



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2015/2074(BUD)

17.6.2015

OPINION

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

for the Committee on Budgets

on the mandate for the trilogue on the 2016 draft budget
(2015/2074(BUD))

Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via

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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 into its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that climate and resource efficiency mainstreaming is of horizontal importance in all EU policies with a view to achieving the goals set by the Europe 2020 strategy;
2. Points out the paramount importance for the European Union to recover from the crisis; stresses, in this respect, that the Member States should view environment and climate-friendly policies also as an opportunity to promote growth and that, in particular, the proper implementation of environmental legislation and of the projects funded under Horizon 2020 will foster green job creation and economic growth among SMEs;
3. Is concerned that smaller programmes in the field of environment, public health and food safety must not be disregarded in comparison to those in public and political focus;
4. Stresses that the transition towards a circular, low-carbon economy is an absolute necessity; emphasises that not only should sufficient funds be made available to accommodate this transition, but that European-funded projects should not have a negative impact on this transition;
5. Emphasises that the EU budget should sufficiently reflect universally applicable Sustainable Development Goals to be agreed upon in 2015;
6. Highlights, further, the importance of health as a value in itself and as a prerequisite for promoting growth EU-wide;
7. Points out that the third year of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020 will be very important for the successful implementation of the new multiannual programmes (the third multiannual programme of EU action in the field of health for the period 2014-2020, the LIFE Programme for the Environment and Climate Change 2014-2020, the Union Civil Protection Mechanism 2014-2020) under the responsibility of this committee, as they will attain their maturity; against this background, highlights the fact that, given the persistent economic and budgetary constraints at national level, it is essential to provide and guarantee in the EU budget the appropriations necessary to achieve the full potential and European added value of these new programmes;
8. Stresses, therefore, that for 2016 the resources of these programmes should at least be maintained at the levels of the previous EU budget;
9. Draws attention to the threats affecting numerous forest ecosystems; considers that suitable financial resources need to be channelled, via EU programmes and support measures, into the evaluation of ecological and plant health conditions in forests and rehabilitation measures, including reforestation;
10. Calls for the Union to take more responsibility for the protection of natural resources in the Natura 2000 network, especially in terms of its financing; notes the difficulties

experienced by several Member States in the management of areas included in the Natura 2000 network, owing to the lack of a specific financial instrument geared to the management of areas included in this network, which would complement the inclusion of biodiversity concerns in sectoral policies;

11. Stresses, moreover, that Heading 3, though the smallest heading of the MFF in terms of financial allocation, covers issues of key concern to European citizens such as programmes for public health, consumer protection and the civil protection instrument;
12. Calls on Parliament's delegation to emphasise the importance of the full implementation of the budget lines dedicated to environment, climate change, public health and food safety despite their size in budgetary terms;
13. Points out that changes that reduce the budgetary programming for these lines must be rejected and that a proper balance between commitment and payment appropriations must be found in order to allow these policies to reach their full potential;
14. Underlines that in light of the EU's accession to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a financial allocation must be made in order to meet the Union's annual contribution to the CITES Trust Fund; calls on the Commission and the Member States to maintain the EU's leading role in combating wildlife crime by establishing and funding programmes targeting poaching, trafficking and illegal wildlife trade;
15. Calls for adequate funding for the Wildlife Crisis Window under the Biodiversity for Life (B4Life) initiative in order to step up the EU's efforts against wildlife poaching and trafficking;
16. Recalls that decentralised agencies whose missions fall within the ENVI Committee's remit (European Food Safety Authority, European Medicines Agency, European Environmental Agency, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, European Chemicals Agency) play a major role, and stresses that their tasks (arising from legislation, Commission requests and other EU initiatives) are constantly growing, and that those agencies must be given the necessary financial and human resources to fulfil their mandate and execute such tasks; against this background, notes with concern that most of those agencies have absorbed significant staff cuts in recent years and are even expected by the Commission to continue reducing their workforce;
17. Points out that those agencies need appropriate resources and require sufficient flexibility to absorb unexpected peaks in workload;
18. This year, as in the past, strongly supports a case-by-case approach to assessing the individual needs of decentralised agencies;
19. Welcomes, in this regard, the work of the Interinstitutional Working Group on Resources of Decentralised Agencies on budgetary issues and human resources, which has certainly contributed to this process with valuable conclusions.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	17.6.2015
Result of final vote	+: 51 -: 10 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Pilar Ayuso, Zoltán Balczó, Lynn Boylan, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Mireille D'Ornano, Seb Dance, Angélique Delahaye, Jørn Dohrmann, Stefan Eck, Bas Eickhout, Eleonora Evi, José Inácio Faria, Karl-Heinz Florenz, Iratxe García Pérez, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Jens Gieseke, Julie Girling, Sylvie Goddyn, Matthias Groote, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jean-François Jalkh, Benedek Jávor, Karin Kadenbach, Kateřina Konečná, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Susanne Melior, Miroslav Mikolášik, Massimo Paolucci, Piernicola Pedicini, Pavel Poc, Marcus Pretzell, Frédérique Ries, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Renate Sommer, Dubravka Šuica, Tibor Szanyi, Glenis Willmott, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Nikos Androulakis, Paul Brannen, Nicola Caputo, Mark Demesmaeker, Damian Drăghici, Fredrick Federley, Olle Ludvigsson, Anthea McIntyre, James Nicholson, Marit Paulsen, Morten Helveg Petersen, Gabriele Preuß, Bart Staes, Keith Taylor, Claude Turmes, Tom Vandenkendelaere