



2023/0264(BUD)

30.8.2023

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 2024 -
all sections
(2023/0264(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Pascal Canfin

PA_NonLeg

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. Underlines that the 2024 Union budget comes at a crucial time, both in terms of the delivery of strategic Union objectives, like the implementation of the European Green Deal and geopolitically, with the ongoing Russian war of aggression in Ukraine, and the end of the 9th European Parliament legislature and Commission term;
2. Stresses that despite being faced with the unprecedented circumstances of Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters, the Union responded decisively and promptly, deploying the Union budget as one of the key tools;
3. Underlines that climate change and biodiversity loss are the largest compound threat to long-term Union security, including food security, and only reinforce inflationary pressures; stresses that accelerating the green transition will strengthen the Union's long-term strategic autonomy, economic security and resilience, and improve the well-being of its citizens;
4. Underscores the importance of integrating climate change adaptation in all relevant Union-funded policies and programs to enable rapid response to emergencies such as recent floods, fires, pandemics and other unforeseen events; emphasizes the continued importance of ensuring adequate funding of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism in order for the Union to be able to respond to such emergencies; stresses the need for better climate disaster preparedness by building adaptive capacity, and putting in place climate adaptation measures at Union level, including a stress test of key infrastructures of European relevance against a scenario of 1,5 to 4°C global warming, to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate shocks; underlines the need to recognise the importance of Union programmes in providing investment and support to prevent health crises and strengthen the Union's resilience;
5. Recalls that the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) should contribute to the mainstreaming of biodiversity and climate action in Union policies, to facilitating just transition and financing pandemic recovery as well as to the modernisation and preparedness of health systems; calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure the full execution of the REPowerEU Plan to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy sources and technologies to speed up the green transition and ending dependency on Russian fossil fuels;
6. Highlights the need to ensure that the do-no-significant-harm principle is mainstreamed in all Union activities through the budgetary implementation according to the Commission proposal for amending the Financial Regulation in line with the Union's commitment to sustainable financing and the green transition;
7. Underlines the cross-border nature of environmental and climate challenges and the need for a coordinated approach; reminds of the imminent need to restore Ukraine's nature

capital and underscores that the 2024 Union budget and the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is crucial to maintaining the Union's climate leadership and credibility with international partners;

8. Stresses that the 2024 Union budget should keep the green transition as one of its priorities and should be aligned with the Union's ambitions of making the Union climate neutral by 2050 at the latest, as well as 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 and the 8th Environmental Action Programme;
9. Reiterates its call for the phase-out of harmful subsidies and for coherence between all Union funds and programmes; insists that projects and programmes that are inconsistent with the objective of limiting global warming to under 1,5°C or with the objective of halting and reversing biodiversity loss should not be eligible for support under the Union budget;
10. 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 in the Union budget and the European Union Recovery Instrument expenditures and calls for increased efforts in the 2024 Union budget to achieve these levels of spending; deplores that the Commission has not yet published the methodology for ex-ante tagging expenditure contributing to halting and reversing biodiversity loss; underlines that further efforts must be made within the 2024 Union budget to ensure that biodiversity spending targets set for the years 2026 and 2027 are met; highlights that the biodiversity financing gap over the period from 2021 to 2030 is around EUR 18,69 billion per year¹ and should be remedied as soon as possible; calls on the Commission to carefully take into account the conclusions of Special Report 09/2022 of the European Court of Auditors on 'Climate spending in the 2014-2020 EU budget' as well as the performance audit from November 2022;
11. Takes note of the Commission estimates based on the ex-ante methodology that the total climate financing in the Union budget will reach EUR 58 134 million, representing a share of 31,9 %; looks forward to the Commission presenting in 2023 a methodology for tracking climate related expenditure which are effect-based (looking at CO2 impact) as a complement to the intention-based methodology (using Union climate coefficients); calls for further work to differentiate between climate mitigation and adaptation, as set out in the Interinstitutional Agreement;
12. 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 when presenting the draft budget;
13. Welcomes that the Commission has further developed a methodology to track gender equality-related spending in the 2021-2027 MFF, which looks at policy design and resource allocation and in particular the presentation of an ex-post gender impact assessment on a more granular level and reporting on volumes; calls on the Commission

¹ <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/793eb6ec-dbd6-11ec-a534-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-258471562>

to assess holistically gender impact and facilitate that all the relevant data is available for the tracking;

