20.4.2020

GR/av
D(2020) 11953

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt
Chair
Committee on Budgets
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on Guidelines for the 2021 budget - Section III (2019/2213(BUD))

Dear Mr Van Overtveldt,

Due to the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the subsequent modification of Parliament’s calendar of activities for the next weeks due to force majeure, ENVI will not be able to vote on its draft opinion on Guidelines for the 2021 budget - Section III (2019/2213(BUD)). Therefore, both as ENVI Chair and as Standing Rapporteur for the Budget, let me provide you with ENVI’s contribution in the form of resolution paragraphs, which hopefully will be taken into account by your committee:

COVID-19 emergency

– Highlights that the 2021 Union budget should contain resources for the development of capabilities in dealing with pandemics in order to ensure the protection of the European citizens; points to the urgent need to provide adequate funding to support research that can contribute to curtail the outbreak of Coronavirus disease COVID-19;

– Welcomes the implementing act introduced by the Commission under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism amending the list of capacities which constitute the rescEU instrument to include stockpiling of medical equipment and treatment in the context of the COVID-19 outbreak; stresses that sufficient funding should be allocated to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, in order to help tackle forest fires, floods, earthquakes, public health emergencies and other natural and human-made disasters, whose effects are expected to be further exacerbated by climate change; recalls that following the outbreak of the Coronavirus disease COVID-19 the Mechanism has been used to repatriate EU citizens, including from Wuhan in China; stresses that the Union Civil Protection Mechanism must be sufficiently funded to address the COVID-19
outbreak to save lives, including through the allocation of additional funding in response and for capacities;

- Stresses that the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) must be allocated adequate human resources capacity to respond optimally to the current COVID-19 outbreak; recalls that in the period 2013-2018 the number of full time employees in the ECDC was reduced by 20 and asks that its original establishment plan be urgently restored;

- Stress the need for any future recovery plan or financial tool using EU money in the context of the COVID-19 economic downturn to be aligned with the Green Deal priorities;

**European Green Deal, 2021 budget and MFF**

- Points to the need to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated in the 2021 budget to allow the Union to rapidly take the concrete actions needed to address the climate, biodiversity and environment emergency; insists that the next budget should help the Union to meet its commitment under the European Green Deal and its obligations under the Paris Agreement and be fully aligned with the objectives of limiting global warming to under 1.5 °C, and reversing the decline in biodiversity;

- Stresses that the 2021 Union budget should pave the way to the full and efficient implementation of the ambition outlined in the Commission's communication on the European Green Deal, with a view to aligning all Union policies with its objectives; considers that the Union should show global climate leadership also through its budgeting;

- Calls on the Commission to implement green budgeting tools as of 2021; underlines in this regard the importance of effective climate proofing of the budget, to ensure that the budget as a whole is in line with the Paris agreement, and of biodiversity proofing; calls on the Commission to provide horizontal guidance on climate and biodiversity proofing to guide all policy planning documents for the next MFF;

- Highlights that the 2021 Union budget is the first one under the multiannual financial framework (MFF) for 2021-2027; stresses that every effort should be made, right from the beginning of the new MFF, to ensure that the overall climate and biodiversity mainstreaming target are reached as soon as possible; reiterates the ENVI position of 5 September 2019 to set a 40% target for climate mainstreaming in the next MFF;

- Points out that climate and biodiversity-related expenditure must be tracked using more robust, transparent and comprehensive methodology, which is needed in order to avoid the risk of overestimation of the allocated funds; recalls its position in support of a clear spending target for biodiversity mainstreaming of at least 10 % in the next MFF, in addition to the target for spending on climate mainstreaming, which should be reflected in the 2021 Union budget;

- Calls on the European Council to endorse new own resources, such as a recycled plastic tax and the use of ETS revenue in the EU budget in line with the position of the
Parliament¹;

– Points to the need to ensure sufficient resources in the 2021 budget for the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals;

– Emphasises that in achieving the Union’s climate and environmental ambitions, sufficient resources should be allocated for achieving a just transition, underlines that burdens should be carried according to the polluter pays principle and not placed on the most vulnerable people and communities; stresses that the resources for the just transition fund should be additional and not be to the detriment of other EU programmes;

– Stresses that adequate resources should be allocated in the 2021 budget for the drawing-up and implementation of the future European plan to fight cancer; highlights that sufficient funding should also be allocated to tackle rare and non-communicable diseases, with special focus on research and prevention, as well as on fighting antimicrobial resistance;

– Points to the importance of ensuring that sufficient financial resources are allocated in the 2021 budget to ensure adequate and predictable funding for the Union agencies, enabling them to fulfil their mandate and execute their tasks;

I have sent a similar letter to Mr Pierre Larrouturou, general rapporteur for the 2021 budget.

Yours sincerely,

Pascal CANFIN