

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



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*Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety*

**2005/2001(BUD)**

15.9.2005

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2006  
(C6-0000/2005 - 2005/2001(BUD))

Section III - Commission

Draftswoman: Jutta D. Haug



## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

### General background

The Commission adopted the Preliminary Draft Budget (PDB) for 2006 on 27 April 2005 - the last budget under the current Financial Perspectives. The proposed appropriations total € 121.27bn in commitments (+4% to 2005) and € 112.6 billion in payments (+6% to 2005). Payments represent 1.02% of Community GNI and thus leave a considerable margin (6.7bn) under the ceiling of the Financial Perspective.

The PDB allocates resources to the implementation of the Lisbon agenda (such as research, education, TENs), enhancing security (such as fight against terrorism, combating drug trafficking, maintaining food safety), strengthening solidarity (such as encouraging economic and social cohesion, environmental protection) and integrating the ten most recent Member States into key policy areas, namely the common agricultural policy and the structural and cohesion funds. More resources will be made available also for the external dimension of the key priorities.

### Situation in the individual categories of expenditure

Figures for individual categories are the following (commitments):

	EUR million		
	<b>2005 Budget</b>	<b>2006 PDB (Commission) (1)</b>	<b>2006 DB (Council)(2)</b>
<i>Agriculture</i>	49.676	51.412 (+3.5%)	57.262
<b>Structural actions</b>	42.423	44.555 (+5.0%)	44.555
<b>Internal policies</b>	9.052	9.218 (+1.8%)	9.175
<b>External actions</b>	5.317	5.393 (+1.4%)	5.227
<b>Administrative expenditure</b>	6.293	6.683 (+6.2%)	6.578
<b>Reserves and provisions</b>	0.446	0.458 (+2.7%)	0.458
<b>Pre-accession strategy</b>	2.081	2.481 (+19.2)	2.481
<b>Compensation</b>	1.305	1.074 (-17.7%)	1.074
<b>TOTAL</b>	116.594	121.273 (+4.0%)	120.810

(1) Change from 2005 budget

(2) Council amendments to 2006 PDB

## **Environment policy and public health**

The budget proposal for **environment** for 2006 shows a very small increase. The commitment credits total €253.150m, which is €1.613m and less than 1% more than a year before. The total appropriations for environmental programmes will slightly increase, following the increases in 'Forest Focus', the NGO programme and the marine pollution programme. No major changes are proposed for the last year of the LIFE programme and for the civil protection programme.

The Commission proposes a decrease of €3.0m for the implementation of environment policy ('Awareness-raising and other general actions based on the Community action programmes in the field of environment'). The amount is partly recovered by an increase proposed for the development of new policy initiatives (+€1.1m). The shift reflects the priorities set out by the Commission in the Annual Policy Strategy.

Expenditure on **public health** is divided between the current Public Health Programme (total € 59.2m), the Community tobacco fund (€14.6m), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (see below), the preparatory action regarding public health preparedness and response and (€2.0m) and the Community contribution to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC; €0.2m). FCTC is the first treaty under the auspices of WHO and the European Community is due to ratify it this year.

The appropriations for the Public Health Programme cover the operational expenditure, (€51.5m), the administrative and support expenditure (€1.9m) and the running of the Executive Agency (€5.8m), responsible for the practical implementation of the programme. The appropriations remain at the same level as in 2005.

The preparatory action regarding public health preparedness and crisis management will be established through the development of health emergency infrastructure. It is designed to contribute also to a new strand of the health programme, which foresees to improve preparedness and rapid intervention capacity. The resources available will be used to encourage the development of cooperation between Member States in drawing up, implementing, testing and evaluating interoperability of public health emergency plans for both unexpected health threats (e.g. SARS) and expected contingencies (e.g. pandemic influenza).

### **The agencies: EEA, EMEA, EFSA and ECDC**

The proposed subsidy for the European Environment Agency (EEA) totals €27.650m, which is €0.750m more than in 2005. There is a small shift between administrative expenditure and operational expenditure, due to the entry into force of the new Staff Regulations.

The Commission proposes a considerable increase to the overall budget of the European Medicines Agency (+17.3%). The increase is due to the new pharmaceutical legislation, which will be fully in force in 2006. It gives the Agency a wide range of new tasks. There is also a small increase (€0.3m) for the subsidy for fee waivers for orphan drugs. The total amount proposed for this purpose is €4.0m.

In 2006, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) will be fully located and operational in its permanent seat in Parma. The Commission is proposing a budget of €46.6m, of which

€14.6 would be for operational expenditure and €32m for administrative expenditure. The proposed budget corresponds to the original financial plans that accompanied the regulation establishing the Authority. It also covers the new tasks given to EFSA after the adoption of that regulation.