14. Welcomes the agreements reached by the co-legislators on a significant portion of the files of the 'Fit for 55 package'; calls on the Commission and Member States to maintain and build on the momentum and achievements for the complete implementation of the package; welcomes the review of the Union pharmaceutical legislation; recalls that the Union needs to address medicine shortages and supply chain bottle necks; recalls that Union health systems are overburdened from the pandemic years; calls for increased public investment to address unmet medical needs in the Union and development of next generation antibiotics;
15. Underlines the importance of the continued support of the Union budget for the Union agencies whose role is increasing in these times of unprecedented circumstances; recalls that in order to properly comply with new actions foreseen under the adopted and upcoming proposals, the Union agencies under the remit of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (EEA , ECHA , EMA, ECDC and EFSA) must be adequately funded and staffed; stresses that the deterioration of the staff levels of the Union agencies could jeopardise, among others, the achievement of the European Green Deal or the successful management of public health risks and the creation of the European Health Union underpinned by the European Health Data Space;
16. Recalls the need to have an annual budget consistent with the implementation of the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, of the Farm to Fork Strategy, of the Circular Economy Action Plan, of the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability and of a Zero-pollution Action Plan in the 2024 Union budget; in this line calls to increase the budgetary support for the new LIFE programme and the Just Transition Fund and all other programmes that support and protect nature conservation;
17. Stresses the importance of strengthening the sustainability and resilience of health systems whilst reducing disparities in equal and equitable access to health care and medication; stresses that health related expenditure should follow the 'One Health' and 'Health in all policies' approaches; recognises the importance of Union programmes, in providing investment and support to prevent cross border health crises and strengthen the resilience of health care systems and infrastructure; stresses the necessity to continue the Union's fight against cancer aligned with the Beating Cancer Plan and by ensuring adequate funding, with a strong focus on actions delivering tangible results for citizens; calls for further action and funding to address issues related to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR);
18. Calls for increasing the level of support to the European Health Union in addition to the EU4Health programme in the 2024 Union budget; stresses that sufficient resources should be allocated for increasing investments in research and development in the area of health, inter alia, in improving pandemics preparedness and management; reiterates its concern and regrets that over 50 % of the EU4Health budget was allocated for operational expenditures of the Commission's European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (DG HERA) and stresses the importance of appropriate funding to be allocated to the activities as foreseen by the EU4Health Regulation; stresses the importance of an enhanced system of Union own resources to

finance the Union's goals on health, the environment and the climate, and contribute to NextGeneration EU's debt recovery; welcomes the agreed related provisions concerning, inter alia, the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and calls on the Member States to adopt, as soon as possible, the new own resources package proposed by the Commission on 14 December 2021; calls for stronger linkage of the Union's own resources with environmental and climate policies in the upcoming second package;

19. Stresses the need to consider further support measures to strengthen the Union's strategic independence and reduce its dependence on third countries in relation to the production of critical medicines;
20. Emphasises that the Union budget is at the heart of the transition and is a key enabler of a greener, sustainable, more resilient, competitive and more socially inclusive Union where access to health care is equitable and universal.

INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	29.8.2023
Result of final vote	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">+:</div> <div>57</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">-:</div> <div>5</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right; padding-right: 10px;">0:</div> <div>6</div> </div>
Members present for the final vote	<p>Maria Arena, Traian Băsescu, Sergio Berlato, Alexander Bernhuber, Delara Burkhardt, Pascal Canfin, Sara Cerdas, Mohammed Chahim, Bas Eickhout, Cyrus Engerer, Agnès Evren, Hélène Fritzon, Malte Gallée, Gianna Gancia, Teuvo Hakkarainen, Anja Hazekamp, Martin Hojsik, Jan Huitema, Karin Karlsbro, Joanna Kopcińska, Peter Liese, Javi López, César Luena, Marina Mesure, Tilly Metz, Silvia Modig, Dolors Montserrat, Ville Niinistö, Nikos Papandreou, Jutta Paulus, Stanislav Polčák, Jessica Polfjård, Erik Poulsen, Frédérique Ries, Sándor Rónai, Maria Veronica Rossi, Silvia Sardone, Christine Schneider, Ivan Vilibor Sinčić, Maria Spyraiki, Nils Torvalds, Edina Tóth, Achille Variati, Petar Vitanov, Mick Wallace, Pernille Weiss, Michal Wiezik, Anna Zalewska</p>
Substitutes present for the final vote	<p>Stefan Berger, Asger Christensen, Christophe Clergeau, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión, Nicolás González Casares, Max Orville, Massimiliano Salini, Christel Schaldemose, Susana Solís Pérez, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Sarah Wiener</p>
Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote	<p>Pietro Bartolo, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Marie Dauchy, Daniel Freund, Marisa Matias, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Kathleen Van Brempt, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Lucia Vuolo</p>

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

57	+
PPE	Traian Băsescu, Stefan Berger, Alexander Bernhuber, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Agnès Evren, Peter Liese, Dolors Montserrat, Stanislav Polčák, Jessica Polfjård, Massimiliano Salini, Christine Schneider, Maria Spyrali, Lucia Vuolo, Pernille Weiss
Renew	Pascal Canfin, Asger Christensen, Martin Hojsík, Jan Huitema, Karin Karlsbro, Max Orville, Erik Poulsen, Frédérique Ries, Susana Solís Pérez, Nils Torvalds, Michal Wiezik
S&D	Maria Arena, Pietro Bartolo, Delara Burkhardt, Sara Cerdas, Mohammed Chahim, Christophe Clergeau, Cyrus Engerer, Hélène Fritzson, Nicolás González Casares, Javi López, César Luena, Nikos Papandreou, Sándor Rónai, Christel Schaldemose, Kathleen Van Brempt, Achille Variati, Petar Vitanov
The Left	Anja Hazekamp, Marisa Matias, Marina Measure, Silvia Modig, Mick Wallace
Verts/ALE	Bas Eickhout, Daniel Freund, Malte Gallée, Tilly Metz, Ville Niinistö, Jutta Paulus, Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Viola von Cramon-Taubadel, Sarah Wiener

5	-
ECR	Sergio Berlato, Teuvo Hakkarainen, Margarita de la Pisa Carrión
ID	Marie Dauchy
NI	Ivan Vilibor Sinčić

6	0
ECR	Joanna Kopcińska, Anna Zalewska
ID	Gianna Gancia, Maria Veronica Rossi, Silvia Sardone
NI	Edina Tóth

Key to symbols:

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention