



2023/0264(BUD)

20.9.2023

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Budget

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2024
(2023/0264(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Ilan De Basso

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

- A. whereas in a context of increasing geopolitical instability, crises and natural disasters, the EU must strengthen its role through credible cooperation with partner countries in the neighbourhood and the Global South;
 - B. whereas according to OCHA 339 million people are projected to need humanitarian assistance by the end of 2023 and the EU must stand ready to deliver aid in line with its commitments;
 - C. whereas the already existing acute food insecurity and malnutrition in the Global South have increased since the start of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;
 - D. whereas the gap between humanitarian needs and resources is increasing; whereas according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service, only 57 % of funding needs were met in 2022; whereas global humanitarian funding continues to rely heavily on a very limited number of donors, with the ten largest humanitarian donors providing more than 80 % of all funding; whereas the need to expand the resource base for humanitarian action is acute;
 - E. whereas the 2024 European Union budget contribution to partner countries in the Global South should be aligned with the ambitions of making the Union climate neutral by 2050 at the latest, as well as with the Union's international commitments, in particular the Paris Agreement and the Kunmin-Montreal Agreement, and significantly contribute to the implementation of the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Circular Economy Action Plan, the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability and the Zero-pollution Action Plan;
1. Welcomes the attention given to Heading 6 in the proposal for the revision of the MFF for the period 2024-2027 with an increase in the ceiling of Heading 6 by 10.5 billion; underscores that this increase should be seen as a minimum so that the Union can address the various challenges in third countries and contribute to the fulfilment of the SDG commitments; urges the Council to agree on the MFF revision on time for it to have an impact on the 2024 budget; furthermore calls on Member States to live up to the commitment to dedicate at least 0,7 % of their gross national income to Official Development Assistance (ODA) and welcomes in this regard the Council Conclusions of 22 May 2023 encouraging the Member States to devote an appropriate share, for example 10 %, of their ODA budget to humanitarian action; furthermore underlines the urgent need for increased efforts to broaden the resource base for humanitarian action, drawing on the resources of traditional, emerging and potential donors, the private sector as well as other stakeholders, on addressing the humanitarian funding gap;
 2. Recalls that the Union has cooperative relations with a large number of countries and that the EU external financing instruments shall contribute to achieving the international commitments and objectives that the Union has agreed to, in particular the Agenda2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement;

3. Stresses that together with the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, human development is the key priority of the NDICI-GE instrument; calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that EU development aid reaches people first; regrets that the NDICI-GE instrument was underfunded since the start of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, creating a gap between the EU's bold ambitions on the global stage and the resources available to achieve them; recalls that the review of the NDICI-GE instrument and the revision of the MFF, to which the EU budget 2024 should be re-adapted, are key opportunities to change this;
4. Urges the Commission to respect each budgetary target set in the NDICI-GE regulation, notably 30 % for climate, 85 % for gender mainstreaming, 20 % for human development and to provide detailed figures on the implementation of the horizontal objectives and the programming for the remaining MFF period, in particular on climate, migration, biodiversity and gender mainstreaming; notes that, for 2021, the share of the committed amount contributing to the migration and forced displacement target was 14 %, exceeding the indicative target of 10 %; notes with particular attention that migration is the main component behind the EUR 10.5 billion rise in the ceiling of Heading 6 under the proposal for the revision of the MFF; regrets that the share of the committed amounts contributing to climate objectives was 18,5 %, drastically below the 30 % target; is concerned that according to the Commission the 10 % MFF biodiversity spending target set for the years 2026 and 2027 will most likely not be reached and therefore underlines the need for further efforts to ensure that it is met; highlights that the biodiversity financing gap over the period 2021-2030 is around EUR 18,69 billion per year and should be remedied as soon as possible;
5. Recalls that at least 85 % of new actions implemented under the NDICI-GE instrument should have gender equality as a principal or a significant objective, and at least 5 % of those actions should have gender equality and women's and girls' rights and empowerment as a principal objective; welcomes that the Commission has further developed a methodology to track gender equality-related spending in the 2021-2027 MFF; calls on the Commission to holistically assess the gender impact of spending and ensure that all the relevant data is available for tracking;
6. Calls for additional investments to address the setback in the recognition and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as well as the general backlash against women's rights and gender equality in developing countries; in this regard underlines that targeted support to CSOs and communities advocating for the respect of SRHR, women's rights, gender equality and the LGBTIQ+ community and other marginalised populations should be prioritised;
7. Stresses the need for continuous efforts towards the achievement of climate and biodiversity mainstreaming targets laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 on the Union budget and the European Union Recovery Instrument expenditures; stresses the need to ensure consistency between climate and biodiversity funding and calls on the Commission to publish the amounts and shares of expenditure that will contribute to both targets per programme, including the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation - Global Europe (NDICI-GE) instrument, when presenting the draft budget; emphasises the need to carry out sufficient ex-post evaluations with a particular focus on the impact of the projects on climate and

biodiversity;

8. Notes with great concern that humanitarian aid remains the most strained instrument under Heading 6; warns that ad-hoc solutions through budgetary reinforcements from other funding sources or redeployments and recommitments are not sustainable; calls on the Commission to establish and maintain a solid baseline for predictable and principled humanitarian aid as the trend of growing emergencies is unlikely to slow down, including due to the humanitarian impact of the increasing number of weather events expected to occur until 2027; stresses also that there is a need to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the humanitarian system and to increase efforts to reduce humanitarian needs; reminds that humanitarian needs in Ukraine will not be covered by the Ukraine Facility proposed in the MFF revision; requests an increase of 1 billion euro on top of the Commission proposal to the HUMA budget line, which anticipates the needs predicted by main humanitarian actors and takes into account that the EU humanitarian budget in 2022 reached EUR 2,62 billion after several reinforcements and that similar needs remain for 2024; is extremely alarmed by the deepening food insecurity in developing countries, exacerbated by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and calls on the Commission to support partner countries in enhancing food security;
9. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to increase the education share of the EU's development aid budget from 10 % to 13 %; notes with concern the persistently high illiteracy in the least developed countries; highlights that illiteracy is a gendered issue, affecting two thirds of women worldwide;
10. Reminds that women and children bear the greatest consequences of limited access to humanitarian aid and are the most vulnerable to violence and abuses; calls for child-centred transversal approaches in budget decisions; invites the Commission to introduce a child marker to track the Union's external spending on children's development and protection in humanitarian settings, in line with the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021-2024);
11. Expresses its concern for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)'s financial situation, and calls for stepping up EU financial support to the Agency in 2024 for a total contribution of 110 million, to ensure the uninterrupted delivery of vital services to one of the most vulnerable populations in the Middle East;
12. Reaffirms the key role of civil society organizations (CSOs) as development actors in implementing the EU external action agenda and values; calls for their active involvement in budget programming.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	20.9.2023
Result of final vote	+: 16 -: 2 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Hildegard Bentele, Stéphane Bijoux, Dominique Bilde, Christophe Clergeau, Ryszard Czarnecki, Mónica Silvana González, György Hölvényi, Rasa Juknevičienė, Karsten Lucke, Erik Marquardt, Janina Ochojska, Michèle Rivasi, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Bernhard Zimniok
Substitutes present for the final vote	Frances Fitzgerald, Marlene Mortler, Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	Róza Thun und Hohenstein

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

16	+
PPE	Hildegard Bentele, Frances Fitzgerald, György Hölvényi, Rasa Juknevičienė, Marlene Mortler, Janina Ochojska
Renew	Stéphane Bijoux, Róza Thun und Hohenstein
S&D	Christophe Clergeau, Mónica Silvana González, Karsten Lucke, Patrizia Toia, Carlos Zorrinho
The Left	Miguel Urbán Crespo
Verts/ALE	Erik Marquardt, Michèle Rivasi

2	-
ID	Dominique Bilde, Bernhard Zimniok

1	0
ECR	Ryszard Czarnecki

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention