



2020/1998(BUD)

2.9.2020

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Budgets

on the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021- all sections
(2020/1998(BUD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Cristian-Silviu Buşoi

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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 into its motion for a resolution:

1. Regrets the agreement reached by the European Council in July on the 2021-2027 MFF with regard to the programmes in the ITRE remit; highlights that the financial envelopes for all those programmes are below the level initially proposed by the Commission in 2018 and below the level considered necessary by the European Parliament; strongly believes that without sufficient funding those programmes risk not being able to deliver on their policy objectives which would result in the Union not being in a position to attain its twin goals of a digital and green transformation;
2. Believes therefore that the 2021 budget should aim at using the entire available margin and make recourse to all available flexibility instruments in order to strengthen in particular Union programmes that support digital and green transformation and the fight against the social and economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic;
3. Highlights in particular the fact that additional funds are needed for Horizon Europe, the new Digital Europe Programme, CEF-Digital and the Space Programme in order to support the digital transformation of societies and industries, which is vital for the future prosperity of Europe in a challenging geopolitical context;
4. Insists furthermore that additional funds are necessary to make the European Green Deal a success, to adequately address the climate crisis and contribute to the transition towards a climate-neutral economy and society by 2050 in line with the Paris Agreement; notes that to this end substantial increases are needed for Horizon Europe, CEF-Energy and the Space Programme as well as the Just Transition Fund;
5. Recalls the important role that Union agencies play in helping to achieve policy objectives set by the European Parliament and the Council; calls therefore for sufficient funding and staffing for all agencies in line with their tasks and responsibilities; underlines in particular the need to substantially reinforce ACER, which has been underfunded and understaffed for many years, risking to jeopardise ACER's functioning and its ability to perform its tasks on monitoring and market transparency as well as the additional tasks conferred on it through recent legislation including the Clean Energy Package; regrets that the Commission once again did not address this problem already in its draft budget; requests, furthermore, targeted increases for the European Union Agency for the Space Programme and for the BEREC Office.