investing in People' programme, as investment in education gives people a better starting point to tackle their situation in their country of origin;
7. Makes additional funds available in the areas of education, health and equality within the 'Investing in People' programme, and creates a separate budget line for the global fund for combating AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to ensure improved transparency and control;
8. Stresses that a development policy which is geared to the future must take into account the demographic factor, as the effects of this on the social structures of developing countries are increasing all the time;

9. Calls for the continued reinforcement of cooperation with developing countries, in particular in the area of climate change;
10. Considers that there is an urgent need to press on with the development of the water management pilot project and to implement a pilot project to ascertain how more use can be made of sport in development cooperation;
11. Calls for the successful preparatory activity in reducing ABC weapons and small arms and in promoting the network for conflict prevention as part of the stability instrument to be continued;
12. Considers it necessary for the EU budget to help reduce what are expected to be the negative consequences of the Economic Partnership Agreements, and trusts that Member States will give similar assistance to ACP countries from the EDF and other sources.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	3.10.2007
Result of final vote	+: 27 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Thijs Berman, Josep Borrell Fontelles, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Thierry Cornillet, Nirj Deva, Alain Hutchinson, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Filip Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, Gay Mitchell, Luisa Morgantini, Miguel Portas, Horst Posdorf, Toomas Savi, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Anna Záborská, Jan Zahradil.
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Milan Gaľa, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Manolis Mavrommatis, Anne Van Lancker, Ralf Walter, Gabriele Zimmer.
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	