



**2017/2044(BUD)**

30.8.2017

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on International Trade

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2018  
(2017/2044(BUD))

Rapporteur: Reimer Böge



## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on International Trade calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that international trade is a core tool for Union foreign policy which, if sufficiently funded and implemented by means of coherent strategies, contributes to sustainable development, particularly in developing countries;
2. Notes that the Union has an increasingly ambitious trade agenda, as outlined in the 'Trade for all' strategy; stresses that the funding for Aid for Trade initiatives, including measures to support local and intraregional trade, should be increased and sufficient resources should be allocated to the Commission's Directorate General for Trade to enable it to carry out the increasing number of activities, in particular to ensure the implementation and enforcement of the provisions included in both bilateral and multilateral agreements, and to increase the coherence of the Commission's trade policy agenda with the Union's global action goals and the requirement of policy coherence for development without reducing or redirecting the budget allocated to development cooperation; stresses that the funding for Aid for Trade represents a vital tool to develop structures and projects, in particular in LDCs; considers that such an initiative and funding should be increased; furthermore asks the Commission to coordinate its implementation in order to maximise its effectiveness; highlights the importance of assessing such agreements reiterates the need to adequately support the Union's trade strategy as one of the key pillars of its foreign policy;
3. Underlines the urgent need for a thorough reorganisation of the Union budget and its structure in the context of the review of the next MFF and with regard to the trade policy agenda, and calls on the Commission to take the initiative on this vis à vis the Council and Parliament;
4. Notes that the citizens of the Union are increasingly asking to be more involved and engaged with Union trade policy and that the Commission has made this citizens' interest a priority; stresses in this regard that it is crucial that enough resources are allocated in order to actively involve citizens in Union trade policy-making and to raise a higher degree of awareness of its benefits among Union citizens; calls for the inclusion of Domestic Advisory Groups and Joint Platforms into citizens' dialogue as they are the main vehicles for achieving the effective participation of civil society in the enforcement and monitoring of trade sustainability chapters of trade agreements; calls for the development of the key performance indicators against which they wish to assess the performance of customs administrations at national and Union level; calls on Member States to take a more active role in explaining the added value of Union trade policy since it is the Member States that formulate the negotiating mandates;
5. Stresses that fair international trade is a core tool for Union foreign policy which, if it is sufficiently funded and implemented by means of coherent political, economic, trade and development strategies, contributes to sustainable development, particularly in developing countries, thus enabling the Union to play an active role in tackling the causes of migration;

6. Emphasises that the trade-related technical support and economic assistance provided by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) to the Union's close partners on the southern and eastern borders make an important contribution to stability in those regions;
7. Believes that a higher funding level of the Macro Financial Assistance is required to ensure that future requests for loans or grants can be accommodated if they are justified, and provided that the conditions set by Parliament are met; stresses that Macro Financial Assistance should not create a fresh dependency for recipient countries through corresponding repayment conditions; believes that in the longer term the integration of the MFA instrument into the European Neighbourhood Program Instrument should be considered in order to increase the coherence of Union action;
8. Asks the Commission to assess the existing tools aimed at promoting SME internationalisation regarding their coherence with other Union SME support instruments, such as COSME, as well as regarding subsidiarity, non-duplication and complementarity in relation to Member State programmes; calls on the Commission to make timely proposals for the midterm review of those programmes in order to improve their efficiency and effectiveness;
9. Recalls that any new Union initiatives, including those in the field of defence, should be financed by additional funds and should not be detrimental to existing budget lines;
10. Notes that, albeit producing varying results, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) is under-budgeted, does not operate systematically and is thus inadequate to balance the side effects of automation, digitalisation and globalisation; notes the success of similar initiatives in comparable economies; underlines the need for additional funds and resources to finance the EGF and to increase its effectiveness and its operability; considers, in this regard, that the elimination of unnecessary burdens is key to achieving a higher degree of efficiency; underlines the importance of training in providing unemployed workers with the tools needed for successful reintegration into the labour market;
11. Recalls that the Union has a duty to mainstream gender equality in all its policies and acknowledges that trade policy can have different gender impacts across the various sectors of the economy; calls for the inclusion of gender chapters in all the newly negotiated trade agreements and to provide the necessary resources for their implementation, including ex-ante, ex-durante and ex-post impact assessments with data broken down by gender.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	30.8.2017
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+:               26 -:               1 0:               7
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Maria Arena, Tiziana Beghin, Daniel Caspary, Salvatore Cicu, Christofer Fjellner, Yannick Jadot, Jude Kirton-Darling, Patricia Lalonde, David Martin, Emmanuel Maurel, Emma McClarkin, Anne-Marie Mineur, Sorin Moisă, Alessia Maria Mosca, Franz Obermayr, Franck Proust, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Viviane Reding, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández, Tokia Saïfi, Marietje Schaake, Helmut Scholz, Joachim Schuster, Joachim Starbatty, Adam Szejnfeld, Iuliu Winkler
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Reimer Böge, Nicola Danti, Seán Kelly, Sander Loones, Bolesław G. Piecha, Jarosław Wałęsa
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Arne Lietz

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>26</b>	<b>+</b>
ALDE	Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Patricia Lalonde, Marietje Schaake
PPE	Reimer Böge, Daniel Caspary, Salvatore Cicu, Christofer Fjellner, Seán Kelly, Franck Proust, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Viviane Reding, Tokia Saïfi, Adam Szejnfeld, Jarosław Wałęsa, Iuliu Winkler
S&D	Maria Arena, Nicola Danti, Jude Kirton-Darling, Arne Lietz, David Martin, Emmanuel Maurel, Sorin Moisă, Alessia Maria Mosca, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández, Joachim Schuster
Verts/ALE	Yannick Jadot

<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>
ENF	Franz Obermayr

<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
ECR	Sander Loones, Emma McClarkin, Bolesław G. Piecha, Joachim Starbatty
EFDD	Tiziana Beghin
GUE/NGL	Anne-Marie Mineur, Helmut Scholz

**Key to symbols:**

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention