DRAFT 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 2020 (2019/2028(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Pascal Canfin
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 21,0 % of the total commitments in the draft budget for 2020 (2020 DB) are climate-related; regrets that the Union budget trend would deliver only 19,7 % for the current multiannual financial framework (MFF) period; stresses that every effort should be made to ensure that the overall EU budget target will be reached by the end of 2020; reiterates its call to have more ambitious climate mainstreaming in the next MFF period and to its alignment with the Paris agreement;

2. Notes that 8,3 % of total commitments are related to reversing the decline in biodiversity; calls for sufficient and traceable resources to be allocated to ensure the long-term protection of biodiversity across the Union;

3. Points out that sufficient resources should be allocated in the budget to implement the future European Green Deal;

4. Notes the increase of EUR 21,5 million in commitments for LIFE (+3,9 %); regrets that LIFE represents only 0,3 % of the 2020 DB;

5. Takes note of the proposed EUR 69,7 million in commitments (+2,0 %) and EUR 64,2 million in payments (+4,7 %) for health; regrets that this amount is only 0,04 % of the 2020 DB and 1,9 % of heading 3 (in commitments);

6. Takes note of the proposed EUR 280,0 million in commitments (-3,3 %) and EUR 244,7 million in payments (2,3 %) for food and feed; regrets that this amount is only 0,17 % of the 2020 DB and 7,5 % of heading 3 (in commitments);

7. Takes note of the proposed EUR 156,2 million in commitments (+4,4 %) and EUR 77,0 million in payments (-5,7 %) for the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, which is a cornerstone of Union solidarity;

8. Notes that permanent and temporary posts authorised under the 2020 DB remain unchanged compared to the 2019 budget for the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA), while those posts increase for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (+34, following revision of the general food law), the European Environment Agency (EEA) (+1) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) (+2); highlights that, where appropriate, more financial and human resources must be allocated to those agencies in order to fulfil their mandate and execute their tasks, and in order to promote a science-based approach in the Union; underlines that better coordination between the agencies would optimise their work, as well as the use of public funds;

9. Calls on the Commission to swiftly implement pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP-PAs);
10. Recalls that PP-PAs should receive adequate funding throughout their life cycle, so that they can achieve their full potential.