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Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2007/2019(BUD)

18.9.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Budgets

on the draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2008
(2007/2019(BUD)) Section III - Commission

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Points to the challenges facing the European Union, and to the Lisbon objectives and welcomes the increases in the appropriations under various headings of the 2008 preliminary draft budget, particularly those for research, competitiveness and innovation, for the Trans-European transport and energy networks and for education and training;
2. Especially welcomes the Commission's undertakings in the field of research and innovation with a view to achievement of the goals of the Lisbon strategy; underlines the importance of the European Research Council, which, from 2008 onwards, will be responsible for implementing the 'Ideas' programme within the Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities (2007-2013) (FP7), and which will be supported by an executive agency, allowing it to play a full role as a pan-European funding agency for frontier research;
3. Supports the creation of the European Institute of Technology (EIT) which will stimulate innovation and whose direction will be closely linked to research, entrepreneurship and education policies; urges the Commission to clarify how the EIT will be financed and expects additional financial appropriations rather than any reduction in the financial resources backing FP7;
4. Recalls the importance of strengthening the capacities within the knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation and of reinforcing the links between them; strongly supports the achievement of an inclusive European information society providing growth and jobs as well as better services and quality of life;
5. Believes that the employment potential of innovative enterprises could help the EU to overcome certain difficulties posed by globalisation; supports the creation of an administrative environment that is favourable to enterprises, and the lightening of administrative burdens on SMEs, through improvement of the quality of legislation and its simplification;
6. Recognises the importance of sustainability, competitiveness and security of the energy supply as well as of the energy efficiency of the EU economy; points to the importance of the new energy policy which the EU has developed, which is the goal of combating climate change and reinforcing the EU's energy security and competitiveness.
7. Considers that, in accordance with the priority given in the Annual Policy Strategy to combating climate change and to the EU's new energy policy, more Commission staff are needed to work in the field of energy, among other things to adequately staff the new energy market observatory and the work being done in connection with improving energy efficiency.

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Preliminary Draft Budget for 2008 is the second of the new multiannual financial framework, which will guide EU finances up to 2013. Most of the new multiannual programmes have been launched in the beginning of 2007, and for these, 2008 will be a year of consolidation and continued implementation.

Subheading 1a is the "essence" of the Lisbon strategy. The commitment appropriations (CA) under this sub-heading are EUR 10 270,4 million in the PDB 2008 and the payment appropriations (PA) are EUR 9 538,7 million. Key programmes, pointed out here are the Seventh Framework Programme RTD (7FP), the Lifelong Learning Programme, the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), the Trans-European Networks (TENs), Marco Polo II and GALILEO as well as the PROGRESS Programme.

TITLE 01: ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Financial operations and instruments (Chapter 04)

The overall budget of this chapter has decreased from EUR 367,16 million to EUR 169,- million. In 2008 the Commission will further implement financial instruments in the framework of the growth initiative and the new financial Framework (Competitiveness and Innovation Programme). A new instrument for SMEs and municipalities in the candidate countries will include in particular the introduction of a new Energy Efficiency Programme

TITLE 02: ENTERPRISE

Competitiveness, industrial policy, innovation and entrepreneurship (Chapter 02)

The overall budget of this chapter has increased from EUR 127,16 million to EUR 130,40 million (increase of 2,55 %). The activity is supported by the CIP Framework Programme and within it, by the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme.

Cooperation - Space and Security (Chapter 04)

The overall budget of this chapter has increased with 16,34 %, from EUR 171,72 million to EUR 199,78 million. 7FP RTD provides resources, particularly for application related research activities, in collaboration with the European Space Agency, with the aim of reaping the benefits of the satellite systems.

TITLE 06: ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

Inland, air and maritime transport (Chapter 02)

This activity is of a high importance for ITRE Committee, particularly regarding Galileo Programme. The overall budget of this chapter has increased from EUR 270,40 million to EUR 328,18 million. (increase of 21,37 %).

Trans-European networks (Chapter 03)

The overall budget of this chapter shows an increase by 14,14 % in the 2008 PDB, compared to the 2007 budget. This activity will focus mainly on developing trans-European transport and energy networks.

Conventional and renewable energies (Chapter 04)

The overall budget of this chapter has been slightly decreased by -0,86 %, from EUR 64,92 million to EUR 64,37 million. The Intelligent Energy for Europe II programme, now managed by the competitiveness and Innovation Executive Agency (formerly the Intelligent Energy Executive agency), is a part of the effort to promote energy saving and renewable energies.

Nuclear energy (Chapter 05)

The budget of this chapter has been increased from EUR 264,30 million to EUR 270,70 million (increase of 2,42 %). Priorities here will be focused on sustainable development (safety of nuclear plants and the safe and efficient management of nuclear waste) and the protection of the public at large (nuclear safety and radiation protection).

Research related to energy and transport (Chapter 06)

The budget of this chapter shows increase with 8,50 %, from EUR 234,42 million to EUR 254,35 million. This activity is part of the implementation of the 7FP RTD. The priorities (Aeronautics strand) are to support European industry in the field of aeronautics (technologies for implementing Single Sky/Sesar, which is 50 % funded by the RTD programme) and space (Galileo: ongoing research and demonstration activities, concomitant with the Galileo programme of direct funding for the deployment phases).

TITLE 08: RESEARCH

For the EC 7FP for 2008, the Commission is proposing a budget of EUR 5 579 million according to four objectives, each supported by its own programme:

Specific Programme - Cooperation

This part of the programme will cover the whole range of research activities performed in trans-national cooperation.

Specific Programme - Ideas

There is a significant increase in the budget for this SP: 96,48 %, from EUR 260,84 million to EUR 512,50 million. This part of the 7FP is devoted to introducing a new dynamic in research by promoting excellence through competition. The ERC will be sustained to fund investigator-driven projects in all scientific and technological fields.

Specific Programme - People

The increase in budget for this SP is 9,70 %, from EUR 430,18 million to EUR 471,89 million. The SP is devoted to support researchers, to increase mobility between universities and industry and to strengthen the links with the national systems.

Specific Programme - Capacities

The subtotal Capacities budget for 2008 is EUR 399,345 million (table 4 in the annex). This Part of the 7FP is dedicated to the Research infrastructures, Research for the benefit of SMEs, Science and society and activities of international cooperation.

TITLE 09: INFORMATION SOCIETY AND MEDIA

For 2008, DG INFSO's objectives derive directly from the i2010 strategic initiative which is strongly focused on the main axes of the renewed Lisbon strategy. The activities 02 and 06 (i2010 - Electronic communications policy and network security and i2010 - Audiovisual policy and Media programme) are linked to its first pillar. The activities 04 and 05 (i2010 - Cooperation - Information and communication technologies and i2010 - Capacities - Research infrastructures) contribute to the second pillar and the activity 03 (i2010 - ICT Take-up) is a part of the third pillar.

TITLE 10: DIRECT RESEARCH

The overall budget for title 10 has been slightly increased from EUR 348,47 million to EUR 361,42 million. (increase of 3,72 %). In 2008, the second year of the Seventh Framework Programme, the JRC's work will continue in accordance with the guidelines set out in the nuclear and non-nuclear specific programmes.

PROCEDURE

Title	Draft general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2008 - Section III - Commission
Procedure number	2007/2019 (BUD)
Committee responsible	BUDG
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	ITRE
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Angelika Niebler 27.2.2007
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	26.6.2007 13.9.2007
Date adopted	13.9.2007
Result of final vote	+: 36 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Jan Březina, Philippe Busquin, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Giles Chichester, Silvia Ciornei, Den Dover, Nicole Fontaine, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, András Gyürk, Erna Hennicot-Schoepges, Ján Hudacký, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Romano Maria La Russa, Eluned Morgan, Angelika Niebler, Reino Paasilinna, Atanas Papanizov, Miloslav Ransdorf, Herbert Reul, Paul Rübig, Andres Tarand, Radu Țîrle, Claude Turmes, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Dominique Vlasto,
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Alexander Alvaro, Ivo Belet, Danutė Budreikaitė, Joan Calabuig Rull, Manuel António dos Santos, Neena Gill, Edit Herczog, Vittorio Prodi, Esko Seppänen, Silvia-Adriana Țicău,
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	