



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Development*

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**2012/2016(BUD)**

5.6.2012

# OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the mandate for the trilogue on the 2013 Draft Budget  
(2012/2016(BUD))

Rapporteur: Gay Mitchell

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## 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. Warns the Commission and the Member States that, unless additional funding for development aid is provided, they are likely to fail to live up to their international commitments with regard to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and risk missing by a wide margin the collective EU commitment to achieve 0.7 % ODA/GNI by 2015, and that most Member States will miss their individual ODA/GNI commitments in the same year;
2. Regrets the fact that the total level of commitments under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), as proposed by the Commission in its draft budget for 2013, is increased by less than the estimated rate of inflation and that the proposed total DCI payment level is below that of 2012;
3. Insists that the EU and the Member States must take seriously their partnership with developing countries which receive funding under the DCI, and that long-term predictability is an essential element of this partnership; insists that the poorest and most vulnerable populations in DCI beneficiary countries should not be made to bear the brunt of the substantial increases in funding for the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) in response to the Arab Spring; draws attention to the commitment made in connection with the Agenda for Change to gradually scale back the EU programmes still in progress in middle-income countries, starting from the next multiannual financial framework (2014-2020);
4. Regrets, in particular, the massive cuts to the DCI's geographical programmes for Asia, Central Asia, Iraq, Iran and Yemen; takes the view that, as these programmes are struggling to achieve the intended results in terms of poverty alleviation, democracy and human rights, they merit more, rather than less, attention and financial input;
5. Supports the substantial increase in funding for the DCI's thematic programme on the environment and the sustainable management of natural resources; understands that the Commission is seeking additional support for promoting sustainable energy for developing countries in the run-up to the 2012 UN Rio+20 Conference, and for financing the EU's recently announced initiative on 'Energising Development', which addresses energy inequality in the developing world; reiterates, however, that climate financing must be additional to currently programmed development funding, and that funds for key MDG sectors, e.g. basic education and health, should not be diverted to climate action; welcomes the proposed increase for the Investing in People budget line, and reminds the Commission of the established EU benchmarks and the commitments, made since the 2007-2013 DCI began, to allocate at least 20 % of the DCI to health and basic education, with particular attention to progress on the most off-track MDGs;
6. Calls on the Commission to ensure that a more controlled and coherent approach is taken to the funding of alternative energies in the fight against climate change, so as to make sure that the EU does not indirectly provide financial support for activities that give rise to

price distortions and speculation in connection with raw food materials or are conducive to land-grabbing;

7. Calls on the Commission to provide financial support for targeted development cooperation measures to forestall and combat land-grabbing, which is becoming increasingly common, and to promote the establishment of a code of conduct at EU and international level;
8. Urges the Commission to dedicate significant funding to improving access to fair healthcare and pension systems based on mutual and non-profit insurance schemes in keeping with social economy models; encourages it to support partner countries in putting into place wide-coverage insurance schemes that include the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society, inter alia through support for the microfinancial services sector; is convinced that such schemes, if well designed, have the potential not only to lift people out of poverty and enhance the resilience of the most vulnerable by protecting their assets, but also to foster greater social cohesion and more inclusive growth;
9. Stresses the need for the Commission to ensure that assistance is effective and has a direct impact on poverty eradication, human development and social cohesion; asks the Commission, in this connection, to introduce, as part of a series of capacity-building measures for non-state actors, arrangements for funding small-scale projects involving private stakeholders such as SMEs, cooperatives and local associations;
10. Insists that the European Consensus on Development remains the guiding document for EU aid and development cooperation, especially in relation to health and education; urges the Commission to ensure that the DCI remains a relevant and effective tool for implementing the European Consensus on Development, especially on the support to and integration of health, education and relevant cross-cutting issues such as gender equality and HIV/AIDS;
11. Underlines the importance of maintaining sufficient funding levels for the humanitarian aid budget lines as well as the Emergency Aid Reserve; insists that, bearing in mind the marked increase in the frequency, severity and scale of humanitarian crises and natural disasters witnessed over the last few years, the EU must be ready to quickly mobilise funding in response to such crises abroad;
12. Is concerned at the proposed cuts in administrative expenditure, inter alia for technical assistance, evaluations and audits, both at headquarters and in EU delegations abroad, as these activities are key to upholding the most rigorous evaluation and audit standards; given that in 2011 the Commission requested 18 additional full-time staff for 2012 'to ensure proper sound financial management of the great number of grants of small amount under the DCI'<sup>1</sup>, is also concerned at the proposed substantial redeployment of staff from DCI to ENPI activities, and points to the risks in terms of quality of the DCI's financial management which this weakened staffing level may entail.

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<sup>1</sup> Draft General Budget of the European Commission for the Financial Year 2012, Working Document Part II Commission Human Resources, COM(2011)300, May 2011, p 87



## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	4.6.2012						
<b>Result of final vote</b>	<table><tr><td>+:                   </td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>–:                   </td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>0:                   </td><td>0</td></tr></table>	+:	25	–:	0	0:	0
+:	25						
–:	0						
0:	0						
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Thijs Berman, Ricardo Cortés Lastra, Corina Crețu, Véronique De Keyser, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Eva Joly, Filip Kaczmarek, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Alf Svensson, Keith Taylor, Ivo Vajgl, Iva Zanicchi						
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Emer Costello, Enrique Guerrero Salom, Fiona Hall, Edvard Kožušník, Judith Sargentini, Horst Schnellhardt, Patrizia Toia						
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Marisa Matias						