

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2008/2026(BUD)

8.10.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the EU for the financial year 2009
(2008/2026(BUD))

Section III - Commission

Rapporteur: Maria Martens

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:

1. Welcomes the Commission proposal for a Regulation establishing a facility for rapid response to soaring food prices in developing countries¹, as a timely response to the real hardship caused by soaring food prices for the world's poorest population and aimed at promptly increasing agricultural productivity; calls for the necessary funding to be made available, while safeguarding compliance with the rules of the budgetary procedure laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement² and addressing adequately the fact that some Member States fulfil their Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) commitments and others do not, provided that the funds allocated will be subject to recognised standards of control and accountability;
2. Observes that, as a consequence of the food crisis, there will be increased demand for humanitarian and food aid and that in order for the EU to realise its commitments under The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid³ the budget lines relating to those areas should be reinforced;
3. Stresses the critical need for strengthening evaluation of development cooperation actions, concentrating on results (including outputs, outcomes and impacts) and ensuring findings are used to inform the identification and design of subsequent actions;
4. Expresses its concern regarding the lack of clarity as to the way in which support measures to address adaptation costs and possible net fiscal losses incurred by the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) will be financed; calls on the Commission to provide detailed information regarding what financial assistance it will provide to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, through Aid for Trade or other support measures, to adapt to the economic changes following the signing of EPAs;
5. Observes that the financing of preparatory actions for cooperation with middle income group countries in Asia and Latin America have served a valuable purpose in 2008 and should be continued in 2009, as they allow financing for actions beyond the definition of ODA which fall outside the scope of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)⁴; calls on the Commission to fill the gap in the external actions legislative architecture with a legislative proposal covering non-ODA actions in developing countries;
6. Stresses that the Commission has a legal obligation to support efforts of partner countries to develop democratic domestic accountability capacities (parliamentary control and audit capacities) where Community assistance is delivered via budget support⁵; insists that this

¹ COM(2008)0450

² Interinstitutional Agreement of 17 May 2006 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline and sound financial management (OJ C 139, 14.6.2006, p. 1)

³ OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p. 1.

⁴ Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (OJ L 378, 27.12.2006, p. 41.)

⁵ Article 25(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006.

obligation be fulfilled more robustly and that provision be made for transmission of full information, including budget support agreements, to parliamentary control entities and supreme audit institutions.

PROCEDURE

Title	Opinion of the Committee on development for the Committee on Budgets on the draft general budget of the EU for the financial year 2009
References	2008/2026(BUD
Committee responsible	BUDG
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	DEVE
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Maria Martens 20.07.1999
Date adopted	07.10.2008
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Alessandro Battilocchio, Thijs Berman, Josep Borrell Fontelles, Danutë Budreikaitė, Nirj Deva, Alexandra Dobolyi, Beniamino Donnici, Fernando Fernández Martín, Juan Fraile Cantón, Alain Hutchinson, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Filip Kaczmarek, Glenys Kinnock, Maria Martens, José Javier Pomés Ruiz, Toomas Savi, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Anna Záborská
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Fiona Hall, Manolis Mavrommatis, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Anne Van Lancker, Renate Weber, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Catherine Boursier