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

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15.2.2022

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt  
Chair  
Committee on Budgets  
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on Guidelines for the 2023 budget – Section III (2021/2226(BUI))

Dear Mr Chair,

Dear Mr Van Overtveldt,

The coordinators of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) decided on 30 November 2021 that ENVI would provide an opinion on the Guidelines for the 2023 budget - Section III (2021/2226 (BUI)) in the form of a letter. 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 was adopted by ENVI at its meeting<sup>1</sup> of 10 February 2022 and which I kindly request will be taken into account by your committee:

- Underlines that the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us that the Union must keep its commitment to obtaining an equitable, resilient, sustainable,

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<sup>1</sup> The following were present for the final vote: Pascal Canfin (Chair), Bas Eickhout (Vice Chair), César Luena (Vice Chair), Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (Vice Chair), Nikos Androulakis, Mathilde Androuët, Bartosz Arłukowicz, Margrete Auken, Simona Baldassarre, Marek Paweł Balt, Traian Băsescu, Aurélie Beigneux, Hildegard Bentele, Sergio Berlato, Alexander Bernhuber, Monika Beňová, Malin Björk, Simona Bonafè, Delara Burkhardt, Sara Cerdas, Mohammed Chahim, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Nathalie Colin-Oesterlé, Anna Deparnay-Grunenberg, Christian Doleschal, Marco Dreosto, Cyrus Engerer, Eleonora Evi, Agnès Evren, Pietro Fiocchi, Raffaele Fitto, Malte Gallée, Catherine Griset, Jytte Guteland, Teuvo Hakkarainen, Martin Hojsík, Jan Huitema, Yannick Jadot, Adam Jarubas, Karin Karlsbro, Billy Kelleher, Petros Kokkalis, Athanasios Konstantinou, Ewa Kopacz, Joanna Kopcińska, Esther de Lange, Peter Liese, Sylvia Limmer, Javi López, Fulvio Martusciello, Liudas Mažylis, Tilly Metz, Silvia Modig, Dolors Montserrat, Alessandra Moretti, Joëlle Mélin, Ville Niinistö, Ljudmila Novak, Grace O'Sullivan, Jutta Paulus, João Pimenta Lopes, Jessica Polfjård, Stanislav Polčák, Nicola Procaccini, Luisa Regimenti, Frédérique Ries, María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Rob Rooker, Sándor Rónai, Silvia Sardone, Christine Schneider, Günther Sidl, Ivan Vilibor Sinčić, Maria Spyraiki, Linea Søgaaard-Lidell, Róza Thun und Hohenstein, Nils Torvalds, Véronique Trillet-Lenoir, Edina Tóth, Idoia Villanueva Ruiz, Petar Vitanov, Alexandr Vondra, Mick Wallace, Pernille Weiss, Michal Wiezik, Tiemo Wölken and Anna Zalewska

socially fair recovery for all through the 2023 Union budget accelerating the twin transition, as well as concluding the revised 2030 framework for Union climate, energy and environmental targets, including halting and reversing biodiversity loss, addressing energy poverty and the objective of making the EU climate neutral by 2050 at the latest;

- Stresses that the 2023 Union budget should be aligned with the Union’s obligations under the Paris Agreement and considering the results of the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) and the ‘Glasgow Climate Pact’, particularly in the context of the objective to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degree as recalled in Glasgow by World leaders and of the deliberation on the Fit for 55 package which is needed to boost the Union’s ambitions established in the European Climate Law, ensuring social inclusion and regional cohesion to achieve a just transition; calls on all parties to the UNFCCC to increase climate ambition ahead of the COP 27; stresses that the 2023 Union budget should also be aligned with the 2030 objectives and the long term 2050 vision of living well within planetary boundaries set down in the 8th Environment Action Programme (EAP);
- Underlines the importance of achieving climate and biodiversity mainstreaming targets<sup>2</sup>; highlights that support should be given to activities which are in line with the "do no significant harm" principle; recalls that the position of 5 September 2019 of the ENVI Committee was to set a 40% target for climate mainstreaming in the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF); supports the target for climate-related spending of at least 30% of the overall Union budget and the European Union Recovery Instrument expenditures, insists that at least this target be met and calls for effective efforts from the first year of the MFF to achieve this level of spending; underlines that 8th EAP requires the setting of a deadline for the phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies, consistent with the ambition of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees;
- Insists on the need to transparently track climate and biodiversity-related expenditure and expects the Commission delivery of robust, transparent and comprehensive methodologies to achieve it; takes note of the new “climate adjustment mechanism” which can be triggered to modify spending in case of insufficient progress; welcomes the Communication on the performance framework for the EU budget under the 2021-2027 MFF defining the EU climate markers; looks forward to the annual consultations on the climate target, as set out in the IIA<sup>3</sup>;
- Stresses the need for continuous work towards the biodiversity-related spending of 7.5 % in 2024 and 10 % in 2026 onwards of the MFF and calls for the 10% biodiversity target to be met as soon as possible from 2021 onwards, as already called for in the Parliament's June 2021 Report 'EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives' as well as by ENVI in February 2021.
- Recalls the need to assign sufficient resources, including staff, for the implementation of the 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, of the Farm to Fork Strategy, of the Circular Economy Action Plan, Chemical Strategy for Sustainability and of a Zero-pollution Action Plan

<sup>2</sup> 30 % of Union expenditure contributing to climate objectives, and annual spending levels for biodiversity of at least 7.5 % in 2024, increasing to 10 % in 2026 and 2027.

<sup>3</sup> IIA= Interinstitutional Agreement of 16 December 2020 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management, as well as on new own resources, including a roadmap towards the introduction of new own resources ( <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.LI.2020.433.01.0028.01.ENG> )

in the 2023 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; encourages the Commission to take into account the special report 16/2021<sup>4</sup> from the European Court of Auditors when drafting and implementing the future methodology on climate and biodiversity-related expenditure as well as eco-schemes;

- Calls on the Commission to ensure that Member States properly design and, allocate appropriate resources to eco-schemes in CAP strategic plans to ensure the attainment of the green ambition in the frame of the European Green Deal and in the implementation of the green architecture of the CAP;
- In order for the Union to be able to respond to emergencies such as recent floods, fires, the pandemic and other unforeseen events, adequate funding of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism should be ensured;
- The COVID-19 pandemic highlights how vital public health and affordable and accessible care services are. Furthermore highlights the importance of increasing the level of support to the European Health Union in addition to the EU4Health programme in the 2023 Union budget; stresses the importance of strengthening the sustainability and resilience of health systems whilst reducing disparities of equal and equitable access to health care ; regrets that 2.8 billion from the EU4Health programme is already committed to HERA resulting in a smaller share for other important actions and initiatives; stresses that health expenditure should follow the “One Health” and “Health in all policies” approaches; 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, and that new or emerging health initiatives, including the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA), should be financed with additional funds and not from existing programmes; calls on ensuring transparency into the advanced purchase agreements of vaccines and related spending;
- Welcomes the agreement achieved between the co-legislators to improve the mandate of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) which will allow the Centre to monitor health systems capacities and to organize visits to provide additional support to the national preparedness and response planning activities; recalls, as a lesson learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to increase the staff and resources of the Centre to ensure improved pandemic preparedness and management;
- Furthermore, welcomes the agreement achieved by the Parliament and the Council on expanding the mandate of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) to better respond to public health crisis and to prevent shortages of medicinal products and medical devices; calls in this sense to increase resources for the implementation of the new tasks of the Agency, especially on the staff level;
- Recalls that in order to fulfil their key mandates the other Union agencies under the remit of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ECHA, EEA and EFSA) must receive an adequate financial support while ensuring a cost efficient coordination of the work of the different agencies; underlines that the

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<sup>4</sup> Special report 16/2021 : Common Agricultural Policy and climate : Half of EU climate spending but farm emissions are not decreasing

successful management of the COVID-19 pandemic and the achievement of the objectives of the European Green Deal cannot be achieved if those agencies are not properly staffed;

- Calls for the 2023 Union budget to support the Commission, Member States and global partners to ensure rapid, equal and affordable access for all people worldwide to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments as soon as they are available; stresses that one of the best ways to tackle new COVID-19 variants is to extend vaccination worldwide and reinforce public healthcare systems; stresses the importance for a long term, coherent and coordinated strategy for emerging COVID-19 variants of concerns; reiterates the need to ensure equal access to affordable drugs within the EU and supports collective negotiation of the price of medicines with pharmaceutical industries;
- Stresses the importance of a system of own resources capable to contribute to the Union's goals on health, the environment and the climate.

I have sent a similar letter to Mr Ștefănuță, general rapporteur for the 2023 Budget.

Yours sincerely,

Pascal CANFIN