



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Development*

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**2012/2092(BUD)**

19.9.2012

# OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budgets

on the General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2013 - all sections  
(2012/2092(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. Underlines that worldwide development efforts in 2013 will critically determine whether the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) can still be met in 2015; reminds Council of the EU's responsibility towards its developing partners and the clear commitments EU donors, both individually and collectively, have made in terms of their contributions to fighting poverty in the developing world; calls therefore on the Member States, assisted by the Commission, to establish a definite time frame for meeting the target of 0.7% of GDP to be allocated to development aid;
2. Is firmly opposed to the Council's proposed cuts by over EUR 50 million to commitments and over EUR 150 million to payment levels of the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI); is of the opinion that it is crucial for the EU's credibility as a significant, reliable development partner to provide adequate levels of development financing that allow the EU to honour the commitments it has taken in the framework of the mutually agreed, ongoing multiannual programming;
3. Stresses that the limited EU aid resources must be used as effectively as possible; underlines that the EU is now widely considered a global leader in aid effectiveness and transparency, with measurable and substantial results in terms of tangible improvements to the lives of millions of people in developing countries;
4. Considers it essential to increase budget flexibility to enable the Union to meet the new global challenges effectively; wider flexibility margins are indeed crucial for a better allocation of resources for cooperation and development;
5. Is particularly concerned at the proposed cuts in the areas of food security, health and education, which are key sectors for achieving the MDGs; recalls, in addition, that structural interventions in agriculture, food security and nutrition, as well as specific measures to eradicate the phenomenon of land grabbing, are essential for promoting inclusive and sustainable growth and for preventing food crises in vulnerable regions such as the Sahel and the Horn of Africa from recurring year after year;
6. Reiterates the need to lay down rules at EU and international level targeted at economic and financial institutions with the aim of reducing the volatility of markets and prices, especially with regard to food commodities, and the need to introduce mechanisms for taxing income from short-term financial speculation and to strengthen current efforts to abolish the system of financial and tax havens;
7. Reiterates its firm conviction that climate finance must be new and additional to programmed development cooperation under the DCI; warns that, in cutting funding for the environment and sustainable management of natural resources, Council may

jeopardise the EU's contributions to a number of major initiatives in the fight against climate change and the promotion of universal energy access, in particular the UN-led Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the EU's own Global Climate Change Alliance;

8. Warns that the proposed cuts to funding for non-state actors and local authorities in developing countries will send a strong negative signal at a time when, on the contrary, the EU should reaffirm its support for these actors, who make an essential contribution towards achieving the MDGs by 2015 at a local level;
9. Understands the need for the EU to demonstrate its support to the people and democratic transitions in its southern Neighbourhood; emphasises, however, that this support should not be at the expense of the Union's multiannual commitments to developing countries benefiting from funding under the DCI; underlines, in particular, that the Council's proposed cuts to cooperation with Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Yemen seem out of touch with the political reality and do not recognise the EU's crucial role in the long-term stabilisation and development of each of these regions;
10. Rejects the proposed cuts to administrative expenditure under the DCI and humanitarian aid; underlines that adequate staffing, technical assistance, monitoring, evaluation and audit activities, both at headquarters and in EU delegations abroad, are key to upholding the most rigorous implementation standards and that, although they may result in short-term savings, these cuts entail real risks in terms of quality of the financial management of EU aid.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	18.9.2012
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 23 -: 0 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Michael Cashman, Véronique De Keyser, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Catherine Grèze, Eva Joly, Filip Kaczmarek, Patrick Le Hyaric, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Maurice Ponga, Jean Roatta, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Alf Svensson, Keith Taylor, Eleni Theocharous, Patrice Tirolien, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Isabella Lövin
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	María Irigoyen Pérez, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu