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 2021
all sections
(2020/0000(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Pascal Canfin
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 the 2021 Union budget is the first one under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for 2021-2027; stresses that the amounts allocated to the 2021 budget should match up to the expectations of Union citizens in a post-COVID-19 Europe, fostering strong economic recovery, and should be aligned with the Paris Agreement and with the Green Deal objectives, and in particular that of becoming climate neutral by 2050, while supporting the Member States that have suffered the most; calls on the Commission to assess the 2021 Union budget in the light of the provisions of this paragraph, and to make the appropriate corrections if they are not met;

2. Welcomes the provision of the Solvency Support Instrument that stipulates that beneficiaries of financial support will be encouraged to put in place a green transition plan; is of the opinion that that provision should be mandatory;

3. Considers that the Union should also show global climate leadership through its budgeting; highlights that every effort should be made to ensure that the overall climate and biodiversity mainstreaming targets are reached as soon as possible; recalls Parliament’s position calling for 10 % of the Union budget to be allocated to biodiversity expenditures; points out that climate and biodiversity-related expenditure must be tracked using a more robust, transparent and comprehensive methodology; is of the opinion that the Taxonomy Regulation provides the proper framework to update that methodology;

4. Calls on the Commission to implement green budgeting tools as of 2021; underlines in that regard the importance of effective climate and biodiversity proofing of the budget;

5. Stresses that sufficient funding should be allocated to the Union Civil Protection Mechanism, in order to help tackle public health emergencies, forest fires, floods, earthquakes, and other natural and human-made disasters, the effects of which are expected to be further exacerbated by climate change;

6. Highlights that the 2021 Union budget should contain sufficient resources for the development of capabilities in dealing with pandemics in order to ensure the protection of Union citizens, in particular for strategic material such as vaccines, treatments and medical devices; points out that the strengthening of the competences of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), as provided in the new MFF, should be reflected in appropriate budgetary measures as of 2021;

7. Points to the importance of ensuring that sufficient financial resources and adequate human resources capacities are allocated to Union agencies under the remit of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, enabling them to fulfil their mandate, execute their tasks and respond optimally to the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak; underlines the fact that a proper coordination between agencies is needed to increase the effectiveness of their work and allow for a fair use of public
money;

8. Calls on the Commission to swiftly implement pilot projects and preparatory actions.