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has started to operate in May 2005 and it is now in a 'building-up' phase. The total appropriations for the ECDC are €15.3m, of which €7.0m will be reserved for administrative expenditure and €8.3m for operational expenditure. Following the higher salary costs in Stockholm and the higher travelling costs than initially foreseen, the Commission proposes an increase of €1m compared to the original financial statement of the establishing regulation.

## **Chemicals**

The responsibility for the preparatory work for REACH has been given to DG ENTR. A budget line has been created (02 04 04, p.m.). The credits for the transitional phase and the preparatory work needed are on budget line 02 04 01 ("Operation and development of the Internal Market").

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Draws attention to the role of EU environmental policy in the attainment of the Lisbon and Gothenburg goals and the global objective of sustainable development; calls for more resources to be made available for the implementation and further development of EU environmental policy;
2. Points out that agricultural and structural policies have a huge impact on the environment; stresses that after enlargement the need to proceed to the greening of Community policies in practice by carrying out careful and methodologically sound assessments of environmental impacts in all policy areas is even more urgent than before;
3. Calls for standard use of environmental criteria in procurement procedures for Community appropriations, such as invitations to tender and awarding contracts;
4. Is concerned about the low number of officials in DG Environment dealing with infringement procedures, in particular as infringement cases related to the environment consistently represent almost half of all pending infringement cases in the EU, and calls upon the Commission to significantly increase the number of officials in this sector, in line with the priority given to sustainable growth and in accordance with its role as the guardian of the Treaties, and thus responsible for the correct implementation of EU environmental Regulations and Directives;
5. Urges the Commission to dedicate adequate staff resources so that environmental programmes and policies can be implemented in both the old and the new Member States;
6. Points out that the EU plays a leading role in many international environmental agreements, such as the UN Climate Change Convention, the UN Biodiversity and Biosafety Convention and the Aarhus Convention on public participation and access to justice in environmental matters; points out that the pursuit of sustainable development and addressing numerous environmental problems require enhanced global cooperation; calls for more resources for international environmental activities so that the EU can maintain its lead in international environment policy and in setting the agenda for international cooperation;
7. Is convinced that public health should be considered as an essential part of the Lisbon agenda, as it directly contributes to the economic performance of Member States and the competitiveness of the whole EU; considers it therefore vital to allocate more resources to the public health policy area;
8. Considers that it is extremely important to anticipate potential health threats in a coordinated manner in the EU and agree on joint risk management measures; welcomes therefore the preparatory action related to public health designed to enhance

preparedness in relation to various health threats, such as influenza pandemic, SARS and bio-terrorism; calls for adequate funding for the preparatory action in 2006 so that a solid basis for further work within the new Public Health Programme can be established as quickly as possible.

9. Urges the Commission and the Council to initiate a procedure to review the weightings used to reconcile the differences in cost of living in Member States, in particular for Sweden, and to adjust them if appropriate to local conditions.

## PROCEDURE

<b>Title</b>	The draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2006, Section III - Commission
<b>Procedure number</b>	2005/2001(BUD)
<b>Committee responsible</b>	BUDG
<b>Enhanced cooperation</b>	No
<b>Draftswoman</b> Date appointed	Jutta Haug 20.4.2005
<b>Discussed in committee</b>	12.7.2005      14.9.2005
<b>Date suggestions adopted</b>	14.9.2005
<b>Result of final vote</b>	for:                                  38 against:                                1 abstentions:                           3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Georgs Andrejevs, Liam Aylward, Irena Belohorská, Johannes Blokland, John Bowis, Frederika Brepoels, Martin Callanan, Dorette Corbey, Mojca Drčar Murko, Edite Estrela, Anne Ferreira, Françoise Grossetête, Satu Hassi, Caroline Jackson, Dan Jørgensen, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Urszula Krupa, Aldis Kušķis, Peter Liese, Linda McAvan, Marios Matsakis, Roberto Musacchio, Riitta Myller, Péter Olajos, Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, Guido Sacconi, Horst Schnellhardt, Richard Seeber, Jonas Sjöstedt, María Sornosa Martínez, Antonios Trakatellis, Thomas Ulmer, Anja Weisgerber, Åsa Westlund
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Alfonso Andria, Margrete Auken, María del Pilar Ayuso González, Christofer Fjellner, Jutta D. Haug, Caroline Lucas, Miroslav Mikolášik, Renate Sommer
<b>Substitutes under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote</b>	